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Mourning with France

Too often we wake up to news of another terrorist attack at home or abroad. I am outraged and heartbroken at the senseless attack on innocent civilians in Nice who were struck down while celebrating their national Independence Day with their families and friends. We stand with the people of France against terrorism. And we mourn the loss of loved ones, including two Americans: Sean Copeland, 51, and his son Brodie Copeland, 11.

If you missed them, below are links to my previous statements on:

[Shooting in Dallas](#)

[Shooting in Orlando](#)

New Legislation will Protect Veterans' Credit Ratings

I am excited to introduce a bipartisan bill to help veterans who have been the collateral damage of delays at the VA. Along with U.S. Representatives John Delaney (D-MD-6), Jackie Walorski (R-IN-2) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-9) I introduced the **Protecting Veterans Credit Act (H.R. 5593)**.

The slow disbursement of payments has meant that potentially thousands of veterans have had large and inaccurate medical debts wrongly listed in their name. This error can make it more difficult and more expensive for veterans to buy a home or car, rent a place to live or be hired for a new job.

Veterans and their families deserve accurate and timely billing and reimbursements from the VA, and their credit score shouldn't be a casualty of the bureaucracy.

[Click here to read how H.R. 5593 protects the credit rating of veterans and prevents them from unnecessary financial hardship due to delayed payments.](#) We need quick action on this legislation to ensure our veterans aren't held responsible for bureaucratic ineptitude.

Bipartisan Bill Ensures Students and Families Get all the Facts

I am equally excited to announce the bipartisan introduction of the **Transparency in Student Lending Act (H.R. 5838)** with Congressmen John Carney (D-DE-At-large), Luke Messer (R-IN-6) and David Scott (D-GA-13).

Currently, borrowers of private student loans receive information on the annual percentage rate (APR), but borrowers of loans issued by the Department of Education, which have grown from a small segment of the market to more than 90 percent of originations each year, do not.

The APR helps borrowers understand the true cost of a loan so they can make good financial decisions. It makes no sense for the federal government to omit the annual percentage rate, and it does young borrowers and families a gross disservice as they make plans for future payments.

Helping borrowers understand their debt obligations is an important first step to ensuring they are able to make their payments, and also helps prevent taxpayers from being on the hook for delinquent borrowers.

The Transparency in Student Lending Act improves the information provided to students and families of federal student loans by requiring the APR to be disclosed.

I look forward to action on this bill in the House.

Become a STEM Scholar!



Join my newly-launched STEM Scholars youth leadership program encouraging highly-motivated and energetic high school students to become ambassadors in their communities for the possibilities provided by science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

[STEM Scholars are STEM ambassadors.](#) If you or someone you know is interested in forming the team that cures cancer, or splitting the next subatomic particle at Fermilab, or building the next Hoover Dam or the better robot, or developing the next math theory that changes how we view the world—I want you! This is your opportunity to work with me and your fellow energetic students to become leaders in science and technology, exchange ideas about how best to promote math in our communities and understand how your education is key to our future and the success of our democracy.

I'm accepting applications now through July 29, so apply now:
<http://hultgren.house.gov/serving-you/stem-scholars>

This week in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology I asked members of the science community about what inspired them to pursue STEM careers in such areas as astronomy, astrophysics and astrobiology. Answers ranged from high school teachers and lecturers to local planetariums and the Cosmos television series. Click the picture below for their inspiring answers!



(Click picture to watch video)

No One Should be Forced to Participate in Abortion

A central principle in our nation's history has been a clear rejection of government forcing someone to take an action that violates their religious or moral convictions. Yet nurses in New York, businesses and charities in California and others throughout the country are facing the prospect of being forced to directly participate in or fund the procedure of abortion.

I took to the House floor in support of **S. 304, the Conscience Protection Act of 2016**, a bill which passed the House and prevents government discrimination against doctors, nurses, hospitals and other health care entities that refuse to participate in abortion. In addition, S. 304 will allow discriminated individuals and entities to have their day in court, instead of merely filing a complaint with HHS' Office of Civil Rights.



(Click picture for video)

In case you missed it, [here was my statement on the Supreme Court's June decision](#) to strike down regulations aimed at protecting the health and safety women's health at abortion clinics.

14th District Students to Attend Military Academies



Pictured (from left to right): Clayton Pelzer (Shorewood-Naval Academy) Austin Kintz (Sugar Grove-Air Force Academy) Noah Cavender (North Aurora-U.S. Merchant Marines Academy)

Not Pictured: Keagan Smith (Lake in the Hills-West Point) Jacob Thompson (Naperville-Airforce Academy) Bradley Krisch (Plainfield-Airforce Academy)

Comprehensive Legislation to Fight Heroin and Opioid Abuse Heads to President's Desk

Over the past several years our community has come together to fight the epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse that has devastated our towns, our schools and our neighborhoods.

I am thrilled the House and Senate have passed the bipartisan **Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016** to fight heroin and opioid abuse. This legislation is the great work of many in the House and Senate who have worked together to develop real solutions to this crisis, but more importantly empower local communities. It is at the community level where real progress is made.

[For a full summary of the bill, click here.](#)

[To read how our community has worked together to fight this epidemic, click here.](#)

Celebrating and Remembering on the House Floor

I am grateful for the opportunity to regularly celebrate the lives of constituents and the great work being done in our communities by local charities, educational institutions, businesses, churches and more. Click the links below to watch some highlights:

- [Remembering the life of Joe Bussone, a veteran from Sycamore and supporter of charitable causes.](#)
- [Honoring Steve and Diane Spurling of St. Charles with a Citizen Hero Award. They risked their lives to help a neighbor in distress.](#)
- [Celebrating 115 Years at America's first community college: Joliet Junior College.](#)

In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren

*Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois*

Randy in the News

- [\(Op-ed\) My tax bill would provide relief for local small businesses](#) (Rockford Register Star)
- [House Reps. Ask President to Raise Travel Warnings to Level 3 Over Zika Threat](#) (Breitbart)
- [Hultgren launches youth leadership program for high school students](#) (DeKalb Daily Chronicle)
- [Leaders react to 'vicious, calculated and despicable attack'](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Shorr opens new headquarters in Aurora](#) (Aurora Beacon-News)
- [Supreme Court strikes down restrictions which shut clinics in Texas by 5-3](#) (UK Daily Mail)
- [The Bill That Could Help Veterans' Credit Scores](#) (Fox Business Network)
- [The next arms race will be over supercomputers](#) (Tyler Morning Telegraph)
- [Vets bill would protect their credit scores](#) (The Hill)

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