

News from Representative Randy Hultgren



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

In this issue:

- [Serving You by the Numbers](#)
- [Christmas Cards for the Troops](#)
- [Healthcare Solutions—Locally-Grown!](#)
- [Protecting Farmers and Private Property from EPA Overreach](#)
- [Study Abroad Opportunities for Students](#)
- [Save the Date: 114<sup>th</sup> Swearing In Open House](#)

### [Serving You by the Numbers](#)

In addition to working on legislation on your behalf in Congress, one of my privileges as your representative is to serve you as your liaison to the federal government—covering everything from providing tours of the U.S. Capitol for constituents visiting Washington, D.C., to solving issues they might have with federal agencies like the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

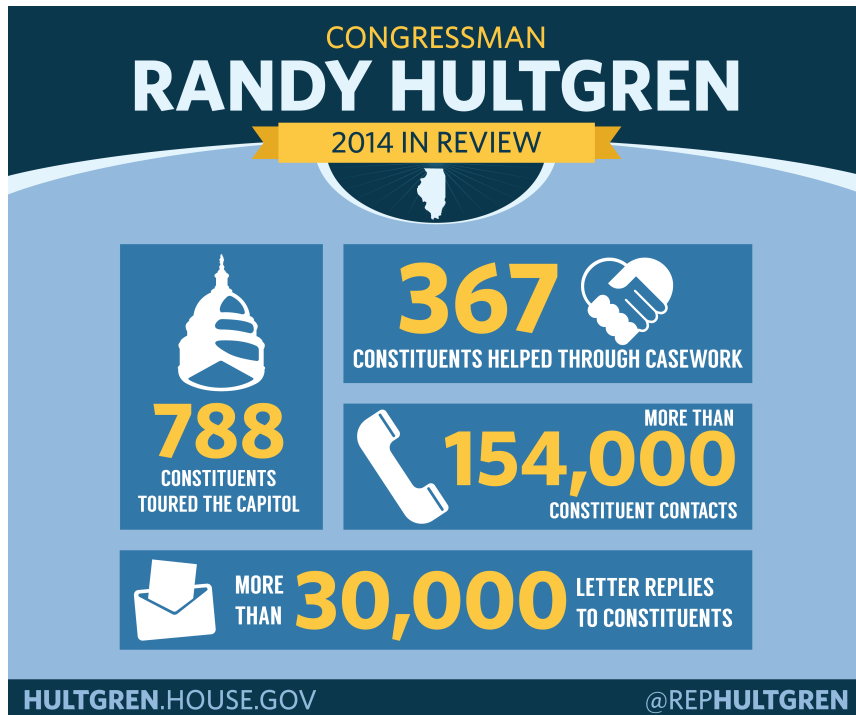
Below is just a snapshot of how my office and I have served the 14th District this past year. If you ever need [help with a federal agency](#), plan to [visit Washington, D.C.](#) or simply want to [get in touch](#), please don't hesitate to reach out and let my staff and I know how we can help.

### [Mourning Judy Baar Topinka](#)

With sadness, our state mourns the passing of a towering figure of Illinois politics, Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. I was always impressed by her ability to build relationships across the aisle and get the job done. She leaves a lasting legacy of positive change in Illinois.

She helped lead our state through tumultuous times and her leadership will be greatly missed. Christy and I express our deepest sympathies to her son, Joe, her family and her many friends throughout Illinois.





### Christmas Cards for the Troops

My office staff was privileged to work with students with at Southeast Elementary School in Sycamore who created Christmas greeting cards for our American military personnel. We have arranged to have the cards distributed to returning troops as they pass through the USO lounge at Chicago O'Hare Airport.

It is heart-warming to see students and their families volunteer their time in support of our service men and women, and I want to give a special thanks to Principal Mark Ekstrom for helping organize the event.



(Staff members Ruth Richardson and Nick Provenzano with Southeast Elementary School students)



(Student-created Christmas cards to be delivered to returning troops)

#### Healthcare Solutions—Locally-Grown!

You may recall I hosted a Community Leadership Forum on Healthcare in August to bring experts together to discuss how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will affect consumers in 2015, how technology and innovation can improve health care outcomes, and how to increase access to quality care for constituents in the 14th District and throughout Illinois. I hosted it in Illinois because I've found that the most valuable insights and ideas I've brought to Congress originated back home.

Please [read my piece](#) in the *Kane County Chronicle* describing some of the recommendations that were offered. In the coming weeks, I

will release a full report on my website, [Hultgren.house.gov](http://Hultgren.house.gov), on those ideas and recommendations.

Although the health care landscape is rocky, many in the 14th District want to tackle a multitude of challenges together. We shouldn't wait for a system breakdown – we can work to fix it now.

### Protecting Farmers and Private Property from EPA Overreach

EPA is at it again, trying to broaden their regulatory power over United States waters to cover things like farm ponds, storm drains, and other non-navigable water bodies. Their proposed rules are a direct threat to private property rights, and could have wide-ranging effects on everything from Illinois farming to construction.

I joined 90 of my colleagues in sending a [letter](#) to the leadership at the House Committee on Appropriations requesting they stop any funding which can be used to change the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act (CWA). As we wrote, their move "is in direct contradiction of the Supreme Court decision which clearly upholds the policy that isolated wetlands could not be considered 'waters of the United States' for purposes under the CWA."

You may recall during a [previous](#) Science, Space and Technology Committee hearing, I took EPA's Deputy Administrator to task hearing for his wavering and opaque explanation of the Clean Water Rule and how it will affect Illinois' 14th District constituents. The rule is meant to clarify jurisdiction but lacks any scientific justification, and the Deputy Administrator's answer only further confused the issue.

Fortunately, the committee responded and EPA's restrictions were scaled back in the omnibus appropriations bill that passed the House. I will keep you updated as this issue progresses.

### Study Abroad Opportunities for Students

I want to alert local high schoolers and their parents to two year-long scholarship youth exchange programs. The **Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad** and **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)** scholarships are for American high school students to study abroad for one academic year. Details follow:

**Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad** is an innovative high school student exchange program between

Americans and people from countries with significant Muslim populations. Sixty-five full scholarships are available to American high school students to live with host families and study for one academic year in countries that may include: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey.

**YES Abroad national application deadline is January 7, 2015.**  
**More information is available at: [www.yes-abroad.org](http://www.yes-abroad.org).**

**Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)** is an academic year program for high school and gap year students to study abroad in Germany. Congress-Bundestag scholars serve as 'youth ambassadors' of the United States, sharing their life and culture with their German hosts and local government officials, and gaining new perspectives on global current affairs. **More information is available at: [www.usagermanyscholarship.org](http://www.usagermanyscholarship.org).**

Save the Date: 114<sup>th</sup> Swearing In Open House

On January 6, 2015 the new Congress will be sworn in. I will be hosting constituents for an open house at my Washington, D.C. office from 10:00 a.m. to noon ET so please save the date if you might be available to join us. Stay tuned for more details.

**WE'VE MOVED!** My Washington office location has moved to the Rayburn House Office Building. Not to worry, my office lines in Washington are the same so please don't hesitate to call my office if you have any questions or need any assistance. That number remains: 202-225-2976 (and 620-232-7104 in Geneva).

Please note the new address:

**2455 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515**

You can always find full contact information on my website at:  
<http://hultgren.house.gov/contact>

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

- [Do tax breaks encourage driving over transit?](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Just Plain Goodwill is Still Important](#) (Illinois Review)
- [Local leaders react to Obama's immigration plan](#) (Daily Herald)
- [President Obama spares 5M from deportation](#) (Fox 32 Chicago)
- [Topinka remembered as 'trailblazer' by Lake County colleagues](#) (Lake County News-Sun)

#### **Washington D.C. Office**

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

#### **Geneva Office**

1797 State Street Suite A  
Geneva, IL 60134  
Phone: (630) 232-7104  
Fax: (630) 232-7174

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