

News from Representative Randy Hultgren



[HOME](#) [ABOUT RANDY](#) [SERVING YOU](#) [NEWS ROOM](#) [OUR DISTRICT](#) [CONTACT](#)

In this issue of the Hultgren Huddle:

- [Voting NO on \\$1.1 Trillion Spending Bill](#)
- [Permanent Tax Relief](#)
- [Tightening Up Visa Security Measures](#)
- [Renewing Call for FAA Hearing](#)
- [Administration Straps States Looking to Innovate in Healthcare](#)
- [Who is Protecting Your Privacy?](#)
- [Randy in the News](#)

## Voting NO on \$1.1 Trillion Spending Bill

My constituents put their trust in me to cut the federal debt, spend money wisely and support legislation that creates opportunity for them to succeed. The \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill which passed the House and Senate bill this week fails to do that. **While it includes some provisions I fought for and would like to see put into law, the positives don't outweigh the overwhelming long term negatives and the many important issues that were left unresolved—and I opposed it.**

On the positive side, I worked hard to get equitable transportation grant funding for suburban areas, [urging Chairman Shuster to work to include it](#), and it was. It [includes parts of my legislation, the Healthy Relationships Act of 2015](#), and doubles funding for the Sexual Risk Avoidance program, which has been a top priority of mine. It includes funding for the cleanup of contaminated sites, including the thorium contamination in West Chicago.

## Honoring McHenry Army Pilot Kevin Weiss, Killed in Training

On the House floor, I honored Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Mose Weiss of McHenry [who was killed in a helicopter training accident](#) on December 2nd.



(Click picture to watch video)



However, we can secure many of these policy provisions without spending well above previous spending caps for no discernible reason. Increasing the deficit by \$57.6 billion without taking aim at our outrageously high \$18 trillion national debt is irresponsible for future generations.

## Permanent Tax Relief

Every December, Americans worry whether they will face staggering tax hikes that will harm their families and their businesses. What they need is certainty and a stable, predictable tax system.

That's why I supported House passage of the **Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act**, a combination of permanent and temporary extensions of tax relief for American individuals and businesses. In addition, the legislation includes important reforms to rein in the IRs and prevent fraud and abuse in the tax system.

[Learn more and see the full list of tax relief provisions by clicking here.](#)

## Tightening Up Visa Security Measures

For years, our Visa Waiver Program (VWP) has allowed U.S. citizens and our key trade and tourism partners to enjoy ease of travel, contributing to economic growth and improved international relations. Created in 1986, the VWP allows more than 20 million people annually from 38 participating countries to more easily travel to the United States for up to 90 days. Instead of going to a U.S. consulate or embassy, citizens of participating countries must provide detailed background information that is then screened against U.S. security systems.

However, it is estimated that approximately 5,000 Europeans have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join ISIS, many of whom are from countries that participate in the VWP. Yet, many of these countries fail to provide the U.S. intelligence community with critical information needed to ensure those traveling under the VWP are not a threat to the United States.

In order to address these vulnerabilities, I **supported House passage of the Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015**. Among other things, the bill:

- Gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to suspend a country's participation in the program if they fail to share counterterrorism information with the United States.
- Denies VWP status to those citizens from participating countries that have traveled to certain terrorist hotspots since 2011.
- Requires all VWP countries use fraud resistant "e-passports."
- Allows for the suspension of high-risk countries.

This reform legislation is a responsible way to target our security weaknesses while respecting our nation's fundamental principles that have made it a beacon of hope.

## Renewing Call for FAA Hearing



As you know, the FAA is under fire following a [six month investigation](#) into the agency's new hiring practices which for months my colleagues and I have argued caused the agency to pass over the most qualified air traffic controller candidates, such as experienced veterans, and have raised concerns of air travel safety.

Since December of 2014 I have called for FAA officials to appear before Congress to answer for their actions. [This week I renewed my call and was joined by my colleagues](#) in urging the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to host a hearing and get to the bottom of this mess.

## Administration Straps States Looking to Innovate in Healthcare

Premiums in Illinois are expected to increase about 30 percent next year, and individuals and families are paying the price. Yet this week, administrative agencies revealed new Affordable Care Act rules which build in more barriers against state control and innovation.

[As you know, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3352, the State Health Care Options Act](#), to ease such barriers and allow states to opt out of certain provisions of the law and pursue their own alternatives.

My constituents need relief now. They shouldn't have to choose between health insurance coverage and putting food on the table and a roof over their heads.

## Who is Protecting Your Privacy?

This week, I raised concerns about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) data collection activities on Americans obtaining loans to buy a home. I have been troubled by what happens when consumer financial information gets into the wrong hands.

Here's an exchange I had with Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, who called the data collection issue "a major crisis for the whole government."



(Click picture to watch video)

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

[Drone regs attract a little praise, lots of prodding](#) (Politico)

[Fallen soldier honored](#) (Daily Herald)

[Rauner, Kirk criticize Trump's Muslim immigration proposal](#) (Daily Herald)

[Sweet: Trump's anti-Muslim ban is a fantasy](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)

**Washington, DC Office**

2455 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2976  
Fax: 202-225-0697

**14th District Office**

40W310 Lafox Road, Suite F2  
Campton Hills, IL 60175  
Phone: 630-584-2734  
Fax: 630-584-2746

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

---