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

September 15, 2014

Dear friends,

We've returned to Washington following a busy District Work Period. Traveling throughout the 14th District, I was reminded again of how many families are still struggling to find work in this tough economy. It's clear that instead of growing Washington's economy, we need to grow our local economies from the bottom up with good-paying jobs. That's why the House is focused on solutions to help get people back to work, lower costs at home and restore opportunity for everyone. Now is the time to set aside differences and pass legislation that will benefit the millions of Americans who want to work.

As always, please use the Contact button at the top of this email to let me know how I can better serve you.

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[Putting American Manufacturers on a Level Playing Field](#)

Manufacturers in Illinois and the 14th District are just getting their own feet under them again and looking for ways to grow, but they still face high taxes, high legal costs and government red tape that hurt their ability to compete against their competitors overseas.

Just this month, Illinois employers including manufacturers announced they will lay off more than 2,000 workers in the coming months. Right now, American manufacturers face 20 percent higher costs compared to manufacturers in other countries, according to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

That's why I cosponsored the **American Renaissance in Manufacturing (ARM) Act, H.R. 5360**, a wide-ranging legislative package aimed at reducing competitive disadvantages of American manufacturers who engage in the global marketplace.

Combined with my own **Modernizing American Manufacturing Bonds Act (MAMBA) of 2014** and **Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013**, these bills will help Illinois manufacturers expand their businesses to new markets, invest in new equipment and, most importantly, hire instead of fire more workers.

[Let's Recruit Community College-Trained Medical Professionals to the VA](#)

This past week I applauded newly-installed Secretary Robert McDonald of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for unveiling a new national recruitment effort to bring medical professionals to the VA and provide timely and quality health care for our nation's veterans. His initiative is aimed at recruiting the best and brightest health care professionals to the VA to enhance and expand care for veterans.

In this vein, I sent a [letter](#) to Sec. McDonald urging him to expand his recruitment efforts to community colleges which

Let's Go Orange! and Help Our Neighbors in Need this Hunger Action Month



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train more than half of the country's entire health care workforce.

In fact, by 2020, there will be 1.2 million expected job openings for registered nurses, 370,000 openings for licensed practical nurses, 105,000 openings for dental hygienists, and 121,000 projected jobs for emergency medical technicians. Many of these jobs will be filled by professionals who received their initial training at community colleges, like those in the 14th District that sit on my Higher Education Advisory Committee (HEAC) which helps coordinate, develop and promote workforce knowledge and skills training for high school students and recent graduates looking to enter the workforce in areas such as health care.

[High Speed Computing Bill will Accelerate Health Research, Boost National Security](#)

Historically, the United States has led the world in computer power and scientific research. But other countries are catching up. America is falling behind as China now boasts the world's fastest computer and is not slowing down.

Massive gains in computing power are necessary to meet our national security, scientific, and health care needs. Testing our nuclear stockpile as it ages will require more and more advanced computer simulations. Advanced modeling of the human brain gives scientists a better understanding of what causes Alzheimer's and cardiovascular disease, and what can treat it. Faster computing power speeds up cures for our nation's top killers.

Exascale computing, computing whose speed approaches that of the human brain, represents an exciting new world of science and American leadership. That's why I was thrilled this past week when the House passed my bill, **H.R. 2495, the American Super Computing Leadership Act**, which would jumpstart research into high-performance computing technologies to ensure continued American leadership in advanced computing.

The American Super Computing Leadership Act builds on the great work of my former colleague in Illinois Rep. Judy Biggert by encouraging Department of Energy research into developing exascale computing systems. In addition, our manufacturers in Illinois can improve the prototypes they put off their lines, producing a better product and more opportunities to expand their businesses and hire more workers.

I look forward to passage in the Senate so we can make sure America continues to excel in research and development across disciplines.

[DeKalb, White House Taking Action against Highly-Addictive Painkillers](#)

Our community has been on the forefront in combating the heroin and opioid epidemic in northern Illinois, but the problem is only exacerbated by free and easy access to addictive painkillers. When more than two-thirds of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, it is essential these families have easy and convenient access to secure disposal sites.

I commend the White House's Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for issuing new rules which will create "convenient, legal avenues for safe, environmentally-friendly disposal of unneeded prescription drugs," especially highly-addictive painkillers like opioids. Now, family members and patients will benefit from disposal locations at local pharmacies and mail-back programs. Long-term care facilities will also be able to create similar disposal programs on behalf of current and former residents. I urge everyone to check your medicine cabinets and find out where your closest site is.

It is still encouraging to see the positive rippling effects from my [Community Leadership Forum on Heroin Prevention](#). Please see the [Randy in the News](#) section below my signature for encouraging stories about how our community is taking what they heard there and implementing it locally.

[Remembering Todd Beamer, 9/11's Fallen Heroes](#)

This past week, we remembered those who lost their lives

13 years ago on a day that changed our nation forever. One of the fallen heroes was my friend from high school, Todd Beamer, who helped stop Flight 93 from causing further damage by helping bring it down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This summer I visited the memorial there that is under construction, and was humbled to present a high school yearbook for the museum's archives.

Please watch my House floor speech honoring his memory and urging our continued resolve to defend and protect our nation's freedoms and values.



(Click picture to watch video)

In Search of Inspiring Youth Community Volunteers

Do you know a student positively serving their community? Encourage them to apply for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, 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.

State honorees will receive an award of \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for national recognition events.

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to apply now through November 4. The application is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and www.nassp.org/spirit.

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

[Local remembrances](#) (Daily Herald)
[DeKalb County officials take new approaches to curb heroin overdose deaths](#) (DeKalb Daily Chronicle)
[DeKalb County police agencies begin heroin overdose remedy training](#) (Valley Life)
[U.S. House approves computing legislation introduced by Hultgren](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
[House Bill Takes Aim at Exascale](#) (HPCwire)
[Illinois Congressman Honors 9/11 Hero Todd Beamer](#) (Washington Free Beacon)

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