

Prayer, Encouragement Help Scalise Recover From Gunman's Ambush

House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, ., seriously wounded by a gunman who opened fire on a congressional baseball practice in June, thanked House Speaker Paul Ryan on Twitter this week for his prayers and encouragement and said he looks forward returning to the House "when I'm able."

Ryan appeared on CNN's Town Hall Monday after Scalise had joined a conference call with his GOP colleagues earlier in the day.

Ryan, who visited Scalise in the hospital and rehabilitation center multiple times since the shooting, said the wounded congressman will recover but that he has a "long road ahead of him."

"He's gonna walk, but he's gonna have to re-learn how to do it," Ryan said on CNN. "[On the call] he sounded great. He sounded strong. He's very strong and sound of mind and his body is healing. It was very cathartic for all us, and our members were really, really relieved to hear his voice."

Scalise was shot in the hip during the practice and has undergone "about 10 surgeries," according to Ryan.

"He's going to recover, but it was a pretty bad shot," Ryan said. "We almost lost him that day." {eo}