

Question	Answer
Remarks	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to have another Town Hall to discuss the major issues that we've been hearing from you lately. I've always worked to find common ground with people, on issues such as technology, legislation, transportation, tax reform, and research & development. We're currently working on tax breaks and Metro reform – currently working on a major reform bill; I work on 4 committees and several sub committees.</p> <p>Health care reforms that we're working on – I want to state up front: "We are working to bring that bill up in March. It's going to transition and protect pre-existing conditions and keep kids on parents' plans till age 26, help those with chronic conditions and spend more on 21st century cures for diseases. And expand on community health centers and make healthcare more affordable. People are telling us that deductibles are being increased by thousands of dollars, though we've also heard from people who LIKE their healthcare. We want to make an affordable plan that works for everyone. Especially using more technology. I face healthcare issues in my own household every day, so I know what a difficult issue it is.</p> <p>We're also going to be working on a defense bill in March. We have to have a new budget with sustained increases in spending to keep our country safer. I work on cybersecurity (in the research and Technology subcommittee), and I have already had a hearing on that. I want to be able to open this up to the people who have questions on their minds. We'll have this call for an hour or so. Let's see who we have on the line.</p>
12:56 – There seems to be a lot of noise these days about protecting the preexisting condition portion of the ACA bill. Isn't it true that the likely healthcare bill is going in a different direction?	<p>Regarding preexisting conditions – we protected people with that issue in the last bill and we will continue to do that. We have bipartisan agreement on that. Please take YES for an answer. We agree that we need to protect those people because they need it the most. We want them to have affordable plans. Lots of people are currently paying fines because they can't afford the current plan, and so go without healthcare insurance.</p>
15:07 – Why do you think that we have to repeal the ACA? Why not keep what we have and just	<p>What's being done is there are certain aspects of the structure of the bill that needs to be changed.</p>

<p>make changes? I have a small business, and we get money back by participating in the ACA, which we didn't get, pre-ACA.</p>	<p>Unions don't like part of the plan (certain conditions or health threats, like the increased rates of cancer for firefighters) which unions have bargained for, and I don't want to tax them for that. We have agreed not to implement the "Cadillac Tax" for that reason. Also, the medical device tax. I visited a bio-tech company in NoVa that works on spinal injuries and devices, and the ACA has a device tax that we said we want to repeal. At first we were just delaying (things like the medical device tax). There are parts of the ACA that DON'T need to be repealed. The bipartisan stuff, we want to keep, and even increase – such as risk-pooling, buying across state lines, etc for small businesses. That's why we're working slowly on this process. That's why I met with a small business person a while ago, who told me which parts that they like. I've never had anyone tell me that they'd be upset if they had more options, more control and if it costs less. We've been reaching out to healthcare providers – up to 600 visits to providers, doctors, hospitals, patients and small businesses, people with rare diseases, to make sure we're hearing from them on how the ACA is working for them. You never get things right the first time around. This won't be one giant bill, it will be done piece by piece.</p>
<p>20:50 – Why have you opposed an independent investigation into Trump's Russia ties</p>	<p>I have supported that – this is a bipartisan effort. I have been a co-sponsor of the Russian sanction review act which is bipartisan and bicameral, stating that Russian sanctions cannot be lifted. I appreciate the bipartisan support for this. Mr. Putin is KGB by nature and is not someone we can trust, that's why I'm supporting this legislation. Sen. Rubio, Sen. McCain, Steny Hoyer and I are supporting this effort.</p>
<p>22:39 – Not too long ago, the Tea Party was calling for a reduction in national debt. We don't hear about that now. Now we hear about increased spending. Our projected federal debt – we're looking at \$10 Trillion – what are you going to do about it?</p>	<p>We've got to grow this economy again. We've got to get people back to work. Lower business taxes. In the past, the state budget wanted to raise taxes and cut funding, which I opposed. Instead we focused on jobs. Jobs are number one, and that's why we've got to get this economy going again. We've got so many industries in this area that are ready to get going again if we make pro-growth policies. For example, the medical device company I mentioned. We can get a much higher growth rate with our House budget that will</p>

	<p>balance the budget in 10 years. Our previous budget balanced a lot quicker than 10 years by focusing on growth. We need some regulation, but not job-killing regulation. We're looking to lower the regulatory burden, like we did back in 2011, when VA was number 1 for business. That's what we need to do on the federal level. VA currently has a growth rate of zero. If we can cure diabetes, heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's, we will save tens and hundreds and billions of dollars. And give incentives to quit smoking – I want to keep that in our reform. And use wellness programs.</p>
<p>Remark</p>	<p>We're trying to focus on the questions that we've been getting a lot of, lately. 100s of questions in the queue, thousands on the call</p>
<p>28:43 – When I signed up for ACA, our premiums increased by thousands of dollars per quarter. I still think that, in the US, we should have free healthcare for everybody. You and the Congress ought to be smart enough to make that happen.</p>	<p>We want to have an affordable healthcare system. We have a multi-layered system, with hospitals, community centers, etc . I think pharmacists are an important part, and getting flu shots and shingles vaccines – those shots can be gotten in drug stores. I support more drugs being classified as over-the-counter (OTC). We need nurses in pharmacies to do strep throat tests; and technology and looking at the available healthcare practices to help us innovate and make it more affordable. Anybody who walks into an ER will be taken care of, but we want to make sure you have that care over a lifetime. And let's make sure that doctors get paid – we want to have talented people going into the system. One of the reforms we instituted in Medicare to make sure docs accepted Medicare patients (because it was costing them too much,) medical school is too expensive. When a doctor cures someone's cancer, I think it's reasonable for them to make a decent living.</p>
<p>34:27 – What is your position on robust funding on cybersecurity to protect data for the agencies and for congress?</p>	<p>We need it everywhere. We need more robust funding to protect our military assets. Congress voted to increase funds. My subcommittee held hearings on training the workforce to work in cybersecurity, I visited a financial institution that goes out and finds disadvantaged kids and puts them in trainings and then put them into cybersecurity jobs, because there's such a need for it. We have training programs in High School, too, and elsewhere in our community. Our defense firms are also very active in this area, as I</p>

	<p>saw when I visited Northrop Grumman. The House Administration Committee – we need to be the leaders in this country. I’m excited about the examples I’ve just listed, and could list many more. We want to hold a cyber-roundtable where we can highlight those companies. Somebody told me how hard they find it to move things along in the federal government, so we need to figure out how to speed that up and use best practices. I know we have a long way to go on that, and it’s a high priority for me.</p>
<p>Remark</p>	<p>We aren’t able to take all of these calls, but we want to get to as many as possible</p>
<p>38:37 – Can you outline for us how you make your very important voting decisions? It seems you are voting along party lines, particularly with confirmations, though our district is diverse. Can we expect that to continue in the future?</p>	<p>The House doesn’t confirm any cabinet secretaries – that’s what the Senate does. We have gotten a lot of calls about that (I think because a lot of the groups directing people to call us have not informed people). I enjoy representing a diverse district, because it represents the Commonwealth and the nation. My husband has been a FCPS teacher and admin for 30 years. I listen to my constituents and my staff go out and speak to stakeholders when I’m deciding how to vote. We go to churches, the Korean Medical Society, our Indian groups, Muslim, African American groups, historical groups. We have an area that is enriched by diversity. A lot of our votes have so far related to regulatory matters. We haven’t gotten to the budget issues yet. My INSPIRE Act is bipartisan – to inspire women to go into STEM. It is something I worked on with a Democrat colleague, and I co-sponsored her bill as well. We were both inspired by the movie, “Hidden Figures.” I started a program for young women in leadership – you can see it’s diverse. I went out and worked with state colleagues across the district – reaching out to high schools to ensure a diverse group of women.</p>
<p>43:36 – Several times during Obama administration, Congress managed to pass an ACA-repeal. But now that they have a party majority, it seems it’s not about repeal, it’s about replace. Even though I keep getting raises at my job, I’m losing money because of the ACA. Why isn’t Congress taking the same plan that we have to have (healthcare plan)?</p>	<p>Republican amendments weren’t accepted by the Democrats who drafted the legislation. I’m on my husband’s healthcare plan right now. We are carefully trying to replace it, and not too quickly. It’s been in place for years and people are depending on it. So we need a careful transfer. Because it’s been in place, a lot of parts of it have been delayed on a bipartisan basis. Other parts that have gone into place have skewed markets</p>

	<p>and it's going to take time to fix that. This is going to start in March, it's going to be a public process, unlike in the previous administration.</p>
<p>47:14 – I hope the next Town Hall you do will be in person. That would be nice. I have a question about individual ACA situation. It's important to know how best to influence your decision-making process on this. There's a great deal of support and a whole lot of people worried about losing their healthcare. You mentioned you're on the Transportation committee: what is congress going to do about traffic gridlock in this area? It seems like congress can't decide how they're going to fund transportation.</p>	<p>We'd be happy to have you come in and tell us about your personal experience. Parents of juvenile diabetes patients have told us how important it is to have (insulin) pumps. I'm on a lot of health care caucuses so I can be aware of all these issues. On each one of those caucuses, they get their information from people like you. We do have a system to get info from a lot of different sources. Health care can be a very personal thing. That's probably the visits that we do the most – people and groups with specialized health care needs.</p> <p>We did pass a transportation bill to increase by 10%. I put language in there for Metro. We want to be able to use technology to tackle congestion. My Democrat colleague Mr. Lipinski serves with me on the transit caucus and we're often trying to figure out how to use tech to improve traffic. Like using Waze, and signs that tell you (updated) traffic delays each day. Supporting telecommuting and flexible work schedules. A lot of companies have told me that they're encouraging their employees to use flexible schedules. We're trying to work on another infrastructure bill – making sure we get more energy development. That's a national security issue and will increase employment. Going to work on the Keystone Pipeline will be a good, long-term job. That's the kind of thing we want to see in VA – offshore drilling with royalties generated for transportation billing. We expect a summer/fall passage of infrastructure bill – after health reform, tax reform, etc.</p> <p>Having you hear in small groups is the best way to communicate with you.</p>
<p>55:12 – Thank you for having this call with us. You are on the cybersecurity (Research and Technology sub-)committee and have been taking steps to secure everything. Will there be investigations into what's happened in our government? It seems strange you've been voting with your party, when it doesn't seem representative with our district</p>	<p>With cyberhacking, whether it's with Russia or China, we have 7 investigations going on right now. I'm sponsoring bipartisan legislation to prevent the lifting of Russian sanctions. I've investigated breaches of OPM files, which is important in my committee. We've done a lot of review in that area. We want to have the cutting-edge technology to deal with that – a lot of that talent comes from our district. I want to get those individuals in the cybersecurity pipeline.</p>

	<p>There are dozens of companies in our regions, if you want to find out how to help your kids partner with them to get started in this area – it's an exciting, profitable and necessary area. Our stores, banks and military have got to be the international leaders on this.</p> <p>On the regulation front – I don't think there are party lines. There were a lot of regulations put in place by agencies without a lot of review. Let's have Congress decide where to put Rules into place – and get comments. For example, regarding water regulations: not long ago, the EPA was trying to regulate water in Fairfax county, and we all sued the EPA and won, because their regulations were going to be so onerous and costly. Bipartisans – Board of Supervisor Sharon Bulova joined the Republican Attorney General to say no to the EPA. Instead of getting into partisanship – we should look critically at the regulations and look toward the goal – not costing lots of money and making us lose jobs, which would hurt our schools and roads. We need to make sure the regulations will actually achieve our goals. I think technology will help us with the environment.</p>
<p>1:02:05 – Thanks for taking this call. Can you comment on the tax reform timetable? There has been a lot of talk about cutting the corporate tax rate, but what about the personal tax rate.</p>	<p>Late spring/early summer is when we'll address tax reform. The Ways & Means committees are already working on that. The Corporate Tax we have is the highest in the world. And if we don't also lower personal tax rate at the same time, there will be distortion. The committees are also looking at increasing personal and family exemptions; retain the mortgage deduction, and the charitable deductions. People came in to tell us about the diversity of charitable groups in our area – we want to make sure all those groups can continue their important work. We are definitely looking forward to it. We haven't had tax reform since 1986. There's a lot of support for lowering the corporate tax. The Committees are looking to see how much we can simplify the tax code. It's very important to do this in a careful and thoughtful manner.</p>
<p>1:06:08 – I have a follow up question: you had mentioned 1): finding a cure for diabetes would save money, but you didn't talk about how you'd actually spend the money or where the cures would come from. Scientific research funding is</p>	<p>You're right – our NIH funding is behind. I support increasing the funding to NIH, which grants money out to research and partners for research. 21st century research bill helps with that. We are working on that, and I supported a version of the</p>

<p>at a big-time low. 2). When you were talking about the ACA, I never heard HOW you were going to lower premiums, and if the newly-insured (millions) of people who have insurance for the first time – will they get to keep it?</p>	<p>bill that mandated NIH funding – well – not mandated, but committed it. Investing that money in cures will save billions on the back end. Having visited NIH, when I ask the doctors if they can cure diabetes in their life-time, they say, even sooner than that (during MY lifetime – and I'm older).</p> <p>Regarding lower premiums: we want more market competition. We're seeing insurance companies leaving the exchange market. 1/3 of the areas only have one provider. We also want to get people back into the workplace and have healthcare provided by employers. Some people with healthcare now have it because Medicaid was expanded. Some of those people CAN get back to work, except that they would lose their benefits. Say you're on Medicaid, but are able to get healthy and get back to work, we want to have a program in place so that you won't feel like you'll lose your healthcare by going back to work. So that you don't have to have so many people on Medicaid.</p>
<p>1:11:30 – I don't want to see the ACA repealed or replaced (I think too many people are depending on it) – unless we're going to universal single-payer healthcare. In your last Tele-Town Hall, you said you wanted to make birth control pills OTC. I don't know that's a good idea, because they may raise the prices. Would you commit to keeping birth control inexpensive and accessible to women in all walks of life if made OTC?</p>	<p>The reality is that we have a Republican House, Senate and Administration, so universal healthcare is off the table. There wasn't much support for that beforehand, anyway. In the past, I've heard more from people who DID want it repealed and replaced, but now I'm hearing more from people who DO want to keep it. Maybe we just need to take the labels off this plan, and talk more about the benefits that it offers, in order to have agreements on it.</p> <p>Regarding OTC birth control – I do support that. Most developed countries have that, and it has brought the cost down and made it more accessible. It can reduce unintended pregnancies. It's been done in most countries. It also can be included in your Health Savings Account (HSA). We're not asking any employers to take out coverage of birth control, if they want to keep it there for their employees. We want to continue to have that, but for people who are NOT in the employment system – we want them to have OTC birth control and not have to take a day off from work to see a doctor. You could go to the pharmacy, talk to a nurse, fill out some forms and get the birth control. I think a lot of people agree on this.</p>

<p>1:16:53 – What is your position on the immigration ban for people other than green-card holders. Why weren't you at Dulles trying to enforce the court order?</p>	<p>We have been working with individuals affected by this. From the very first day of the ban. We passed a bill last year saying that people who helped our military should be allowed to come. The courts have not intervened and correcting that. The administration hasn't come out with the new plan yet, but there will be a lot of oversight. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) said that there should be increased vetting for some refugees coming from certain war-torn countries. We want to put those safety-measures in place. We've been engaging with the immigrant community. The ban came out Friday night and we were reaching out Saturday. I spoke to people at the airport and on Sunday, I went to an event at the ADAMS center that was honoring a holocaust victim and giving an award to a volunteer – I spoke to this issue there. I've continued to make sure people know they can contact us. Protection (bans) should not be based on religion. Any executive order that tries to do that will be stopped. Sec. Kelly at Homeland Security indicated the people who shouldn't have been swept up. Sunday was when the detentions stopped, though that doesn't excuse what happened. There will be a much more careful review of those issues</p>
<p>1:21:31 – This is the second tele town hall I've participated in. I find the forum frustrating, because people can't follow up, and you answer by talking in circles. You've been throwing around terms like "patient centered," "HSA's," what you mean by "affordable." What actually IS the HSA, what are the nitty-gritty details?</p> <p>But car insurance isn't really portable from state to state.</p> <p>What about people who don't have jobs? I don't have a job; I don't have an employer who can help me contribute. I'm on the ACA – in the exchange – I pay the entire amount out of pocket. I have four kids. How will an HSA help</p>	<p>That's just a small part of the plan, for people to set aside pre-tax dollars that are NOT lose it or lose it. This would be in addition to healthcare plans. For low-income people, it could be put in their paychecks for them to pay and set up the HSA to use for things that the healthcare doesn't cover. Like, for braces. We were able to use HSA to pay for braces for our kids. You'd carry it over, get interest in it, and it will grow in years where you don't have high health care costs, and you can use it for aging care when you're a senior. Those details are being worked out. For portable healthcare, you'd be able to take it from place to place, job to job, just like care insurance. Including across state-lines.</p> <p>I'd be happy to help you with that, if you'd like to come in. We need to figure out what plan you're on and see if there are existing subsidies that you're eligible for that you could get. Community health centers for cheaper vaccines – that could</p>

<p>me? One of my kids has a pre-existing condition. Lots of issues are impacting me in a meaningful way.</p> <p>1:28:00 - Please hold an in-person Town Hall. Your constituents are asking for it. People are reasonable and not looking to attack you. They want an open, back and forth dialogue.</p> <p>1:30:23 - I guess you're not planning to hold an in-person Town Hall?</p>	<p>help. One stop shopping places could help you with kids.</p> <p>I appreciate that. This kind of conversation probably couldn't be had in a face-to-face Town Hall. But we have them all the time with people (in small groups). Some of the issues you've raised can't be addressed at a Town Hall – it needs a meeting. We've tried to focus on the issues we're hearing on, in every setting that we're in.</p> <p>Well, the one that's being held on Friday night, by, it is being held by a group called Indivisible, which is around the country. I think they invited a fellow from Maryland to come down and to it (laughter) but I think we have a lot of people in Virginia that I can work with and talk to, whether it's hospitals or community health centers, or different places we've talked with. I think you'll probably say if, you sit down and visit with some of the community center folks that we can put you in touch with, it would probably be more helpful than talking with a food critic from Maryland who's going to be leading up the Town Hall on Friday night. So, you know, I think things could get partisan in a way that, like health care is personal and can be life and death. It's much easier to put you in touch with the people you need to talk to with those personal issues.</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	<p>It's great to hear from everyone. We put through a lot of people who have concerns. They have opposition to some policies, and we appreciate hearing from them.</p>