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CONGRESSMAN RANDY HULTGREN

Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois

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March 12, 2014

Dear Friends,

The winter months have been busy with activity in Washington and the 14th District. Please read on for the latest on how I have been serving you.

Tackling Heroin in Northern Illinois

In recent years, heroin abuse has seen a striking increase in the Chicago area, especially among youth, for a variety of reasons, including easier access and lower cost. Just in 2013, DuPage County reported a record of 46 deaths and Kane County reported 22. Since 2007, 175 people have died in Will County. These are the people we care about: our friends, our family members, our coworkers.

This is a serious problem and I believe the real solution to tackling heroin and opioid abuse must come from within our communities.

That's why on Friday I hosted a Community Leadership Forum on Heroin Prevention at the Kane County Government Center to bring together a diverse array of experts—law enforcement, drug courts, elected officials, educators, treatment providers and recovery centers—to share resources and ideas to tackle the growing threat of heroin addiction and abuse in northern Illinois.

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CONGRESSMAN RANDY HULTGREN Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FORUM ON HEROIN PREVENTION MARCH 7 | 1:00-3:30PM KANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER | GENEVA, IL

At the forum, all of us came together as a community to brainstorm in order to find out what is working, identify barriers we need to overcome and learn how our combined resources can be a force multiplier in fighting this growing threat. I will be notifying participants as well as the community about specific action items that were proposed in the coming days.

Until then, you can view my Facebook photo album of the event here, and you can read local articles on the forum in the "Randy in the News" section below.

Illinois Brings Manufacturing into the 21st Century

Bringing Illinois' strong manufacturing base into the digital age is essential to spur economic growth, grow our global competitiveness and ultimately get Americans back to work.

That's why I was thrilled at the creation of a new Digital Lab for Manufacturing (Digital Lab), a Chicago-based, applied research institute that will both develop and demonstrate digital manufacturing technologies and then commercialize them across key manufacturing industries in Illinois and around the



country.

By combining the expertise of industry with our community colleges and universities, the Digital Lab can apply the latest technology to improve manufacturing machines and factories—making Illinois an epicenter of innovation.

In November, I joined the Illinois delegation in sending a [letter](#) to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, urging him to consider the proposal. Following the letter, the proposal beat out competitors for the Department of Defense grant, with another \$250 million coming from industry, academia and other private sources.

I am especially excited that McHenry County College, College of DuPage, Lake County High Schools and Marengo Community High School from the 14th District will be participating in this exciting partnership. They understand the importance of connecting students to the jobs of the 21st century, and building their knowledge to meet the growing job demand in advanced manufacturing.

#### Stop Government Abuse

Earlier this month, the House passed several pieces of legislation aimed at bringing transparency and accountability to the federal government as part of the Stop Government Abuse week.

These bills included:

- Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act (H.R. 1423), the Taxpayer Transparency and Efficient Audit Act (H.R. 2530) and the Protecting Taxpayers from Intrusive IRS Requests Act (H.R. 2531), all of which improve accountability and transparency within the IRS and protect Americans from its abusive and discriminatory intrusions.
- Private Property Rights Protection Act (H.R. 1944) which protects Americans from eminent domain abuse.
- Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act (H.R. 3865) which protects Americans that are part of 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations who have been unfairly targeted by the federal government based on their political beliefs.
- Consumer Financial Freedom and Washington Accountability Act (H.R. 3193), a package of bills which protect American consumers by bringing more accountability and structural improvement to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), one of the most unaccountable agencies in American history.

#### Internet Access Should Remain Free—Period

The internet has become an essential tool in our daily lives—from accessing educational resources, applying for jobs, sharing ideas and running businesses to communicating with families and friends.

Taxing internet access—the simple act of getting on the “on ramp”—would set a dangerous precedent and would be harmful to economic growth, hindering the numerous innovations already spurred by affordable access to the internet.

No one should be taxed simply for logging on to the internet on top of the monthly fee they are already paying to an internet provider.

That’s why I have co-sponsored H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, a bill that would permanently prevent state and local governments from taxing internet services.

#### Opening Job Opportunities for Veterans and Volunteer Firefighters

When members of our armed forces transition back into civilian life, the last thing they should fear is unemployment. Nor should our volunteer first responders face uncertainty in the job market. But the healthcare law’s employer mandate has discouraged many businesses from hiring workers at a time when our economy is still struggling to recover.

I was pleased the House this week passed a bill (406-1) I co-sponsored, H.R. 3474, the Hire More Heroes Act, which allows small businesses to hire veterans without facing penalties by exempting veterans who already receive health coverage under

TRICARE or the VA from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate.

Additionally, the House unanimously passed H.R. 3979, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, which also ensures that qualified volunteers, including voluntary firefighters and emergency responders, are not counted for determining the number of full-time employees for the purposes of the employer mandate. This shields fire departments from crippling new health care costs, which would cause many to close their doors.

Lifting this burden on businesses is a win for our veterans, our volunteer firefighters, our emergency responders and our economy.

#### [Calling all Youth for the Congressional Award Program](#)

The 14th Congressional District is filled with outstanding youth who have greatly impacted our communities through their volunteer efforts and extra activities. I encourage all youth ages 14-23 to participate in this year's Congressional Award Program, the highest honor Congress bestows upon young people. This bipartisan effort rewards those who have completed up to 100 hours in the areas of public service, physical fitness and personal exploration through individual goal setting.

Additional details are available at <http://congressionalaward.org> and on my website at [hultgren.house.gov](http://hultgren.house.gov). For additional questions, please contact Gina Gregolunas in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-2976.

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,



Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois

#### [Randy in the News](#)

Aurora Beacon-News: [Leaders gather to discuss heroin prevention](#)

Kane County Chronicle: [Time for action: Heroin summit tackles tough issue](#)

Aurora Beacon-News: [Mother's 'baby steps' lead her to heroin prevention forum](#)

Illinois Review: [Club for Growth Ranks Congress Members 2013 Voting Record](#)

Washington Post: [Ill. congressman wants to permanently end web tax](#)

Newsmax: [Rep. Hultgren: White House ACA Numbers Meant to 'Change Subject'](#)

DeKalb Daily Chronicle: [NIU will take role in \\$320M digital lab](#)

The Hill: [Golden Goose: Where offbeat science is good science](#) (op-ed)

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