Our society has fallen off the rails when it comes to being willing to make hard decisions, to be honest about the reality of where things are, and we have gotten too used to blaming everyone else, and society in general, and therefore nobody is responsible. We want to obtain the prize without actually working for it. And we've become soft, too soft to accept critical assessment of how things truly are.

One issue that comes to mind right away is the pandemic of mental health care and a lack of access for people who are struggling, families who suffer, and society who loses out on some amazing people because they become relegated to the shadows of disparity, the whispers of rumor and sideway glances, and the shame of the simple reality, that everyone needs a hand up at some point in their life. We need to begin by talking about the social stigma of those who are hurting, people who feel alone, full of despair, literally…broken. The left likes to talk about gun deaths and include every possible statistic to try to shame Conservatives into supporting overreaching legislation that only disarms law-abiding citizens. But the issue they won't touch is that nearly half of all gun deaths are by suicide, many of those due to mental illness.

America is hurting, and it's time we have a real conversation about how to help. We cannot simply bring back institutions, because many, most in fact, are able to function fully with outpatient care, medication, and a strong support group. This is something that we can accomplish if we just start by telling the truth. Instead, I advocate for making mental health care more accessible, without the many hoops that are now slowing down the help they need.

Another issue that is hurting Americans is homelessness, often made worse by addiction. Self-medication, substance abuse, and veterans who have returned and simply aren't getting to access the resources they need. Someone who has signed up to serve our nation shouldn't be put on a wait list, they should be able to walk into any health care facility around the globe and be seen.

This week, I am putting forth a daring proposition. Over fifty years ago, in July of 1969, we put a man on the moon, yet in 2023 America, veterans cannot seem to get the legislation to authorize this kind of respectful care they have earned. A priority of mine that seems common sense to me is making sure our veterans are able to walk into a clinic and can be seen and treated, with dignity and respect. No exceptions. Period.

I earlier mentioned self-medication. I cannot fathom the idea that to combat drug abuse, we simply make drugs legal, allowing needles to litter the streets of our nation. From the journey of lesser dangerous drugs to using illegal drugs that become laced with fentanyl, Americans are literally dying because we refuse to act.

Mental health care isn't an easy issue to tackle. Medical professionals are leaving their jobs, hostility during the COVID pandemic, high demand for care, we are falling short. Why have we allowed this to become commonplace? It has become so common that people do a double take if you say you aren't on medication for depression or anxiety. Take a good look at society. We have neighbors and friends, kids in schools who use any variety of substances to cope. We must do better. I'm running for the United States Senate because in America, we shouldn't be alright in a society that looks the other way rather than tackling a tough issue, or even worse, misrepresents an issue to score cheap political points.

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