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CONGRESSMAN

RANDY HULTGREN

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October 19, 2013

Dear Friends,

This week, Congress passed and the President signed into law a bill to raise the debt ceiling and provide funding to the government. I voted NO on this bill because it will add \$1 trillion to our national debt, a massive burden that threatens our economy and our future. It provided no meaningful plan to rein in runaway spending of *your* hard-earned tax dollars and it was chock-full of earmarks, despite claims to the contrary. It was just another business-as-usual bill.

As I said, the agreement was far from a “clean” bill. It was filled with pork including \$2 billion for a troubled lock-and-dam project in Kentucky, funds for countering Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army in Africa, \$450 million for Colorado roads and \$174,000 for the widow of the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg who had a net worth of \$56.8 million.

More importantly, it only funds the government until January 15 when we’ll have to fight this battle all over again. And because of our nation’s reckless spending, we are bracing to hit the new debt ceiling on February 7.

No one wanted this government shutdown, and routine crises and last-minute deals are no way to run a government. I was glad to have joined with Democrats and Republicans throughout the process to fund critical functions of the government.

But if we cannot address our debt crisis problem now, after what this country has endured throughout the past couple of weeks—then when?

Our crisis is not make-believe. The national debt is barreling past \$17 trillion—that’s \$54,000 a person on the hook for Washington’s insatiable appetite to spend taxpayer dollars. Not to mention Illinois residents face an additional \$21,000 each in state debt as the result of poor fiscal choices.

Medicare’s costs are exploding and Social Security is projected to be bankrupt by 2033. This is unsustainable if we are to protect these safety net programs for future generations.

But instead of shrinking the growth of our entitlement system, we’re racing ahead with another enormous and glitch-filled program—Obamacare—that adds \$1 trillion in new taxes and a half a trillion to the deficit in 10 years.

It’s ridiculous to pay lip service to fixing our debt problem every few months and then do nothing. I opposed this bill because I was not elected to stand by while we sacrifice our children’s future for short-term political gain.

It is now imperative that we address these deep issues *now*, before we hit the debt ceiling again, instead of governing by crisis.

I was grateful to hear from many of you over the past couple of weeks who agreed that our debt and deficit are out of control. Thank you for your patience as many of my staff members who were furloughed during the partial shutdown responded to your needs and concerns.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can shrink the growth of government and preserve fiscal responsibility.

If you haven’t already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I’m doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

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As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



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