

## Rouzer Insults Our Intelligence

*Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 10.27.21*

Once again, Congressman David Rouzer has taken us for fools in his [October 11 Newsletter](#).

He explained September's slower jobs growth away by saying "Many able-bodied adults are leaving the workforce altogether because they can. They've [made a lot of money](#) in the markets since COVID hit ..."

Does he honestly expect us to believe that restaurants are having trouble hiring because waiters and waitresses are sitting at home admiring their stock portfolios? Come on David, get a grip on reality!

Obviously, Rouzer has never been unemployed in his life, or he would know better than to repeat the same old tired Republican garbage that Extended Unemployment Benefits are ["paying people to stay home."](#) As I'm sure many of his own voters would tell him, unemployment benefits helped them survive when businesses closed. If Rouzer was right, people who didn't want to work would have been forced back to work when benefits expired on September 4<sup>th</sup>. That didn't happen, and states that ended benefits early added [fewer jobs](#) than states that kept them.

Rouzer ignores the real culprit: COVID's [Delta](#) variant. In January, COVID cases hit [300,000/day](#). In March, President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan](#), which Rouzer [opposed](#). It made vaccines free and accessible, and by July, cases dropped to [3,000/day](#)! The economy boomed, adding [1.1 million](#) jobs in August. But, as [millions of Republicans](#) refused vaccines, Delta surged. On October 1, America surpassed [700,000 COVID deaths](#). Yet, reckless [Republican politicians](#), including [Rouzer](#), continue to oppose life-saving vaccine mandates.

Pandering to anti-vaxxers, Rouzer claims workers are quitting over vaccine mandates. He's wrong. [Novant Health](#), [UNC Health](#), and [United Airlines](#) report 99% compliance. In fact, United Airlines says it has received [MORE job applications](#) than before the mandate, and that some applicants said they were excited to join a company that took employee safety seriously.

Rouzer insults our intelligence, endangers our health, and tells us we're lazy. We deserve better.

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