



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

In this issue of the Hultgren Huddle:

- [Municipal Finance Caucus will Help Build Local Infrastructure](#)
- [Stopping Cuts to Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Religious Minorities under Attack by Iran and ISIS Need Protection](#)
- [Supreme Court Must Protect Rights of Compassionate Religious Organizations](#)
- [Experts on Capitol Hill Agree: We Must Target the Buyers of Commercial Sex](#)
- [Getting Kids Excited about Farming](#)
- [Events Coming Up Near You](#)
- [Randy in the News](#)

[Municipal Finance Caucus will Help Build Local Infrastructure](#)

Over the last twenty years I have had the privilege of serving at the local, state and federal level, and have seen first-hand how the survival and reinforcement of municipal finance is important to the 14th District, and to communities throughout the country. Local infrastructure and improvement projects help the creation of local, good-paying jobs for construction workers, engineers, pipe fitters, welders and more. At its heart, a municipal bond preserves federalism by allowing local communities to raise their own funds and carry out their own improvements without the help or intrusion of the federal government.

That's why I am pleased to announce the bipartisan launch of the Municipal Finance Caucus with Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02) which will help us in Congress



I was proud to preside over House debate as we voted to defend the U.S. Constitution against executive overreach. H. Res. 639 defends Article I, because we believe passionately in a government of the people, by the people and for the people.



fight for state and local governments' ability to independently finance projects to keep their communities strong.

[Click here to learn more about my record on defending municipal finance for local communities.](#)

Stopping Cuts to Medicare Advantage.

More than 160,000 seniors in Illinois rely on Medicare Advantage for health insurance coverage, and the fiscally sound program remains hugely popular nationwide. But the program is under attack by scheduled cuts under this administration.

That's why 12 members of a bipartisan Illinois delegation and I sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell calling for the elimination of the proposed cut. [The letter is linked here.](#)

Religious Minorities under Attack by Iran and ISIS Need Protection.

Repeatedly the Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom and has imposed its extremist views upon all Iranians through prolonged detention, torture, and executions, regardless of the faith of its citizens.

That's why [I joined my colleagues in urging senior congressional leaders to reauthorize an amendment](#) that preserves a secure pathway for persecuted religious minority groups in Iran.

In addition, I was pleased that Secretary John Kerry has finally agreed with the House that ISIS's actions against religious minorities like Christians, Shiite Muslims, Yazidis and others in the Middle East constitute genocide.

As stated in H.Con.Res.75 which I supported and passed the House: "the United Nations should coordinate urgently on measures to prevent further war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Iraq and Syria, and punish those responsible for these ongoing crimes, including by the collection and preservation of evidence

and, if necessary, the establishment and operation of appropriate tribunals."

Supreme Court Must Protect Rights of Compassionate Religious Organizations

This week, the highest court in the land heard oral arguments in the *Zubik v. Burwell* case, regarding the religious liberties of religious non-profit organizations. For 175 years the Little Sisters of the Poor have served some of our most vulnerable—the elderly poor. Yet, the federal government is forcing these humble nuns to make an impossible choice: betray their oaths to God or pay more than \$70 million a year in fines to the IRS. I believe that ministries like these who have lived out their religious convictions with passion should decide what violates those beliefs—not the government.

That's why I urged the Supreme Court to protect the First Amendment rights of religious non-profit organizations in a [bipartisan amicus brief](#). Choosing between Americans and their rights and the federal government's abuse of those rights should be a no brainer.

Experts on Capitol Hill Agree: We Must Target the Buyers of Commercial Sex

I was honored to moderate a Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on Capitol Hill to tackle how the demand for commercial sex fuels the global human trafficking industry. The turnout was fantastic—[standing room only!](#)—and the panelists were well equipped to discuss the topic.

[For a summary and key excerpts from the panelists, click here.](#)

[Click here or the picture below to watch the full webcast of the event.](#)



(Click picture to watch full webcast)

Getting Kids Excited about Farming

My staff was thrilled to be able to attend the Kane County Farm Bureau's 34th Annual Ag Day. The event was aimed at educating elementary-aged children on the different facets of farming and its importance to Illinois.



(Students learn about the care of honeybees)

At the different stations, children learned about such topics as:

- Embryology
- Nutrition
- Dairy
- Beef
- Honeybees
- The History of Farming
- Tractors and Equipment

One local farmer told my staff how devastating the estate tax (or “death tax”) is to family-owned farms like hers in Illinois. I will continue my fight to repeal this harmful tax.

[The House voted on it last year and I supported its passage](#)—now the Senate and the President must act.

Events Coming Up Near You

1. **My Traveling Help Desk will be at Sugar Grove Public Library on Tuesday, March 29.** Staff experts will be available to address any issues you may have with federal agencies, listen your concerns and deliver those concerns directly to me. [Click here to learn more about what types of assistance are available.](#)
2. Experts from key government agencies will provide passport assistance, and tips on fraud and identify theft protection, at my **Traveling Help Desk on Friday, April 1 at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva.** [Click here for all of the details.](#)
3. Congressman Peter Roskam and I will be hosting a **Service Academy Day on April 16 at St. Charles East High School.** Service Academy Day provides interested families with essential information as students consider serving our country through military service. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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

- [Aaron's of McHenry Hosts Illinois Congressman Randy Hultgren](#) (RTOHQ)
- [Civic Leaders Meet with Metra Officials about Bringing Commuter Trains to Kendall County](#) (WSPY News)
- [FAA Admits Emails Missing in Air Traffic Control Cheating Scandal](#) (Fox Business Network)
- [House Science Committee Explores Different Governance Models for NASA](#) (SpaceRef)
- [Hultgren Calls Trump Journey "Surprising." Says it's Creating Picture Opposite of 2008](#) (WJOL 1340 AM)
- [Illinois Lawmakers Earn Family Research Council's True Blue Award](#) (Illinois Review)
- [Lawmakers to State Department: Time to Crack the Whip on Trafficking](#) (CBN News)
- [Muni Finance Caucus Launched in House](#) (The Bond Buyer)
- [The Supply and Demand of Sex Trafficking](#) (Utah Public Radio)

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