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CONGRESSMAN  
**RANDY HULTGREN**

Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois

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September 21, 2013

Dear Friends:

This week was a busy one on Capitol Hill, and I wanted to let you know how I have been representing the 14th Congressional District in Washington.

### **Keeping Government Open, Defunding Obamacare**

Every day we hear about more businesses cutting back hours and healthcare coverage as they anticipate higher costs under the Affordable Care Act. It's clear this *unaffordable* care act is doing more harm than good. It's evident in many states that consumers won't be able to keep the doctor of their choice or stick with a company they trust.

On Friday, I voted with the House to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government running through December—avoiding a government shutdown—and to defund Obamacare. I believe we should slow down this law and look for simpler and smarter healthcare solutions. The Republican Study Committee, for instance, has introduced an alternative which focuses on reducing costs and improving choice—reforming the system while protecting those with pre-existing conditions.

We'll keep looking for additional ways to improve our healthcare system.

Until then, the October 1 deadline approaches for open enrollment in the state exchanges, and residents in Illinois are still without details on the plans that will be available or how much they'll cost. The state needs to be forthcoming about what's up ahead for its residents.

### **Scrutinizing Russia during Syria Disarmament**

The United States and Russia have reached a tentative diplomatic solution to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons that can avert military action. This promising proposal aims for immediate accountability and inspections, with the goal to completely eliminate Syria's chemical weapons arsenal by mid-2014. However, ongoing civil war can make disarmament extremely difficult. We must be able to verify Syrian disarmament, including regular and detailed reports from the weapons inspectors who must have full access to Syrian weapons stockpiles.

We should pay close attention to Russia's actions toward its pseudo-ally Syria. Russia's arms transfers and purposeful disregard for Syrian atrocities warrants close scrutiny of their involvement in U.N. enforcement.

There's no easy solution to the Middle East's thorny history. The terrible Syrian conflict still rages on. We need a longer-term Syria policy that protects our interests, enforces international law and prevents humanitarian catastrophes.

### **Searching for Illinois' Top Youth Volunteers**

Do you know a youth actively serving their community? The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created in 1995 to recognize students in middle and high school grades who have demonstrated exemplary community service. Sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), these awards are presented annually on the local, state and national level.

The top honorees will receive \$1,000 awards, engraved silver medallions and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

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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.

In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois

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