**CAMPAIGN SPEECH: IMMUNIZATIONS**

**FOR**

**CLYDE ELROD**

Hello everyone... I am Clyde Elrod and I am running for the United States Congress in Georgia’s Tenth Congressional District. One topic that has a lot of my focus is health care. Naturally, it’s a subject that affects each one of us... if not now... hopefully we are all “as fit as fiddles,” then sometime down the road... as we get older... as we have children... as we witness the aging of the population... including our loved ones... questions **WILL** and issues arise... doubts will take hold... our collective conscience must work together to find the ways to provide the most comprehensive, effective, supportive health care programs for all of us throughout our communities, this district, and for all of Georgia and the United States.

My wife works as a nurse for Barrow County Health Department. Along with this first hand, professional experience of the world of medicine in our area, many of our friends are also nurses or work in the medical field. I also work closely with Emory on their electrical projects with my company. As I grew up, I was aware that my family was very poor. We moved around a lot as well. My personal experience, which, to some, may be considered marginalized, is what has shaped my views on providing comprehensive health care for all of us. (**Tell about one or two of your memories when you were younger involving illness and challenges to get medical attention**). I remember when I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also recall the time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These early experiences taught me valuable lessons. I realized that if I don’t do something about these issues when I had the chance, who would do something? Each one of us needs to take a look and see how we can have a positive effect on our collective quality of life.

In the past, our state has taken a stand to protect children and, in turn, those around them. According to the Georgia Department of Public Health, In 2017, “Georgia is leading the country with above average early childhood vaccinations with 75.6 percent of children 19-35 months old protected, compared to national averages of 72.2 percent for the 7-vaccine series. However, health officials here say statewide immunization statistics show that more can be done to stop vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks in Georgia.”

Additionally, there are chronic conditions and diseases that plague our constituents. Conditions and diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and stoke, among others, can be more effectively managed with education, universal access to care, and the availability of effective, affordable medications and treatment. None of us wants to hear that a loved one may die because a life saving remedy was out of reach economically. That’s just not acceptable.

The other key issue within the health care umbrella, as I mentioned earlier, has to do with vaccinations. There are strong reasons why vaccinations need to be required, and we need to have a national database to help regulate the systems we employ. Right now we have a state by state database. If a person moves once or multiple times, it can take a long time to get records transferred ... and they could even go missing. Immunization records... and all medical records, are vital pieces of information for both the patient and the doctors treating the issues.

With a national database it will be easier for a parent, a young adult, or the elderly to keep up with their immunizations. The national database can also help doctors recommend when you need a booster shot. While people may tend to get their vaccinations as children, they may neglect or forget to follow up and do not get the required booster shots to insure protection.

As your representative from the 10th Congressional District, I will make my presence known in the United States Congress and I will advocate for well being and extended health benefits for all of us. With your support, we will have a viable, vocal, seat in Congress, one that truly represents the people of this district and one that truly believes in making sure we all have the quality of life, liberty, and safety that we all respect and cherish. I am Clyde Elrod and I believe in the people of Georgia... I believe in **US**. Thank you all.