

News from Representative Randy Hultgren

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### [Illinois National Guard, FBI Shut Down Aurora ISIS Scare](#)

I was greatly disturbed when I heard about the [two men from Aurora](#), one a member of the Illinois National Guard, who were charged this week for conspiring to aid the Islamic State's efforts against our country and our allies. I am incredibly proud of the Illinois National Guard and the FBI whose coordinated and determined efforts led to the arrests of these two men. I applaud their commitment to the safety and protection of the citizens of Illinois, the Illinois guardsmen and our nation.

I will continue to monitor the situation and am confident that justice will prevail. These unsettling situations remind us to remain vigilant every day and be alert for suspicious activity.

## Punishing Human Rights Violators



(Gravesite of Sergei Magnitsky)

Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer, died in jail in 2009 after exposing widespread financial fraud by Russian officials. His stand against human rights violators was a heroic example to us all. If we are to stop human rights violators from continuing their attack on human dignity and freedom, we must expose and punish perpetrators.

That's why I cosponsored the **Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (H.R.624)**, a bipartisan, bicameral bill that will deny any corrupt officials and human rights violators from entering the United States or from using any U.S. financial institutions. No human rights violator should be rewarded with travel to our shores or access to our financial institutions.

### Show Me the Science!

Transparency and reproducibility are basic tenets of sound science, but the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has instead repeatedly chosen to bypass Congress and remain tight-lipped about the science they rely on to place new regulations on Americans.

I supported House passage of the **Secret Science Reform Act (H.R. 1030)**, a bill I cosponsored which prohibits the EPA Administrator from creating new regulations unless all scientific and technical information relied upon is made sufficiently available for analysis. Whenever the administration hands down more regulations, American taxpayers have a right to see the data and determine if those rules are based on sound science.

### Supporting our Local Freight Railroads and Customers

Illinois is a hub for freight transportation. Three short line or regional railroads—Illinois Railway; Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad; and Wisconsin and Southern Railroad—carry goods and raw materials to serve customers within the 14th Congressional District. Improving our rail infrastructure is important for safety and upgrading the capacity of local freight railroads.



(Photo copyright Watco Companies)

Unfortunately, a recurring tax credit for private funds spent on track improvements expired at the end of last year. This tax credit leverages private sector investment into our infrastructure, but its expiration hampers efforts to maintain and expand existing rail lines.

I cosponsored the **Short Line Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 721)** to extend the tax credit, encouraging a private sector solution to a public problem by maximizing private infrastructure investment into our local economies.

### Passing a Budget

This week, the House fulfilled one of its basic duties by putting forth and passing **H.Con.Res. 27**, the Fiscal Year 2016 framework for allocating taxpayer dollars—one of several proposals put forth that focus on American prosperity and building opportunity for everyone.

I supported passage of H.Con.Res. 27 because it provides the starting

point to what I hope will be serious negotiations between Congress and the Administration to get our spending under control, start to pay down our growing national debt, provide for our national defense, and make good on our commitments.

Congress has been clear that a serious budget proposal would respect the simple idea all family budgets adhere to: you can't spend more than you take in. Our prosperity and that of the next generation relies on that principle.

### Urging Caution as Illinois Common Core Testing Begins

As you may know, in 2013 I launched a fact-finding mission to determine whether or not the Common Core education standards, and their attached assessments, are right for Illinois.

This week, I sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging them to withhold funding for any actions by Department of Education to influence decisions by states over academic standards.

Illinois has chosen to move forward and begin Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing of students. Since I first heard about the use of assessments as a backdoor into forcing Common Core on states, I have urged caution to Illinois as it moves ahead. It's a sad state of affairs that students and parents are left with no option other than to opt out because the White House isn't listening to their concerns.

**I continue to believe states and local school districts in Illinois and nationwide should be able to decide which standards they want to use to test the progress of their students, without federal coercion or influence.**

Please, don't hesitate to reach out to my office or email me through the Contact link above to let me know what you think about the Common Core and its implementation in our state.

### Keeping Investment Options Open for Americans

The federal government is at it again—tweaking and adding regulations that, while advertised to help Americans, actually hurt them in the long run.

This time, a Department of Labor (DOL) planned rule will restrict the options of Americans who plan for their future. Essentially, the move would limit the number of investment products trusted financial advisors could offer to their Main Street customers.

I have heard from my constituents who oppose this rule, and I cosponsored the **Retail Protection Investor Act (H.R. 1090)** to delay the rule and protect forward-looking Americans. We should provide consumers with enough information and options to decide for themselves what they need, in consultation with their trusted financial advisor, instead of making that decision for them.

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

[Bipartisan Medicare Funding Fix Passes House](#) (U.S. News and World Report)

[Congressman's Interest in Munis Comes from Experience](#) (The Bond Buyer)

[House Financial Services Subcommittee Grills SEC Enforcer](#) (Newsmax)

[Obama Operatives Try to Sway Israel's Election](#) (Newsmax)

[Op-ed: Protecting 529s and promoting a "culture of saving"](#) (Daily Herald)

[State Dept. Investigated over Anti-Netanyahu Campaign](#) (CBN News)

[Sudden departure](#) (WORLD Magazine)

[The Mushroom Cloud and the X-Ray Machine](#) (Foreign Policy)

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