

News from Representative Randy Hultgren

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[Appointed to Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Executive Committee](#)

Defending the rights and dignity of all persons around the world has been a passion of mine throughout my service in Congress. I believe human rights flow from human dignity—the idea that all of us are made in the image of God and have inherent worth as His creatures.

That's why I am humbled and honored to announce I have been appointed to the eight-member Executive Committee of the well-respected [Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission \(TLHRC\)](#), a bipartisan House commission with the mission to promote, defend and advocate internationally recognized human rights norms in a nonpartisan manner. This is an important platform to draw attention to human rights abuses around the world, tell the stories of the victims, and push countries, including the United States, to take action in defense of those rights.



I first got involved with the commission in its fight against human trafficking, and also by “adopting” Zhu Yufu, a Chinese prisoner of conscience, in order to bring attention to his plight and secure his release through public testimony at the TLHRC.

A top priority of mine in Congress has been defending the freedom of belief and conscience—this foundational freedom of our country from which many others flow. Zhu Yufu represents many more who suffer for their beliefs.

Another top priority of mine has been defending victims of human trafficking through hosting key anti-trafficking experts for Capitol Hill briefings, convening community leaders in Illinois to fight the growing problem, and [introducing legislation](#) pushing nations to clamp down on the demand for commercial sex within their borders.

On the Executive Committee, I plan to those particular passions—protecting victims of human trafficking and punishing perpetrators,

defending religious liberty around the world, and helping those facing extreme poverty and hunger—to aid the commission as it stands up for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized everywhere.

Already, I have chaired a commission hearing at the request of co-chairman Joe Pitts entitled, “Human Rights Violations Committed by the Islamic State,” featuring witnesses from U.S. Department of State and Syrian human rights groups, among others.

It is thrilling to now walk in the steps of such human rights champions as former Reps. Frank Wolf and Tom Lantos, current co-chairs Joe Pitts and Jim McGovern, fellow Executive Committee member Chris Smith, and many others.

Read more about the commission and its work here: <http://tlhrc.house.gov>.

Joining Forces with the Senate to “Sunset” Outdated and Obsolete Regulations

Federal regulations impose an estimated burden of \$1.86 trillion on our economy. That’s roughly \$15,000 per U.S. household. This exceeds every item in the household budget except housing – more than health care, food, transportation, entertainment, apparel, services and savings.

For too long, hardworking Americans have suffered the collateral damage of higher prices, lower wages, and fewer jobs as a result of excessive and outdated regulation.

So when I came to Congress in 2011, one of the first bills I introduced focused on targeting outdated, duplicative and obsolete regulations that hurt American families and businesses—and putting them on a path to elimination or “sunset.”

When I reintroduced H.R. 309, the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act, in

the 113th Congress, provisions of it were incorporated into the budget of the Republican Study Committee, a House caucus that has strong influence on legislative policy, and, at the specific request of the House Judiciary Committee, into H.R. 4874, the Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome (SCRUB) Act of 2014.

Building upon that momentum, I was thrilled when **Senator Roy Blunt from Missouri saw the need for reducing unnecessary regulation and took an interest in my legislation**. Sen. Blunt is a leader in Congress, having served as Majority Whip in the House, and now as Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

This past week, I introduced **H.R. 2010, the [Regulatory Review and Sunset Act of 2015](#)**. Sen. Blunt, [along with several of his colleagues in the Senate](#), introduced the Senate counterpart version.

With additional momentum this Congress, I hope we can pass this legislation into law to push federal agencies to analyze the rules on the books and put those that are obsolete, duplicative and conflicting on a path to elimination.

[Please click here to read a summary of the bill.](#)

[Reintroducing Legislation to Fix FAA's Hiring Procedures for Air Traffic Controllers](#)



Although the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) [sudden change in hiring standards last year](#) clearly jeopardized air travel safety, it has refused to alter course on the obscure and illogical practices which have passed over the most qualified air traffic controller candidates.

Along with Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Matt Salmon (R-AZ), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Keith Rothfus (R-PA) and Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) I reintroduced the [Air Traffic Controllers Hiring Act of 2015 \(H.R. 1964\)](#) to reverse the effects FAA's interim hiring procedures. I introduced similar legislation, the SAFE TOWERS Act (H.R. 5675), last Congress.

This legislation makes sure we have the best and brightest in our control towers, provides relief to those who were unjustly shunted out of the interim hiring process, and pushes the FAA to change course on their new hiring procedures which have exacerbated the problem.

[Save the Date: Meeting with Illinois VA Leaders to Talk Veteran Care Reform](#)

Although progress is being made in the VA's efforts to improve care for our

nation's veterans, there is still room for improvements in servicing and patient wait times in Illinois. I invite Illinois veterans, their families and Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) to hear directly from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) and Chicago Regional Benefits Office leadership on what they have in store for Illinois, and how VA representatives can join forces in providing the best and highest quality care to our veterans.

The meeting will take place on **Monday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m. CT at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva.**

AN OPEN MEETING WITH
ILLINOIS LEADERS
FROM
VETERANS AFFAIRS
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
VA APPROACH TO REFORM

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 | 9:30-10:30 AM
KANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
719 S. BATAVIA AVENUE, BLD. A, GENEVA, IL 60134

GUESTS
ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VA
DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO REGIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE
REPRESENTATIVES FROM HINES AND LOVELL FACILITIES
VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICES NETWORK-12

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[Apply Now: Scholarships for Military Spouses, Children](#)

ThanksUSA, a national non-profit organization dedicated to thanking America's troops through the gift of education, has announced that children and spouses of America's armed forces are invited to apply for the organization's post-secondary education scholarships.

Over the past decade, the charity has presented nearly 3,400 scholarships. Up to 500 students are expected to receive awards this season. Applications will be accepted through May 15, 2015. **Apply online at <http://www.ThanksUSA.org>.**

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](#)

[Hultgren Appointed to Bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Executive Committee](#) (Aurora Beacon News/Chicago Tribune)
[Kane Sheriff's deputies' Narcan saves man from overdosing](#) (Elgin Courier-

News)

Mourning Cardinal George

As the region celebrates the life of Cardinal George this week, my heart and prayers go out to his family, friends and all of those whose lives he touched throughout his ministry. Chicago's first 'native son' to become its archbishop, Cardinal George treated everyone the same, whether they were a political leader, wealthy donor, layperson or table server. Making time for people demonstrated his deep love and care for the individual and their human dignity.



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