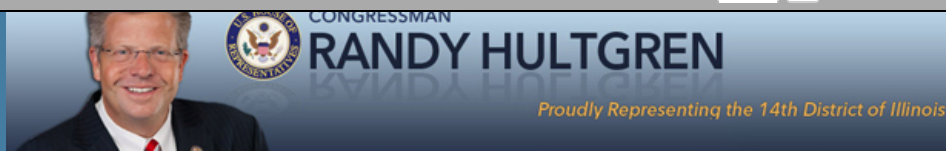


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September 6, 2014

Dear friends,

Traveling throughout the district and meeting with small businesses and constituents always gives me the opportunity to hear what it most important to them. I received a lot of good and helpful input from people across the 14th District during the month of August. I was also fortunate to travel to Israel at the beginning of this August District Work Period with a bipartisan group of congressmen to learn about the security situation first-hand and understand more deeply the importance of the friendship between our two nations. In case you missed it, please [click here](#) to read my constituent trip report in the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

After I returned, I was able to see many of you and talk about our top priorities, including getting Illinoisans back to work, ensuring our children have the best education possible, protecting our veterans, pursuing affordable healthcare for individuals and families, and much more. This issue of the Hultgren Huddle includes information about these meetings. Below my signature are highlights of many of the legislative solutions that were passed by the House at the end of July. Please take a look and let me know what you think by contacting me via email: <https://hultgren.house.gov/contact/email-randy>.

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#### Addressing Skills Gap during Workforce Development Week

Illinois' economy is working to get back on its feet, but many job seekers find their skills and knowledge aren't matching up with the jobs available right now. But there are resources available for the long-term unemployed and recent graduates.

I was impressed by the Manufacturers and Skills Fair put on by McHenry County's Workforce Network in August. It allowed job seekers a chance to demonstrate their skills to potential employers instead of simply dropping off a resume. Later, I was able to see our 14th District skilled workforce in action at Claussen Pickle Plant (Kraft Foods), Brake Parts Inc. manufacturer and supplier, and Chas. Herdrich & Son beverage distributor. I enjoy celebrating the great accomplishments of our local businesses and manufacturers who provide much-needed jobs and help grow our economy in Illinois. Hearing from them helps me better represent them, their employees and their communities in Washington.



(Rep. Hultgren tours the Claussen Pickle Plant in Woodstock with Kraft Foods employees and Woodstock City officials)

Please [click here](#) to view more photos on my Facebook album.

### Tackling the Economy and Healthcare with Sycamore Seniors

Our seniors continue to live fulfilling lives and are greatly concerned with what's going on in the world and in Washington. Listening to them helps inform me as I represent them in Congress, and I was especially pleased to hear directly from residents at the Grand Victorian in Sycamore.

We must continue to make Illinois a strong state economically and allow our businesses to expand and hire workers young and old. We must respect our seniors by protecting our social safety net programs, while at the same time preserving them for future generations. And we must honor their legacy by making sure America remains strong in the world.



(Rep. Hultgren meets with residents of Grand Victorian-Sycamore)

### Hosting Forum on Improving Healthcare for Consumers

Our healthcare system today is extremely complex. Americans consumers face many conflicting and unpredictable incentives, rules, and regulations that hurt their ability to make sound and affordable decisions for themselves and their families.

That's why I hosted a **Community Leadership Forum on Healthcare** at Elgin Community College to bring together a diverse group of high caliber community stakeholders to address today's challenges to the healthcare system, and provide important information for health consumers in the 14th District.

Like my previous community leadership forums on our state's heroin epidemic and the impact of the Common Core standards on our children's education, the forum aimed to provide my constituents and me the most relevant and up-to-date information to make informed decisions when engaging the healthcare system.

I am preparing a full report of the event, including what recommendations the participants made in order to improve our healthcare system. In the meantime, you can read more in the *Elgin Courier-News* [here](#).

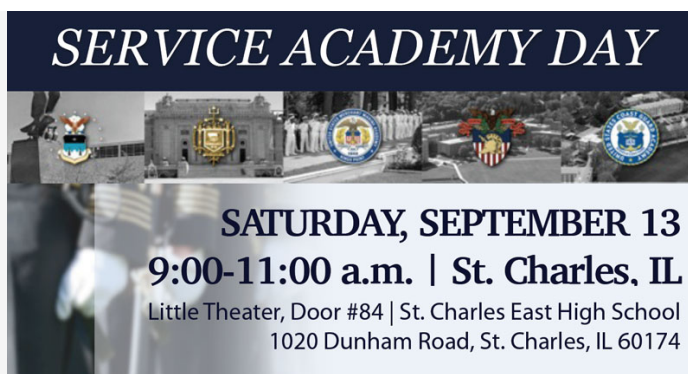
### Teachers, Parents Discuss Common Core Concerns

As the school year begins, I invited a gathering of parents, teachers and others involved in our children's education to my Geneva office for a roundtable to talk about the hot button issues in education. The top issue on everyone's mind was the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, and their related assessments, in Illinois.

Since local principals first brought this to my attention last year, I've continued to meet with parents and educators to assess if the Common Core is right for the children of Illinois. Parents and teachers—not government bureaucrats—should have the ultimate say in education. As you may know, I believe Common Core threatens that principle, and I still believe we need to push the pause button on these nationalized standards that represent a one-size-fits-all approach to educating our future leaders. I fear that Common Core adds more burdens onto schools and teachers who already face other national and state mandates that take up their two most precious resources: time and money. There are more and more examples of local school districts, such as St. Charles, questioning the implementation of the Common Core and asking for the state to push the pause button.

Until Illinois reverses course, I believe everyone who has a stake in Illinois education should have the best information available to make informed decisions as classroom implementation continues. That's why we continue to talk about the pressures facing teachers who are already burdened by education mandates, and concerns parents have about ensuring their kids are ready for college and the workforce.

Read about the roundtable in the *Daily Herald* [here](#).



Rep. Peter Roskam and I invite all students, parents, teachers and school officials from the 14th and 6th Congressional Districts who are interested in learning more about our nation's service academies to attend Service Academy Day on Saturday, September 13, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. Charles East High School in St. Charles, Illinois. For more information on the nomination process, 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

[Are government patient satisfaction surveys undermining the Hippocratic Oath?](#) (My op-ed in The Washington Examiner)

[U.S. must safeguard religious freedom of all](#) (My letter to the editor in the Daily Herald)

[House passes bill to modernize national laboratories](#) (Kane County Chronicle)

[Hultgren, Duckworth talk about bipartisan legislation](#) (MySuburbanLife.com)

[Geneva History Museum nominated for national medal](#) (MySuburbanLife.com)

#### Overhauling the VA

Our servicemen and women have been hurt by the ongoing bureaucratic nightmare at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). After meeting with veterans from throughout the 14th District and discussing the VA's deep-seated problems with leaders of Illinois VA facilities, it has become clear to me that the department is in need of reforms to ensure it is serving the needs of our veterans.

That's why I was pleased to support House passage (420-5) of H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act, a compromise bill between the House and Senate to overhaul the VA.

Among other provisions, H.R. 3230 would:

- Allow veterans to seek private care if they live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility, or are unable to get an appointment at a VA facility within 30 days.
- Incorporate the House-passed VA Management Accountability Act (H.R. 4031) that makes it easier to fire or demote senior VA managers who are not doing their jobs.
- Ensure that there will be an independent review of VA medical care, and it establishes a congressional commission to evaluate access to care. These measures will help identify long-term reforms necessary to improve the quality and accessibility of care for our veterans.

Even as this bill helps veterans receive proper care, we must continue to hold the administration accountable for implementing these reforms and rooting out corruption and ineptitude at the VA.

Want to learn more? Click [here](#).

#### Securing the Border. Protecting Children from Traffickers

The country is rightly concerned at the influx of thousands of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) coming across our southern border from Central American countries. Unfortunately, this crisis was fueled by administration policies that altered our already insufficient border enforcement. Those same policies have encouraged human traffickers or smugglers to convince families to send their children to the border to gain instant entry into the United

States, even if the truth is much different. This puts these children at grave risk.

I have said repeatedly that we need to send clear messages to these countries about our immigration policies. Inconsistent enforcement and statements from this administration have put children at risk and have encouraged exploitation of our immigration system.

To focus our efforts at stemming this influx, I supported House passage of a supplemental appropriations bill to take action on the border. Sending reinforcements to the border is a temporary but needed boost to our national security efforts. The House remained in town to do its job and tackle this issue although the Senate left Washington.

Slowing the influx and appropriately processing these children should be our first priority until we reach a long-term solution to this crisis. By sending the National Guard, which has experience in humanitarian crises, we can allow them to assist federal agencies at the border. We must address the exposed weaknesses in border enforcement before we will ever be in the position to address visa system reforms.

Further, we must stop the president from abusing the immigration laws already passed by Congress. Refusing to enforce the law is against the Constitution, and hampers any efforts by Congress to address the problems in our immigration system. If the president ignores the law, Americans and their representatives in the House cannot trust the president when negotiating with him on an immigration solution. We all agree our current immigration system is broken. Going around Congress and making law on your own smothers good faith efforts to tackle this issue.

Read more about the House appropriations bill [here](#).

Additionally, I supported H.R. 5272 which would prohibit the use of federal funds to consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application under President's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, or to authorize work permits for UACs. This would ensure each unaccompanied minor who arrives to the United States is humanely and expeditiously returned to their home countries unless they are under the control of traffickers, or face other dangerous circumstances.

#### Supporting and Modernizing Illinois' Manufacturers

Illinois is in the middle of a manufacturing renaissance. Ten percent of all Illinois workers are involved in manufacturing, and manufacturing facilities employ more than 27,000 workers across the 14th Congressional District.

But right now, our tumultuous, increasingly global and technology-based economy poses tremendous challenges to Illinois manufacturers. Unfortunately, decades-old policies governing a key tool that manufacturers use to expand operations—manufacturing bonds—no longer address today's challenges, needlessly impeding growth and job creation.

**Mark Denzler, Vice President and COO of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association** has said that manufacturing bonds "provide low-cost and efficient access to capital for small and mid-sized manufacturing companies."

**Ronald D. Bullock, Chairman of the family-owned Bison Gear & Engineering Corporation in St. Charles**, has used manufacturing bonds to upgrade his facilities but says this important tool has not been updated since he started Bison Gear.

That's why, along with along with Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA-01), I introduced a bipartisan bill to modernize the financial tools used by manufacturers in Illinois and nationwide. The **Modernizing American Manufacturing Bonds Act (MAMBA) of 2014, H.R. 5319**, updates the outdated rules to help manufacturers expand their businesses, invest in new equipment and, most importantly, hire more workers.

Additionally, I supported passage in the Science, Space and Technology Committee of the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2013 (H.R. 2996), a bill I cosponsored which creates a network of nationwide regional institutes, or "hubs," each specializing in the production of a unique technology, material, or process relevant to advanced manufacturing. The RAMI Act will help small and mid-sized manufacturers in the 14th District expand their research and development capabilities and train an advanced manufacturing workforce.

#### National Labs Legislation Passes the House

I was pleased the House passed a bill I introduced to ensure that discoveries made in our national labs like Fermilab do not get stuck there. H.R. 5120, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014, would bring the United States' national lab system into the 21st century, promote the easy transfer of federal research into the private sector and the marketplace, and help create jobs as a result.

#### More American Solutions

Gallup recently confirmed that **many Americans are having to spend more on items they have to buy, and less on items they choose to buy**. This is unacceptable for the families and individuals who live in the 14th District and find their paychecks just don't go as far as they used to.

The House has been very busy working on legislation to help Americans get back to work, reduce tax burdens on middle class families, and much more. On the House floor, I highlighted several of those pieces of legislation. Click the picture to watch the video.





(Click to watch video)

Here are even more solutions to the problems Americans are facing every day:

- College has become a daunting prospect for prospective students who aren't guaranteed a well-paying job after graduation. **H.R. 4984, the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act**, helps education consumers who are navigating a confusing maze of state and federal loan and grant programs, as well as private and institutional assistance. Students and parents should know the impact of their financial decisions on their future. I supported House passage (405-11) of this bill.
- According to the Department of Agriculture, the cost of raising the typical child is \$13,600 per year through age 17, and it keeps rising by more than 4 percent each year. Our current child tax law fails to take these rising costs into account, and it penalizes married parents. I supported House passage (237-173) of the **Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014, H.R. 4935**, to help support the institution best suited to encourage a stable society and economic security for individuals: the family.
- Without healthy community banks, many responsible Americans could not own a home. These banks lend based upon their customer relationships, which means they can often serve the borrowers that the larger banks may turn down. **H.R. 4042 and H.R. 5148** both passed the House Financial Services Committee (FSC) on which I sit and will help relieve community banks from excessive regulations, protecting their ability to lend to Illinois homeowners.
- In 2011, the CDC reported 22,810 drug overdoses in the United States were due to pharmaceuticals, of which 16,917 (74 percent) involved opioid painkillers. We must combat opiate abuse in all its forms. I supported House passage (voice vote) of **H.R. 4709, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2014** which ensures patients have access to needed medications while ensuring law enforcement is able to provide adequate oversight over the drug supply chain.
- American taxpayers who are required to submit personal information to federal websites, including Healthcare.gov or IRS.gov, should have assurances that their personal information is protected by basic, industry-accepted standards of security. I supported House passage (voice vote) of **H.R. 3635, the Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act**, a bill I cosponsored which requires Healthcare.gov and future federal websites that collect sensitive personal information, such as social security numbers, be reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and certified as secure by the agency's Chief Information Officer before being made available to the public.

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