

A Message From Congresswoman Robin Kelly

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Dear Friends,

In April, I marked my first year representing the 2nd Congressional District.

It has been my honor to be your voice and your champion in Washington. From day one, my priorities in office have been two-fold: to fight for my constituents' best interests in Washington and to provide the absolute best constituent services at home.

To that end, we saw much success in April, from the district receiving over \$1 million in grants, to the opening of our new Kankakee office, to the selection of the winner of the Second District's Congressional Art Competition.

We've accomplished a great deal together so far and I am very excited about the year ahead. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make the Second District an even better place to work and live!

Sincerely,

Robin L. Kelly

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Upcoming Events

(5/31) [Youth Summit & Job Expo](#)

District Resources

- [Small Business](#)
- [Veterans Issues](#)
- [Employment Support and Resource Guide](#)

Recent Legislation

[H.R. 4395 The Action for Dental Health Act](#): Helps improve oral health care for lower-income Americans, by breaking down barriers through coordinated community-wide prevention programs and literacy campaigns.

[H.R. 3955 The Skilled Seniors Promotion Act](#): Directs the Secretary of Labor to establish a pilot program to provide grants to state and local entities and certain other entities to provide individuals age 55 or older with job skills training in computer literacy, advanced computer operations, and resume writing.



Rep. Kelly with Congressional Art Competition winner James "Drew" Richarson and his painting "Trains of Thought". His work will be on display in the US Capitol .

Office Contacts

Scheduling:
[Tony Presta](#)

Constituent Services:
[Cynthia DeWitt](#)

Grants:
[Mimi Mesirov](#)

Outreach:
[Dante Sawyer](#)

For more information:
<http://robinkelly.house.gov/>

Housing Fair

Unfortunately, the Second District has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the state. To assist the district's distressed homeowners, I held the Second District Housing Fair to connect them with the resources they need to keep their homes.

Nearly 200 homeowners attended the fair, held at Victory Apostolic Church in Matteson, where dozens of lenders, housing organizations and government agencies were on hand to help. Participants learned about a variety of topics, including loan modification, property tax appeals and first-time home buying.

As long as our friends and neighbors continue to struggle with housing issues, I will work to assist them by bringing housing programs to the district to meet their needs.



Rep. Kelly spoke with students during Career Day at Colin Powell Middle School in Matteson on job creation in the District

Financial Empowerment Fair

Many families in our district rely on women as the primary or sole breadwinner. As such, supporting the financial success of women is key to creating and maintaining economic stability in our communities.

To that end, I hosted a Financial Empowerment Fair at New Faith Baptist Church in Matteson that offered women information on a variety of important financial topics,

including budget management, college financing, foreclosure prevention and retirement planning. The fair also offered strategies on advancing their careers.

As a former single mother raising two children, I know all too well the challenges female heads of household face. I will continue to work to help women achieve financial security.

Health Fair

The health and wellness of my constituents is a top priority of mine, particularly those residents living in underserved communities. That's why I sponsored a Health Fair at Corliss Early College STEM High School in the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago.

The fair offered free health screenings, healthy cooking demonstrations and stress management sessions. Participants also learned about a variety of community resources for women's health, senior care and veterans.



Rep. Kelly speaks with a constituent about available health resources at her district Health Fair

I am committed to encouraging my constituents to live healthier and active lives. I'd like to remind everyone about the importance of preventative health care and that early detection saves lives. Many health plans now offer free annual physicals and other health screenings.

So get checked out! You owe it to yourselves and your families.

Kankakee Office Opening

As part of my commitment to provide the best constituent services in all corners of the district, I opened a new office in Kankakee.

The office is located in Kankakee City Hall, on the lower level, at 304 South Indiana Avenue. It will be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Constituents can receive assistance with Social Security and Veterans Administration claims and other issues involving federal agencies as well as get information on federal grants and programs.

I'd like to thank Kankakee Mayor Nina Epstein for providing the space. I'd also like to thank the many local officials who showed their support at the office's grand opening, including Mayor Epstein, Bradley Mayor Bruce Adams, state Rep. Kate Cloonen, state Sen. Donne Trotter and Kankakee Community College President John Avendano.

To schedule an appointment at the Kankakee office, please call (708) 679-0078.

District Grant Recipients

Part of my duties as a Member of Congress is to support our schools, community-based organizations and municipalities in applying for grants.

I'm proud to report that a number of local entities received a total of more than \$1 million in grants — funding that will directly improve our children's education and the safety of residents.

The municipalities of Momence, Kankakee, Manteno, Flossmoor, and Crete together received more than \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for fire equipment and training.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was awarded \$500,000 to complete the design and initiate construction of a sanitary sewer relining project in Olympia Fields.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$242,000 to Matteson School District 162 to expand physical education and after-school programs.

Prairie State College earned a \$100,000 federal grant to expand its child care program so that more student-parents with young children are able to continue their education.

Several south suburban communities received brownfield cleanup funding through the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. And, Park Forest received a transportation grant.

Here are some other worthy programs and projects that received grant funding:

- La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago received \$49,000 for graduate medical education.
- Bethel Human Resources received \$188,000 to provide transitional housing facilities, substance abuse treatment, psychological assistance and job training.
- The Kankakee County Housing Authority was awarded a \$42,000 grant.



I was proud to deliver books to three south suburban schools recently through the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program. The books were donated to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School in Markham, Noel LaVasseur Elementary School in Bourbonnais (pictured above) and Crete-Monee High School in Crete.

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6/3/2014

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