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Letter from the Congresswoman

Dear Friend,

As you know, October was a challenging month for our country. Due to a small group of reckless members of Congress who were determined to hold our country hostage for political purposes, the federal government shut down for the first time in 17 years.

Now that the federal government is back in business, I'm focused on getting the Second District back to business as well. As part of my economic development plan, I introduced legislation to help get people back to work and hosted the 2nd Congressional District Job Fair at South Suburban College. I also established a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Council to help our students better prepare for the careers of tomorrow. This week, I will be embarking on the 2nd Congressional District Economic Development Tour, in which I will be traveling throughout the district to meet with business leaders in a variety of industries to layout my plan to expand economic opportunity in the district and to learn what can be done to encourage more businesses to set up shop in our district. In addition, I hosted a Small Business Workshop today for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

A key component of getting our district back to work is improving our infrastructure to create new jobs and to make it easier for residents to commute to existing jobs. In Washington, I met with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx as well as the heads of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Highway Administration to express my strong support for the construction of the Third Airport and Illiana Expressway, two projects that will employ thousands of local residents and draw many new

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businesses to the district. For a good example of how improved transportation can transform a community, look no further than the recently completed stretch of South Lake Shore Drive, which created access to 600 acres of beautiful lakefront property with plans for retail shops, a medical center, a community college and, possibly, a high-tech industrial park. That roadway has paved the way for much-needed jobs and an overall improved quality of life for residents in the new “Chicago Lakeside” community.

Expanding economic opportunities for all is essential to creating a robust economy and safe communities within the District. I’m sure you’re aware of my fight against gun violence. Well, I believe there is a direct correlation between increased economic opportunities and safer streets. People are less likely to get pulled into violence if they see other options, opportunities to put themselves and their families on better financial footing. Simply put – nothing stops a bullet like a job.

I will continue to work hard to put economic prosperity within reach for everyone who calls the 2nd District home. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to increase economic opportunity in the District, I encourage you to contact my office. I’d love to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Second Congressional Job Fair

Sponsored Legislation

H.R. 3297: the Teen Dating Violence Education Act, Protects teenage victims of domestic violence by providing schools offering domestic violence inclusion programs with the resources to inform students of their legal rights as they relate to dating violence.

H.R. 3327: the Veterans Work Opportunity Act, Extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that expires December 31, 2013 for a period of 5 years, for businesses that hire Veterans.

H.R. 3328: the American Work Opportunity Act, Extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that expires December 31, 2013, for businesses that hire qualified ex-felons, summer youth employee’s, and SNAP benefits recipients.

Co-Sponsored Legislation

H.J.RES 56: Equal Rights Amendment, Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

H.R. 769: Child Tax Credit Permanency Act of 2013, Amends the Internal



Welcome sign the day of the Job Fair.

In October, I hosted the 2nd Congressional District Job Fair at South Suburban College in South Holland. And the response was tremendous.

Nearly 1,500 people attended the job fair. We had 63 quality employers accepting resumes and interviewing job-seekers. The recruiters on hand represented a wide variety of companies, including BMO Harris Bank, Metra, Prudential, A&D Property Services, and Walgreens. Several job seekers were either hired on the spot or scheduled follow-up interviews.

I am so pleased that my office was able to connect so many job seekers to local employers. Hundreds of people now have serious employment prospects as a result of the job fair.

The job fair was part of my ongoing initiative to grow jobs in the District. Our region is primed for an economic renaissance and I couldn't be more excited about our future. I will continue to fight for job growth and economic development in South Chicago, the South Suburbs, Will and Kankakee Counties.

I plan to host more job fairs in the future. If you'd like to learn about upcoming events or other services that my office provides to constituents, please visit my website at

Revenue Code, with respect to the child tax credit to make reductions and adjust for inflation.

H.R. 1010: Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) to increase the federal minimum wage for employees.

H.R. 1318: Youth Promise Act, Amends the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to establish a PROMISE Advisory Panel.

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STEM Academy Boot Camp

STEM Academy Boot Camp I recently sponsored a "boot camp" at Gwendolyn Middle School aimed at encouraging students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The STEM Academy event in Harvey marked the first in a series of monthly camps I plan to host throughout the 2nd District. October's camp was attended by more than 25 eighth-graders and hosted by Gwendolyn Brooks principal Frank Kuzniewski. Also, several math and science teachers from the school generously volunteered to staff the camp.

Many students within my district already possess extraordinary technological skills. With the right encouragement and exposure to STEM careers through these boot camps, they can become our future designers and inventors who will go on to cure diseases, halt global warming and take us farther into space. As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, it's part of my mission to encourage our young people to enter ground breaking fields and pursue innovative enterprises.

The featured presenter was entrepreneur Walid Johnson, owner of UnitedNFC, a software development company. He taught students the basics of coding and building a website.

Walid also talked to students about his personal struggle growing up in a violent neighborhood of Chicago. He advised them to never give up, to follow their dreams, and believe in their gifts and talents.

Walid told students that he recently developed an app that enables people to pay for parking from their car with a few taps on their cellphone. He's now on his fourth technology startup and has been featured in the New York Times several times.

With the help of State Representative Will Davis, students were also treated to a tour of the University of Illinois Mobile Science Lab, where they learned about animal science, biology, health, and horticulture.



Two Gwendolyn students practice picking up a cylinder with a remote control robot.

Transportation Update

The 2nd District is becoming a major hub for transportation and infrastructure projects that will create jobs and drive economic development. Since I took office in April, many of the projects have made significant progress on the path to completion.

The South Suburban Airport continues to gain traction following the July Illinois General Assembly vote that allowed the Illinois Department of Transportation to develop the airport in collaboration with local stakeholders and outside partnerships. The Illinois Governor's office projects that the airport will create 11,000 construction jobs and as many as 14,000 long-term jobs.

This month, the Illiana Expressway was approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, qualifying the project for federal funds. The proposed expressway would run through Will County, connecting I-55 in Illinois with I-65 in Indiana, and will create thousands of local jobs.

Additionally, I recently joined Gov. Quinn and others to christen the first I-beam at the new interchange of I-294 and I-57, a project that will create jobs and enhance highway connectivity for local travelers.

And just this month, the Chicago Lake Shore Drive extension opened, creating access to two miles of new highway alongside 600 acres that once housed U.S. Steel's South Works plant. This renovated lake front property will

include more than 30 million square feet of commercial and residential space, including 14,000 housing units.

These four projects put the 2nd District on the fast track to increased economic opportunity that will create jobs and lead to an even better quality of life in the district.



Congresswoman Kelly Speaking at the opening of the Lake Shore Drive Extension with Gov. Quinn, Sen. Durbin, Mayor Emanuel, and Ald. Pope.

Government Shutdown

Last month, the nation watched as an extreme few in Congress refused to fund the federal government without delaying or defunding the Affordable Care Act, which forced the first government shutdown in 17 years. As a result of the shutdown, \$24 billion was lost in Gross Domestic Product or GDP, hundreds of thousands of federal workers were put in limbo, and millions of families across the country looked on with disgust as political games were played at the expense of the average American. This country deserves leaders who can put aside political differences to find the common ground that helps the families and communities we represent. Gambling with the lives of the American people, and damaging the stability and credibility of our government and economy to score political points, is something I won't tolerate.

To help end the shutdown and get America back to work, I signed a discharge petition to circumvent House Leadership to force a vote to pass a clean funding bill – without any

special conditions – to get the government running again. In addition to joining over 200 House Members on the discharge petition, I offered a Motion on the House Floor to immediately re-open the government. To watch my motion, please click on the image below.



Click the above picture to watch a clip

News You Can Use: The Affordable Care Act

Like many major programs, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly known as Obamacare, has been subject to intense interest and scrutiny during its implementation. In its first two weeks, Healthcare.gov had over 19 million visitors, and nearly half a million applications for health insurance have been submitted nationwide. Unfortunately, the website was not prepared to handle this huge volume of interest. The President has made it clear that the problems with the website are unacceptable and that they will be fixed. I agree with the President, and support working to make sure that Americans have access to quality healthcare.

In the Second District, we are already witnessing the law's positive impact. The Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce found that thanks to the ACA, 169,000 people in our district, including 38,000 children and 71,000 women, now have insurance that covers preventative care services like cancer screenings. 46,000 children with pre-existing health conditions in our district now have access to health care coverage. 138,000 people in the district are saving money because insurance companies now cannot spend more than 20% of their premiums on profits and administrative overhead. Thanks to these protections,

families in our district received over \$3 million in insurance company rebates in 2011 and 2012. This works out to an average rebate of \$380 per family in 2011 and \$52 per family in 2012 according to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Affordable Care Act, I have provided an Affordable Care Act Toolkit on my website to offer you additional assistance in navigating the enrollment process. You can find the toolkit here: <http://robinkelly.house.gov/ACA-toolkit>.

