



TENTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT



REPRESENTATIVE MARK KIRK'S

Letters Home

Fall 2001



DEAR FRIENDS,

These are difficult times for our country. As we tend to the wounds from the terrorist attacks, Congress is focused on restoring our national security and ending terrorism. I would like to share with you the following speech, which I delivered on Wednesday, September 12 on the floor of the House of Representatives:

"As we move from the shock and anger

of yesterday's terrorist attack, we must take action to protect every American. We suffered an intelligence failure similar to Pearl Harbor. We must identify how our intelligence missed the planning for this attack and correct the problem. We must lift restrictions on our agents operating abroad and provide them with the tools they need to defeat terrorists who attack Americans.

"Our aviation security system also failed. We need sky marshals on every flight while applying the lessons from airlines like Israel's El Al that operate safely under terrorist threat. We will work with manufacturers, airlines and pilots to secure cockpits from any attempt to commandeer the aircraft.

"Our military and intelligence establishment won the Cold War, but must now be reformed to master the threats of a new century. Terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, cyber-attack and ballistic missiles are the new threats to our freedom.

"We must build a Global Alliance Against Terrorism with our key allies in NATO, the Middle East and Asia. If this attack was delivered by foreign terrorists, we will hunt them down. Terrorists cannot operate without the support of governments. If we find a foreign government provided aid for this attack, that government will face the full might of the U.S. military and our allies.

"Our grandfathers and mothers of the Greatest Generation responded to Pearl Harbor's call. This is our time. Standing behind our President and our government, we will protect the American people, our allies and the ideals we hold dear."



Congressman Mark Kirk (right) surveys the damage caused by terrorist attacks at the Pentagon.

HEALTH CARE TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, Sept. 30, 2001
2 - 4 p.m.

Elm Place School Auditorium
2031 Sheridan Road
Highland Park, IL

My Town Hall Meeting will focus on health care in our community, including: a prescription drug benefit for seniors, the Patients' Bill of Rights, and health care coverage for the uninsured.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Campaign Finance Reform *(Support)*

Millions in unregulated “soft money” contributions from unions, corporations and even foreign governments are corrupting our political system. For that reason, I am an original co-sponsor of the Shays-Meehan Campaign Finance Reform Bill (H.R. 380) that would prohibit soft money while protecting free speech. Although a procedural vote on July 13 temporarily sidelined this important reform, I am continuing the fight to bring this bill to a vote and end the grip of big money on our political process.

Patients’ Bill of Rights *(Support)*

While managed care sought to control health care costs in recent years, patient care suffered. In July, the House passed a bipartisan compromise Patients’ Bill of Rights that guarantees access to specialists like OB-GYN, second opinions and emergency care. This bill also provides for a third-party panel to review patient complaints that will help prevent frivolous lawsuits while enacting enforceable rights to ensure care.

Energy Bill *(Oppose)*

Conservation must be the cornerstone of any national energy policy. I voted for higher vehicle fuel economy standards (known as CAFE standards) and also opposed proposals for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The bill also provided \$30

billion in tax breaks for oil companies — twice what even the President requested. I voted against passage of the bill because it cost too much and did not adequately protect the environment.

Education Reform *(Support)*

The President’s education reform bill (H.R. 1), incorporates new, higher accountability standards into a series of priorities to ensure that every child is educated to his or her full potential. As a former teacher and product of public schools, I know how important education is to a child’s future. By making education the nation’s top priority, H.R. 1 empowers students, schools and parents, and closes the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. The House passed H.R. 1 by an overwhelming bi-partisan vote of 384 to 45.



Congressman Kirk discusses the education reform bill with local students.

LEGISLATION AUTHORED BY CONGRESSMAN KIRK

GRADE-A (H.R. 1716) Government Reservation for Accelerated Development of Education Act

My first legislation authored would guarantee “Impact Aid” payments by the federal government to support local schools. Over 90% of school funding comes from local property and state taxes. This system works well when property taxes are available, but breaks down near Great Lakes where the housing is owned by the federal government and cannot be taxed. The federal government makes up for its “impact” by making payments to local schools accepting military kids. While these payments are important, they do not cover our costs and are often paid late. My bill would guarantee that payments to help our schools are made in full and on time.

Kirk Amendment to the President’s Education Bill (H. AMDT. 67 to H.R. 1)

The Amendment expressed the sense of the Congress that funding for education Impact Aid payments (see above) be fully funded. This amendment was the first vote of the Congress on the need to fully fund this important program, vital to children’s education in North Chicago, Highland Park and Glenview. The Amendment passed the Congress by a vote of 425 to 3.

Coral Reef Protection Act (H.R. 2272)

Coral reefs are home to almost half of all aquatic plants and animals. They are under severe pressure and are disappearing from the shores of many developing countries. This legislation would relieve the debt of developing countries in return for commitments to protect critical coral reef habitats. The bill is patterned after the successful “debt-for-nature” swaps started by President Bush and implemented by President Clinton. This bill was recently approved by the House International Relations Committee and it is pending approval by the full House of Representatives.

Israeli Hostage Resolution (H. Res. 191)

On October 7, 2000, Hezbollah terrorists entered Israel and captured three soldiers. The following day, UN troops videotaped the kidnappers, their vehicles and other key evidence that could lead to information on the condition of the three young men. Unfortunately, UN officials refused to release the tape, citing the need to be neutral between Hezbollah and Israel. The resolution called on the UN to release the tape. With 36 bipartisan co-sponsors, the resolution passed the House by a vote of 411 to 4.

IN THE NEWS

Congressman Mark Kirk...

...Amended the Education Bill (H.R. 1) Which Received 425 House Votes - Bipartisan Support for 'Impact Aid' Reform is Good News for North Chicago, Glenview and Highland Park.

...Applauds CARES study recommendation to keep the North Chicago VA Medical Center open.

...Votes to protect Great Lakes from drilling.

...Hosted Allan Rutter, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, at Wilmette train station. Raised noise pollution issue and received commitment from Administrator Rutter to wait on regulation requiring train whistles to sound at all railroad crossings in Illinois.

...Tours nuclear waste island at Zion. Says, "The safe storage of nuclear waste is not just a Nevada issue, this concerns the health and safety of every Illinois family."

...Co-sponsors landmark VA-DoD health care sharing legislation - Improved health care for veterans and military personnel - Millions in taxpayer savings.

...Announces House committee approval for Great Lakes Naval Training Center to receive over \$86 million in military construction and renovation funds.

...Secures federal funding to help keep Lake County homeless shelter doors open.

KIDS CORNER

Congressman Kirk Announces Military Academy Appointments

Ten area students received appointments to U.S. military academies. To be considered for an appointment to the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, Military Academy (Army) or Merchant Marine Academy, students must first be nominated by a U.S. Senator or Member of the House of Representatives. Applications are currently being accepted for the Class of 2006. Please contact our Waukegan district office at (847) 662-0101 for further details.

Congressman Kirk with students appointed to military academies.



Rep. Kirk Awards Top Art Honor to Waukegan Student – Winning Art Work to Hang in U.S. Capitol

The top prize in our first Congressional High School Art Competition was awarded to Waukegan High School student, Rafal Rychlik. The grand prize winner was among 25 original works of art and photography entered by nine participating high schools. Our Congressional art competition is conducted annually. Please contact our Deerfield district office at (847) 940-0202 for details about next year's competition.



Congressman Kirk in his district office with Rafal Rychlik and his mother.

10th Congressional District
BY THE NUMBERS

627,793

People Living in the 10th District

11,861

Constituent Letters Answered

2,046

Constituent E-mails Answered

468

Constituent Cases Resolved

3

Offices to Serve You
(Deerfield, Waukegan, Washington)

How Can We Help You?

Washington, D.C

1531 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4835

e-mail: rep.kirk@mail.house.gov

www.house.gov/kirk

District Office

102 Wilmot Road

Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 940-0202

Waukegan Office

301 Washington Street

Waukegan, IL 60085

(847) 662-0101

GUIDE TO FEDERAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES

Please contact our Deerfield office with questions or if we can be of assistance with any federal agency.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA)

(800) 827-1000

www.va.gov

The VA provides information on veterans' programs including: health care benefits, disability compensation, pension, education and training, life insurance and burial benefits.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

(202) 708-5126

www.cfda.gov

People interested in applying for federal grant assistance should consult the CFDA for information on federal programs available to state and local governments, domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions, specialized groups, and individuals.

Circuit Breaker and Prescription Drug Benefits

(800) 624-2459

State of Illinois programs to help people age 65 or older, living on limited incomes.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

(877) 382-4357

www.ftc.gov

The FTC seeks to ensure that the nation's markets function competitively, and are free of unfair and deceptive practices. Senior Citizens are frequently taken advantage of and the FTC has made available on their Website numerous suggestions on protecting yourself from consumer fraud.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

(800) 829-1040

www.irs.gov

The IRS maintains a Website with resources for taxpayers. You can download current year tax forms and publications, information about tax management products, as well as apply for a filing extension.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

(800) 375-5283

www.ins.usdoj.gov

The INS oversees immigration programs including: citizenship, asylum, permanent lawful residency, employment authorization, refugee status, inter-country adoption, replacement immigration documents, family and employment related immigration, and foreign student authorization.

KidCare

(800) 226-0768

State of Illinois program for children under 19 years of age and pregnant women to help pay for the health care needs of low income families.

Medicare and Social Security

Social Security: (800) 772-1213

www.ssa.gov

Medicare: (800) 633-4227

www.medicare.gov

Health care and retirement security for people age 65 and older.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

(312) 353-4528 (Chicago district office)

www.sba.gov

SBA provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run and grow their businesses. The SBA also offers assistance and development programs for women, minorities and armed service veterans.

Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

(800) 772-1213

www.ssa.gov/disability

Disability benefits based on prior work under Social Security or on the basis of financial need.

LOCAL LEADERS

To sharpen our focus on 10th District needs, we convened several advisory boards comprised of experts and led by local leaders:

❖ **Health Care Advisory Board**, chaired by Lake Forest cardiologist **Dr. Jay H. Alexander**. Members include: James Barton, MD, Richard Burnstine, MD, Jeffrey Cozzens, MD, Laurie Hochberg, MD, Steven Field, MD, Wayne Goldstein, MD, Judith Lenane, RN, Joseph Messer, MD, Joel Press, MD, Paul Ringel, MD, Mark Rudberg, MD, Steven Rosen, MD and Martha Twaddle, MD.

❖ **Environment Advisory Board**, chaired by **Martha Marks**, Lake County Board member and member of the Lake County Forest Preserve. Members include: William Baltutis, Bruce Boyd, Carol Calabresa, state Rep. Elizabeth Coulson, Donald Dann, Cameron Davis, Bob Grosso, state Rep. Andrea Moore, Joyce O'Keefe, Susie Schreiber and Lake Bluff Village President Thomas Skinner.

❖ **Education Advisory Board**, chaired by **Paul Kimmelman**, special advisor to Executive Director, North Central Region Education Laboratory, and former superintendent of West Northfield School District. Members include: Hank Bangser, Sonja Bechler, John Clair, Andrew Coneen, Nancy Flouret, Suzanne Goff, Edward Gonwa, Susan L. Gravenhorst, Bill Griffin, Joel Hurwitz, Patrice Johannes, Bev Kirk, state Rep. Carolyn Krause, Dr. David J. Kroeze, Jean McGrew, Monica Mueller, state Senator Kathy Parker, David W. Peterson, Dr. Patricia Pickles, Rosa Reyes Prozon and Eva Sorock.

❖ **Economic Development: Northern Kitchen Cabinet**. Members include: Daisy and Wadell Brooks Sr., Rev. John Caples Jr., state Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, Bob Grosso, Zion Mayor Lane Harrison, Scott Hill, Jeffrey Jeep, Waukegan Police Chief Miguel Juarez, N. Chicago Alderman Mike Miceli, Waukegan Alderman Pat Needham, state Rep. Timothy Osmond, Sadiqa Queen, Rev. Eugene Roberson, Susie Schreiber, Russ Tomlin, Chris Wakefield and Mary Walker.

Illegal Club Drugs

In our continuing effort to raise awareness for the dangers surrounding increased availability and use of club drugs, especially Ecstasy, I am assembling a task force to address this growing threat to our young people. Local leaders include:

Peter Bensinger
Former Director
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Terry Lemming
Lake County Metropolitan
Enforcement Group

Judy Fried
Executive Director, NICASA

Mark Henry
Dupage County Metropolitan
Enforcement Group

Jim Plonavich
Wheeling Police Department
Wheeling H.S. police liaison

Sadiqa Queen
Youth Services and Prevention
Coordinator, North Chicago

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

❖ **Health Care For All Americans** was the focus of my first town hall meeting. Held at the Olive School in Arlington Heights, nearly 300 people came to discuss a prescription drug benefit for seniors, a Patients' Bill of Rights, increasing coverage for the uninsured and continued funding for biomedical research.

❖ **Kids Come First** – Education was topic "A" during my second town hall meeting at Washburne Middle School in Winnetka. Topics ranged from testing and accountability to meeting college costs, special education and Impact Aid.



❖ **Open Space and Protecting Our Environment** headlined my third town hall meeting held at Deerpath Middle School in Lake Forest. We discussed environmental challenges facing our community, including: the safe removal of nuclear waste from the shores of Lake

Michigan, clean air, clean water, transit planning to relieve traffic congestion, open space preservation and environmental protection through public/private partnerships.

❖ **Veterans Health Care** was the focus of my fourth town hall meeting held at the North Chicago VA Medical Center in North Chicago. Congressman Kirk discussed efforts underway to keep the North Chicago VA Medical Center open and also focused on increasing shared services between the North Chicago facility and the Naval hospital located just a half mile away at Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

MOVING FORWARD

Since taking office on January 3, I opened three offices, hired eight people in Washington and ten here at home to serve our communities. The House has passed legislation including federal budget, tax relief, education reform, and a Patients' Bill of Rights. In early May, I introduced my first piece of legislation entitled "GRADE-A" (Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act). This legislation will improve federal "Impact Aid" payments for military dependents in local school districts, especially North Chicago, Highland Park and Glenview.

Here at home, I hosted four in a series of six scheduled town hall meetings. Our topics ranged from health care for all Americans, to education reform, open space, protecting our environment and veterans' health care. Our biggest victory in these early days was a decision by the President to keep our veterans' hospital in North Chicago open.

As we move toward a busy conclusion to the first session of this Congress, please contact my offices with any issues, questions, or specific requests for assistance you may have regarding the federal government. To be of further assistance, we have included a section in this newsletter designed to help you contact federal, state and local agencies who may offer you further aid and guidance. As always, please feel free to contact my offices for help.

Thank you for your calls, letters and e-mails; please keep them coming.



Key Committee Assignments

My fellow freshmen elected me as a Class Vice President and the leadership entrusted me with assignments to the **Budget, Armed Services and Transportation & Infrastructure Committees** in the House of Representatives. These committee assignments will allow us to assist in modernizing Medicare, serve our growing military family at Great Lakes, and address the increasing traffic and aviation gridlock we face in our communities.

Traveling to Washington, D.C.?

Please contact our Deerfield office for White House tickets and other Congressional tour passes. Please note that each Congressional office receives a limited number of tickets which are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Eighteen Area School Groups Visit Capitol Hill

Students from 18 area schools have visited Washington, D.C., taking time out to pose for a photo with Congressman Kirk following a visit to his Capitol Hill office. If your school is planning a trip to our nation's capital, please call our Deerfield office at (847) 940-0202 to arrange a visit and photo.



Highland Park High School



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Official Business

Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 940-0202



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ECRWSS

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10th Congressional District
Illinois