News from Representative Randy Hultgren

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Visiting You in Northern Illinois

Traveling throughout the 14th District to hear your concerns and discuss how I'm representing you in Washington has been a highlight of this extended District Work Period. Take a look at the captions for details on just a handful of visits I highlight below.

(Talking with future educators at Northern Illinois University about our need for qualified and passionate teachers.)

(Got chicken? I enjoyed meeting with owner Kevin Skarin and staff at the Oswego location of Chick-Fil-A to learn how Congress can support our retailers.)

(Got to go behind the counter at Graham's Chocolates, a Geneva mainstay and important small business employer. There, they make everything from chocolate-covered potato chips to homemade ice cream. There may have been some tasting involved…)

(Jobs, skyrocketing health insurance premiums, juvenile diabetes...just a handful of the issues we discussed at Coffee with the Congressman in Gurnee.)

(Discussed veterans issues with the Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County.)

Guardian of Small Business

I am honored to receive the top award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading advocate for small businesses, for my support of our nation's leading job creators which are central to ensuring Illinois residents are in the workforce. (I received a 100 voting record with NFIB during the 114th Congress).

"Many elected officials claim that they are champions of small business, but our Guardian Award shows our members and other small business owners who is really fighting for them," said **NFIB President and CEO Juanita Duggan**. "Based on his voting record, Rep. Hultgren is one of the most reliable advocates for small business in Washington."

(NFIB President and CEO Juanita Duggan presents award to Rep. Hultgren)

Veterans Treatment Courts—How, When, Who?

Our veterans want to live successful, meaningful lives—but overcoming the scars of deployment and battle is a struggle for many.

According to Justice for Vets, one in five veterans has symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment and one in six veterans who served in the Iraq War suffer from a substance abuse issue. Substance abuse, combat-related mental illnesses and resulting involvement in the criminal justice system plagues the veteran

community

I believe we should help by giving them the tools they need. Veterans Treatment Courts provide a “one-stop shop” alternative to incarceration and a support system for veterans to ensure they meet their obligations to themselves, the court and their community.

I was encouraged by the community participation at my community forum on Veterans Treatment Courts. We had representatives from Lake, McHenry, Kankakee, Will, Kane, Kendall and DuPage counties, including those from Veterans Assistance Commissions (VAC), Department of Veterans Affairs Service Area Offices (SAO), Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) veterans groups, and the Illinois Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice.

This year, Governor Rauner signed legislation that requires the establishment of 24 Veterans Treatment Court programs by 2017. We discussed the needs and challenges of counties in the 14th District to implement the law and get these courts up and running, including regulations from the State of Illinois governing the programs in areas such as application and certification. Workload is a concern for several counties who are already overburdened by case management. Veteran eligibility is also a concern to ensure veterans who need assistance can get it, often at speeds much faster than when dealing with the VA health care system.

Click here to learn more about how I am fighting to veterans in Congress, including pushing for reform at the VA and supporting legislation to help veterans find jobs, protect their credit score and receive the benefits they have earned.

STEM Scholars Visit SciTech Museum

SciTech Museum in Aurora was a fantastic backdrop for our second STEM Scholars meeting. Students were able to see and hear first-hand the opportunities that exist in STEM career fields. It is exciting to see the STEM leaders of the future connecting with the industry professionals of today.

Arlene Hawks, Executive Director of SciTech, led tour group on a tour of the hands-on museum, followed by presentations from STEM professionals from ComED, MOLEX, Cordogan Clark and Associates and Phillips Park Zoo.

(Scholars engaging with presenters David Alvarez and Liz Foral)

(Local STEM professionals present to the STEM Scholars class)

The students and I discussed some obstacles to overcome in our communities regarding STEM education funding and focus, and lack of hands-on learning opportunities for high school aged students. We must

ensure our schools see the value in promoting and getting their students excited about enrolling in science, engineering, math and technology related classes. The students are learning that STEM knowledge is important for every career in the future—from becoming a retail clerk to a food scientist. I look forward to continuing the conversation at our next meeting.

(Rep. Hultgren talks STEM career opportunities with students)

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

- U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren honored as Guardian of Small Business (Kendall County Now)
- U.S. Representative visits Child Place of Antioch (My Kenosha County)

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