

News from Representative Randy Hultgren



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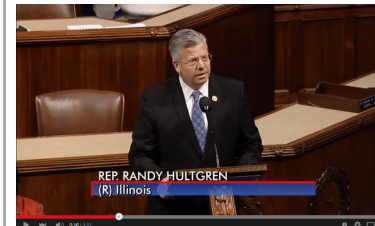
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[Hearing from Prime Minister Netanyahu](#)

[As I reported to you all last summer](#), I met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel as part of a congressional delegation. Amid smoke and rumblings from nearby conflicts, I saw firsthand that Israeli leaders are forced to make difficult decisions every day about what needs to be done to protect their citizens and their way of life.

I was pleased to welcome Prime Minister Netanyahu to a Joint Meeting of Congress. Mr. Netanyahu’s perspective is key to illuminating the issue for the Congress and the nation. As the leader of our most trusted friend, ally and functioning democracy in the region, he was able to reemphasize the

[Islamic State Conducting Brutal Attack on Religious Freedom](#)



(Click picture to watch video)



need to maintain the strong ties between our two nations.

Promoting Higher Ed and a “Culture of Saving”

I’m proud the 14th District is served by seven community colleges which are essential training grounds for the country’s next cohort of workforce professionals, and I am committed to promoting their work and encouraging their growth throughout our communities.

Toward that end, I have joined the bipartisan House Community College Caucus. Like my own Higher Education Advisory Committee, this caucus improves partnerships with community colleges to address regulatory and education policy challenges faced by these schools.

In addition, saving for your children’s education is daunting for many low- and middle-income parents. When the average student loan debt is \$28,400 and tuition costs keep rising, it’s no wonder nearly 12 million American families have turned to 529 plans to prepare for the education of their children.

That’s why I supported House passage of H.R. 529, a bill which promotes saving for college by protecting, modernizing and expanding 529’s. Let’s keep promoting a ‘culture of saving’ that helps parents plan for their children’s future, and ensure children succeed in education.

Combating Medicare and Medicaid Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

Americans rely on Medicare and Medicaid for healthcare access, but these expensive programs lose billions in waste, fraud and abuse every year, ratcheting up the bill on



taxpayers. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) shows that improper Medicare payments are on an upward trend. In 2012, the FBI estimated they may total anywhere from \$75 to 250 billion.

That's why I have cosponsored the Preventing and Reducing Improper Medicare and Medicaid Expenditures (PRIME) Act. [Click here to read how this bill will help stop bad actors from taking advantage of these programs, and improve their efficiency and transparency.](#)

Equalizing Benefits for Drivers, Mass-Transit Users

As a former commuter to and from Chicago, I understand the importance of providing equalized benefits among mass-transit users and those that drive to work. Doing so can help relieve road traffic and save workers money and time, and is at no extra cost to the taxpayer, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

[I cosponsored the Commuter Parity Act](#) which would restore the transit benefits for mass-transit commuters to the same level as parking benefits. Previously, I [led Congressional efforts](#) to restore such benefits during previous transportation reauthorization negotiations, and in November I [joined an Illinois delegation in urging committee leadership](#) to include such benefits in any tax extenders package.

Also, I joined nearly 300 of my colleagues in urging House leadership on both sides of the aisle to find a multi-year surface transportation solution which includes a long-term, sustainable funding stream for the Highway Trust Fund, which is set to expire at the end of May.

[Read our letter here.](#)

Opposing the President's Overreach

My constituents have told me repeatedly that, whatever the issue, they do not support the President acting outside of his authority and going around the American people and their representatives in Congress. This month, I voted against a bill which continues funding the President's lawless executive actions on immigration which a majority of Americans and, most recently, federal courts oppose. [Learn more about the federal court ruling from the Chicago Tribune.](#)

We need to responsibly fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and our law enforcement by empowering them to administer our nation's laws. I supported the earlier three-week funding bill that would have allowed the legal process to run its course through the federal courts. I trust the courts will soundly reject the President's actions, and restore integrity back to our nation's law enforcement and visa system.

[Learn more here.](#)

Calling out ATF's Backdoor Ammunition Ban

After hearing from many of you, I have become concerned at the administration's plan to ban commonly used ammunition for sporting and home protection firearms. I expressed strong concern to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Director B. Todd Jones about the plan, a "Framework" with the intention to ban the manufacture and importation of such commonly used ammunition, although the law is clear about a "sporting purposes" exemption.

James Pasco, the executive director of the national Fraternal Order of Police, which represents 325,000 officers, [has](#)

[said](#) that police aren't threatened by the ammunition: "Any ammunition is of concern to police in the wrong hands, but this specific round has historically not posed a law enforcement problem."

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Supercomputing: Key to America's Innovation Edge

Along with my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan House Science and National Labs Caucus, I wrote an op-ed for *The Hill* newspaper on the importance of supercomputing to American innovation and national security. [Click here to read the piece.](#)

For more information on my bill, the [American Super Computing Leadership Act \(H.R. 874\)](#), [click here.](#)

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

[Congressional Bill Offers Asylum for Homeschoolers](#) (Illinois Review)

[How local lawmakers voted on Homeland Security plan](#) (Daily Herald)

[Hultgren Speaks Out Against Islamic State Abductions](#) (WNIJ/WNIU public radio)

[Hultgren: WH Doesn't Understand ISIS' Vision, Threat](#) (Newsmax TV)

[IBM Tries to Sell Government on 'Brain in a Box' Technology](#) (NextGov)

[Illinois congressmen urge energy action by Rauner](#) (The Dispatch/Rock Island Argus)

[Illinois Democrats divided on attending Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

[Letter to Urge House Leaders to Back Tax-Exemption](#) (The Bond Buyer)

[Reps. Hultgren, Roskam buck Boehner in DHS funding vote](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)

[U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren joins bipartisan group on community colleges](#) (Northwest Herald)

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