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**CONGRESSMAN
RANDY HULTGREN***Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois*[Home](#)[About Randy](#)[Serving You](#)[News](#)[Our District](#)[Contact](#)

October 11, 2013

Dear Friends,

During this last week, my staff and I have received hundreds of calls from constituents communicating to me their frustration while at the same time conveying strongly that our economic future is at stake. While the administration continues to paint my colleagues and me as disinterested in opening up government, that could not be further from the truth.

I have been focused on ensuring that an agreement on the budget and debt ceiling include a long-term solution to our runaway debt. It's simply unsustainable to spend \$3.5 trillion this year while running up \$642 billion in deficits and borrowing 19 cents of every dollar we spend. We must get our debt and deficit under control.

Since October 1, dozens of House Democrats have joined with my colleagues and I in a bipartisan fashion to maintain funding for critical functions of our government until an agreement is reached. These bills await action by the Senate:

- Fund veterans benefits (H.J.Res.72)
- Pay our National Guard and reservists (H.R. 3230)
- Fund nutrition programs for needy women and children (H.J.Res.75)
- Fund federal emergency response services (H.J.Res.85)
- Reopen our national parks (H.J.Res.70)
- Fund key Food and Drug Administration activities (H.J.Res.77)
- Provide compensation for furloughed federal employees (H.R. 3223)
- Allow the District of Columbia to expend their local funds (H.J.Res.71)
- Reopen the National Institutes of Health and ensure access to clinical trials (H.J.Res.73)
- Ensure all military payments and survivor benefits for fallen soldiers are continued (H.J. Res. 91)
- Make sure the FAA can carry out its essential functions (H.J. Res. 90)
- Maintain funding for our border security (H.J. Res. 79)

We are working to get all sides to the negotiating table and I hope we can quickly move past this impasse and get on to the big issues our country is facing, like runaway spending, out-of-control debt, a sluggish economy and rising healthcare costs. Washington works best when everyone works together.

Until Congress passes and the President signs into law an acceptable solution to fund the federal government, though, some official activity is required to be suspended by law. During this lapse in appropriations, all non-essential staff in my offices have been furloughed and are prevented from engaging in official activity.

While most of my staff are still on furlough, we are still here to help you, my constituents, and respond to your needs. So don't hesitate to call my Geneva office at 630-232-7104 or my Washington office at 202-225-2976. Please keep in mind there may be a delay in response due to limited resources.

For detailed information about which federal services are available, please call: 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

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.

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In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois

Contact Information

Washington, DC
332 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2976
Fax: (202) 225-0697

Geneva Office
1797 State Street Suite A
Geneva, IL 60134
Phone: (630) 232-7104
Fax: (630) 232-7174

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