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September 1, 2013

Dear Friends:

As we near the end of the August District Work Period, I wanted to briefly update you on what has been happening in the 14th Congressional District and in Washington.

#### Tragedy in Syria

Many of you are rightfully concerned at the escalation of the conflict in Syria. As President Obama publicly weighs military intervention, this past week I joined 150 House colleagues in a bipartisan letter urging him to convene Congress to seek their full consultation and authorization before using military force in Syria. I was pleased that this weekend he announced he will do so when we return to Washington.

I am ready to come back to Washington to deal with this issue head-on. We should carefully consider our options before acting to help end this horrific conflict.

#### Educating about the Common Core

Nearly two out of three Americans have never heard of the Common Core State Standards according to Gallup, so this past week I hosted an education summit at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake in order for all of us to learn what exactly the standards are and how they will affect our students and schools.

I was pleased to speak with Fox News Channel's Shannon Bream on Wednesday to preview the event:



(Click picture to watch video)

Our summit emphasized above all the need for us to fight to maintain local and parental control over education. States and local districts should be free to choose whatever standards they want but we must make sure no state, including Illinois, is coerced to adopt the Common Core by the federal government.

Whenever the federal government gets involved in local affairs--watch out.

This gathering of parents, educators, administrators and thought-leaders was the latest event in my fact-finding mission to find about more about the Common Core. After local principals brought this issue to my attention, this month I met with Dr. Chris Koch, Illinois' Superintendent of Education, who shared his thoughts and frustrations with their implementation.

This past week I met with Gov. Mike Pence of Indiana whose State Legislature pushed the pause button for a year to step back and assess whether the Common Core's nationalized education standards and assessments were the best path for Indiana.

Illinois should also carefully consider whether we should move forward or push the pause button.

Please contact the state board of education, your state representatives and your state senators and let them know how you feel about the Common Core. Give them your questions, concerns or encouragement. No discussion about education should be held without the involvement of parents and the community, and we need your input. Please also [contact my office](#) to get more information if you weren't able to attend or if you have any questions about what the Common Core will mean for Illinois.

#### Defunding Obamacare

We all know our healthcare system needs reform, but it's clear the Affordable Care Act isn't ready for primetime. We need to move forward with policies that will actually help the

economy and drive down health care prices.

That's why I joined dozens of my colleagues in a letter urging Speaker Boehner and House leadership to defund the implementation and enforcement of the law in any relevant appropriations bills, including any continuing resolutions.

Our leaders in the House must stop funding the implementation of a law that the majority of Americans don't support, and that even the President's own advisers admit is just too complex to implement.

This *unaffordable* act is costly on businesses and families. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that regulations under Obamacare will cut jobs in the economy by 800,000. Further, some of you in the 14th District have notified me that you won't be able to keep your doctor or your same insurance plan as was promised under Obamacare.

This failed experiment in health reform has resulted in unacceptable collateral damage to the middle class and their pocketbooks. We can and must do better.

Defunding is a necessary step toward putting a healthcare system in place that is affordable and will truly benefit Americans.

#### Go Orange! and Feed the Hungry

September is Hunger Action Month and the Northern Illinois Food Bank has highlighted several ways you can take action to serve those less fortunate in our area. My family has been honored in past years to volunteer at the organization's food centers which feed more than 60,000 of our hungry neighbors across 13 counties.

September 5th is Go Orange! Day so please join me in wearing orange to increase awareness of those in need this month. A full list of ways you can help is available at: <http://solvehungertoday.org>.

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.

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

In Your Service,



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