

### **Initial Statement**

I'm so grateful that you all are here. I'm so grateful to the League of Women Voters. They have been so hard working, so conscientious, so thoughtful, so prepared, working through every detail in this. As you can see, & I just want to say thank you. Let's give them another round of applause. Another group that has been amazing through this is the St Charles police department. They have been so helpful for us, just again we want everyone to be safe. We want this to be productive. We want it to be good. Connection. Ability to for me to be able to hear from you, for you to hear from me. It's in a way that's productive. And we could not have done this without the St. Charles police department. Let's give them a round of applause.

Well, again, welcome, so glad you're here. This is so important. And this is what democracy looks like. It's the ability for us to be engaged. To be able to have our voices heard. To recognize that we have something unique in this country. The ability to elect people to represent us. That is what our nation is all about. That our voice is heard because we have elected our representatives & our senators. That's the most direct connection that we have with federal government. And so I just want to say thank you. Democracy only works, the ability for us to represent only works, when we have that **communication**. And one of the things that I think about often is this is a big challenge. It's such a privilege to serve as congressman for the 14<sup>th</sup> congressional district. I think you all know, the district is 7 counties: Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, Dupage, DeKalb & Will. So it's basically Gurnee to Joliet, it's Winfield, Warrenville, West Chicago all the way out to Sycamore, Sandwich, Somonauk. So it's a wonderful district but a big area. A challenge to get around. 750,000 people about. So it's so important for us to connect to be able to hear from each other. A lot of important things going on.

I've had the privilege of serving as congressman for the last 6 years, 3 terms, I'm starting my 4<sup>th</sup> term. The favorite part that I have in my job is being able to help people. I'm so grateful that the group I want to recognize is the people who are here who work with me serving the people of the 14<sup>th</sup> congressional district. We've got some amazing people on the staff of our office who love helping people. Just in the last couple weeks we've had multiple days. We had one situation where we were able to help a man who was getting denied coverage, cancer patient, getting denied coverage from blue cross blue shield. We were able to work with them, break through that, make sure he got the coverage he needs. Another one a man was getting married in a week, 7 days, found out his passport was lost somewhere in the passport office. Our office was able to step in, do a search, able to find it, give it to him, he made it on his honeymoon. Uh so far happily married a couple of weeks. (*hahaha*) Another person we had was cancelled from medicare & we were able to work to make sure that care was reinstated. That's my favorite thing. We also help with adoptions (unintelligible)

So much is going on in congress right now. My number one focus has been & will continue to be getting jobs created, making sure that we are growing jobs in the 14<sup>th</sup> congressional district. That people have opportunity to be able to provide for their families, their future, give back to the community. So we're doing as much as we possibly can to get the economy growing again. Specifically, I was excited, had a bill just passed this last week, when we were out in Washington, actually a little over a week ago, called the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act, something very bipartisan. We had a big number of democrats & republicans who supported that, legislation that I sponsored. Many others things that we are doing to create jobs.

Healthcare, I know many of you are here because of concerns with healthcare. I'm concerned about it as well. It is a challenge. It is a difficult issue. It's something that's very personal for all of us. And we have to make sure that we do this well. Whatever the response is, the reality, and we'll have a chance to talk about this more, but what we've got, for many people it's failing them. I just met with hospitals in the district this week. They're talking about how many people are coming for care but not paying for it, because they can't afford their deductibles under their current plans that they've got. Still getting the care but with real problems. Also meeting with community health centers who are waiting for payment from Illinois. They're waiting for about 9 months right now to get paid for services that they've provided already. So we've gotta see a change here.

Fighting the heroin epidemic in Illinois. We've been working with education, with families, with parents, with parents that have lost children to this epidemic. We're working with law enforcement, working with doctors, doing all we can to see that there's a real problem. I just had the chance to talk to our coroner here in Kane County, hear that the problem is growing, it's not shrinking. We've got more work to do.

I also see that we need to work on tax reform. If you haven't filed your taxes, today's the day you've got to do it. So you better do that. (*hahaha*) Just going through that process myself, seeing how difficult, how frustrating, how confusing it is & we've got to simplify this process.

I've been working on a bill Bring Small Businesses Back Tax Reform Act, that would encourage small business to start up. Infrastructure, roads & bridges are falling apart. Our rivers, locks & dams need attention. This is something we've got to address & I'm gonna continue to work on that.

And then also human rights, here & around the world. Recognizing that every single person is precious, life is precious, & we need to do everything we can to fight back against human rights abuses that are happening here & anywhere else.

Big challenges do lie ahead. But the first step for us is to be **talking, listening, learning** from each other & doing it from a basic level of respect.

And so I want to thank you for being here & look forward to hopefully a chance to answer many of your questions & start a dialog that we can continue over the next weeks & months as well.

**QUESTION ONE:**

*(unintelligible)* Medicare has been a successful single payer program for many years. Congress over seven years has not been able to improve or replace the affordable care act. Would you support single payer medicare for all health care? *(loud, continuous applause) REPRIMANDED. Show your cards but do not interrupt or we're not going to get to many questions.*

RH: I love Medicare. I want to make sure that we keep Medicare strong for the people who need it, especially our seniors. As I mentioned earlier, I want to make sure that you don't have coverage with no care. And that is my fear. I've seen doctors not taking new Medicare patients. I know you've heard that. I've heard it. I've got people that come into my office & say "I've got Medicare, but I can't see a doctor. I can't see a doctor I want to see". So it's happening. If you need references, people we're talking to, I can give those to you. So, I think Medicare is great, I don't think it's the only answer. I think there's other good answers out there as well. It's a piece of the answer. *(INTERRUPTED BY "BOO" & SHOUTS).*

**QUESTION TWO**

Illinois is facing a budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year, that's an understatement. During the worse state budget crisis in history, Medicaid expansion has brought 3.4 billion in critical federal dollars. In addition, it has helped with mental health & heroin addiction. Do you oppose any bill that cuts Medicaid funding including CHIP in Illinois?

RH: Well, I've been, where we've seen specifics on this is with the bill that was presented through committees over the last couple of weeks, I was very concerned. Because you're right, we're not doing a very good job as a state of funding Medicaid. Other states are doing much better than us. When you took a comparison with Ohio vs. Illinois, under the bill that was moving through the house, Ohio would have seen a 4 billion dollar level above Illinois. And a big part of that is because of the brokenness in Springfield, the failure for us to pay bills. I just was recently at Elgin Greater Elgin Community Health Center in Elgin out in Sycamore. Phenomenal place, amazing doctors, amazing people. They're providing, they don't turn anybody away. They will give care to any single person that goes, if you know anybody who needs care that's not getting it, our community health centers are phenomenal, providing incredible care, great great qualified physicians. And many of their patients are Medicaid patients so they see how important this is. But they did say how frustrating it is that they're waiting 9 months on average 8 or 9 months to get paid from the state. This is money that's being passed through. There's no excuse for this. It's gotta change and so much of it is failure in Springfield. So that was part of my concern with the bill that went forward. I made it very clear wrote a letter to our leadership that maybe some of you saw it of my concern with that bill that I couldn't support it unless I got some commitment that Illinois would be recognized that the Medicaid patients in Illinois would be protected. Ultimately the bill didn't go forward & I don't know what's gonna happen next. But my commitment stays the same. That we'll continue to fight for people on Medicaid, making sure that that stays strong, that whatever we can do, it's unacceptable that Illinois is delaying payments for 9 months. No one should have to wait that long, to be a creditor for the state for that length of time. It's not right. I'll continue to see what comes up but I wanta make sure that Medicaid is protected & my voice will be loud on that. I was someone in our delegation that was very vocal on that.

### QUESTION THREE

Do you support negotiating HHS negotiating direct prices for Medicare as the Veterans Administration does?

RH: I guess I don't know that much about it. (BOOS) Would you repeat the question?

Repeated

RH: Yes. ( Applause)

### QUESTION FOUR

When the American Medical Association supports comprehensive sex education programs as the most effective strategy to prevent HIV, sexually transmitted diseases & teen pregnancies, please tell us why you are co-sponsoring HR2028 the Healthy Relationship Act of 2017, which will go against the AMAs recommendations and only fund abstinence focused sex education programs?

(BOOS) RH waves off the crowd.

RH: Absolutely wrong. Read the law. Read the legislation to look forward, that's not what it says. There's both & there's room for both. There's comprehensive sex ed that's out there. Literally 90%, more than that, of dollars is being spent on comprehensive sex education. That's not gonna change. But we also see that abstinence education giving people truly healthy **choices** of saying (BOOing)... This is ridiculous. Want our kids to be healthy & safe. I've got 4 kids. I want them to make the best possible **choices** they can. I don't assume my kids are going to make bad decisions. I think it's a shame if you assume your kids are going to make bad decisions. I'm gonna give my kids, and I want others to give their kids, opportunities. Let's say there's room for both. It's not additional funding. It's just making sure that both get *(unintelligible)*

LoWV: Many of the topics this evening are controversial. I understand you have strong feelings about these issues. Again, if we'd like to get to as many questions as possible, the interruptions & calling out is not going to be productive this evening. There are many ways in which you can express those positions. You can do **letters to the editor. You can ask for meetings with your legislator individually.** (YELLING). Let 's go to the next question.

### QUESTION FIVE

In light of the recent fraudulent establishment of 2 million accounts by Wells Fargo Bank, this is from an individual, I was disturbed to see your letter to the editor that was advocating for repeal of portions of the Dodd-Frank Act. By reducing the authority of the CFPB why do you think it's safe to reduce regulations on these?

RH: Well, it doesn't on Wells Fargo. The CFPB completely failed. (BOOs)They were responsible for overseeing this. Please look at this. They failed. Both sides recognized this out in Washington. They were asleep at the switch on this one. What **Choice** Act does is recognize that we've got very big institutions like Wells Fargo, Chase & then we've got community banks. My passion is for community banks & credit unions. We've lost over 1000 community banks since Dodd-Frank passed. 1000 community banks. We've seen it right here in St. Charles, other places where community banks have closed. I'm for both. I think people ought to have **choices**. The places who have been making loans to families, someone that wants to start a business, someone that wants to buy a home. The ones that really know the

community & are able to make those loans, are the community banks & credit unions. Yet they have felt the greatest brunt of this new regulation when they were never the cause of the crash. It was those huge entities. So what we ought to do is keep those same rules on the big guys. And that's what happens in the proposed legislation that's going through financial services. Is the same rules, the same regulations stay in place. **I do think CFPB is, every bureaucracy needs accountability, every bureaucracy needs checks & balances, our founders saw that. Whether it's the president, whether it's congress (shouting, applause, BOOs)...unintelligible....That's good. I think this is one of those areas where it was written, where its completely unaccountable, it's incredible hypocrisy there.** There's gotta be some changes. Again, we can get you information of a lot of the discrimination that happens there. A lot of whistle blower things that we've heard from people that work there. Literally hundreds of billions of dollars to renovate rented buildings. Ridiculous stuff, that makes no sense. This is our money that's being spent this way. So let's have a plan in place that can make sure we're holding the Wells Fargos of the world truly accountable & that we can also recognize that there's a different **risk profile** for a community bank that's right here in St. Charles. That they're making loans to the community, they're not doing risky hedging or other things internationally. So this is the right way. Just recognizing there are 2 paths. That's not one size fits all when it comes to regulation.

### QUESTION SIX

The border wall would be an ineffective waste of money. The real problem is that for years congress has blocked meaningful immigration reform. Do you accept that this is the real issue & what would you support doing about it?

RH: I do agree that our current Immigration & Naturalization is not working very well, incredibly bureaucratic, it's **ridiculous that it takes as long for us to be able to do the vetting that needs to happen to find out who's coming here to truly provide addition & growth to America.** What America's always been about is you come here & you're an American, that you come from all over the world, we are an immigrant nation. And my great grandparents came here from Sweden, not because it was great government programs, not because there was great (*unintelligible*), they came here because they wanted to pursue their dream and they also came here because they wanted freedom, **religious freedom**, they didn't want to be part of the Church of Sweden. That is what America is all about. So we do have to deal with that. We also have to recognize that sovereignty of a nation is very important. Making the **choice** of saying who is coming in to bring benefit & add value to our nation. I think that's a positive thing & **right now the current system we have here we really don't know who's coming across the border, coming through our ports, (BOOs) in the airports,** it's true, it's true. I mean one (*unintelligible*) the cameras set up on the borders, people are coming across. So we have to do a better job. And I think in some places a wall might make sense, cities (vehement BOOs)... some open areas I think there's other things that could be done to make sure that again we're protecting our own sovereignty. You know you get back to saying how valuable votes are and our ability to make sure our voice is heard. I think this is one of those areas where it is important for us to know who's coming in & out. I do support better control better borders & airports I also support making sure we can continue to welcome people. I represent Fermi Lab. I'm so proud of that place. You go there & there's people from all over the world. The brightest physicists from all over the world. **So many of them spend half their time working to try to extend their visas.** Things like that. It's unfortunate. It's pulling away from very valuable time. So I've been supportive in the past, will continue to be supportive on immigration reform. Making sure people who are here to have real added value are able to stay & do this work & grow opportunities. But again I'm gonna make sure there's also people who are coming to be part of the drug trade, there's people coming here to do things to harm our nation very small minority but we ought to know who they are. (*MOANS*)

## QUESTION SEVEN

One more question related to this issue. Many of our allies opened their borders to refugees & did not put boots & bombs on the ground in Syria. As you watched the horrific videos of civilian Syrian victims, do you agree with trump's militant, rather than humanitarian approach?

RH: I heard some unbelievable Syrian speaking just today on the radio. (*shouts, "answer the question, yes or no", moderator sighing, shushing*) I support what the president did. I think it was a measured response. (*vehement BOOs*). *Unintelligible*. Many of you know, I'm the co-chair of the (unintelligible) human rights commission. **I can't imagine you boo & support of what Syria did to their own children.** (*drowned out by shouts & BOOs*) It's so heinous. It should be a targeted approach to say let's go after the bases where these airplanes went. There was a promise made between American, Syria & Russia, that chemical weapons would be taken out of Syria. That was violated. Chemical weapons are still there. I think if there's anything further, I support congress' responsibility to make sure that we're the voice of making determination of military action. But what is very measured in something like this I think it's the thing to do. This Syrian person that was speaking was saying we need help. We want to stay in Syria. We don't want to be refugees. We want to stay in Syria. Help us to have a safe place where we can stay in Syria. I think there are others that see it that way as well. We certainly see it in Christians in the middle east have been driven out others who have been driven out as minorities in these areas and I think anything that we can do to make sure if they want to stay that we do what we can do to help them in a safe place & raise them in their homeland. This is their homeland. It's where they want to stay. (*moderator: shhhhh, we want to move on*)

## QUESTION EIGHT

Since online terms of service can be changed in a day's time, why did you vote to allow the ISP, internet service providers, to sell our private browser & viewing & email history, (*applause, unintelligible*) ... and did you receive any money from internet service providers as campaign providers?

RH: Everything that I've received is available & on line, it's open, we just filed, so you can look & see, I'm so proud of the continued support of the people who live here in the district. Let me get to the issue. The last minute, at the end of the last administration, many things were passed not through congress but by rule. This was one of those things that was a specific change, an executive order, to change control had always been under the FTC for internet providers. It was a significant over reach by the FTC of saying this was something they wanted to control. (*unintelligible, shouts, BOOs*)

## QUESTION NINE

Excuse me. I'd like to ask a follow up question. What is your position on net neutrality?

RH: Well, I think this is again something that ought to go through congress. It shouldn't be something that one administration or the other makes the determination. I want to make sure that our information is protected. I serve on the science committee. I'm passionate about making sure that we're protecting information, that we're growing technology, that new access to technology is there, that we have cyber security, that we can be confident with the technology that we're using. So I'm very supportive of that, but I think that the right process to go is not at the end of an administration or the beginning of the administration. The reality is that rule that was passed would not go into effect until next December. So nothing has changed. What we do now have are these next months (*unintelligible*. Moderator: Please stop yelling. ) I support ending what just happened. I think it should go through congress. It shouldn't be a presidential decision, one way or the other.

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Representative Hultgren, as a member on the Committee on Science Space & Technology, do you accept the consensus view of scientists that global warming exists, & that this warming is significantly due to human activity, & what steps will you take to protect your constituents & their children from the effects of global climate change?

RH: I definitely agree with the last part of that global climate change. The climate is changing & we do have an impact. (Moderator: But do you believe it's due to human activity?) RH: More than 51% of, I have a hard time believing,... (*BOOS, shouts*) What I think the right thing to do is, & I think our best solution, ultimately, is finding out a safe clean energy that can take us into the future. We've got some good things. They're not doing nearly what they can do. I've been supportive of those things. But I also think we need new discoveries, one of my hopes that we can see out of Fermi, out of Argon. Hearing about some research out there that can be game changing. There's clean energy, that doesn't have an impact on our environment. That's what I want to see happen. My fear is when government is picking winners & losers. We're taking money away from research & putting it to applied I just think the market is better at doing that than the government is. (*BOOS, shouts, unintelligible*) the best thing for our future is for scientists to create that next discovery. (Moderator "ORDER")

## QUESTION ELEVEN

The president's budget blue print contains a proposed 17% cut to the office of science. Fermi Lab is an economic engine in the district employing 1800 people & bringing thousands more to this area every year. How will you fight to protect funding for Fermi Lab & the jobs & economic contributions it makes to the 14<sup>th</sup> district?

RH: I'm absolutely opposed to that. We've already voiced it. That I'm opposed to what the president's proposal was. I think it's a mistake. I've written a letter to our (*unintelligible*) The thing you have to remember, a president doesn't make budgets. A president proposes budgets. President Obama would present budgets, his budgets sometimes would voted on in the house. There were times when they got zero. Same here. Ultimately we're going to work on budgets, we're gonna pass appropriations, I'm gonna do everything I can to continue to fight for our laboratories. I'm co-chairman & founder of the national science & laboratories caucus. Every chance I get, I'm talking about what we're doing in our laboratories, how important they are. I'm also co-chairman of the STEM caucus, STEM education, work with my co-chairman Dan Lipinski. I'm co-chairman of National Laboratories caucus, Ben Ray Lujan, from New Mexico. What a wonderful group of bipartisan folks coming together, republicans, Democrats, saying our laboratories are really important. And I get down to what I say is so important are we going to have our best & brightest smartest young people going into science? The only way they're going to do that is if they see that there's a future for them to have groundbreaking research & discovery. Our laboratories are a key part of that. Fermi Lab they estimate 39,000 kids from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are touched every year by Fermi Lab either by physicists that are going out, teachers coming in, by programs going out. And then you tie that in with University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Northwestern, our universities are benefiting because their post docs are able to come & be a part of research right away. Quickly, one thing I'm really excited about is this long base neutrino, some of the work that's happening with the dune deep underground neutrino experiments. Neutrinos are so interesting, so exciting, so little we know about these things. And yet we are at the forefront. We've got the right people at the right place to create the beam at Fermi lab. And the perfect locations for that shot through the earth that neutrino beam and be received in South Dakota. There's a former gold mine out there, home states gold mine, that's been closed for a while, Lead South Dakota, and they've got the Sanford Underground Mine out there. It's a phenomenal project that I believe is Nobel Prize worthy. I think we're gonna see things come out of this type of experiment where it's gonna be earth shattering. We blew it. Our leadership blew it a few years ago. We had the chance to have a super conductor, super collider, here in Illinois it didn't happen there. It's

over in Cern They've done amazing things there. Now we have to make sure we're still doing some world leading science in America, this is one of those things.

## **QUESTION TWELVE**

OK. On the budget. (*unintelligible*) proposed but we can we have a quick yes or no, please answer yes or no , would you favor cuts on the following, and if you just answer yes or no that would be helpful:

Coast Guard: no

National Institute of health: no

National Endowment for the arts: no

PBS, public broadcasting: (*shakes head, smugly*): no (*cheers, jeers*)

EPA: cuts, no, I don't want increases but I think we ought to uh

State Department budget: no

National Parks: (*BOOs, shouts*) increases or cuts? Moderator: Cuts. No, I think it should stay the same

NASA: no

Libraries & Museums: no

Moderator: OK. Thank you.

*Applause, lots of green cards, shouts, Moderator: Order, Please!*

## **QUESTION THIRTEEN**

How will you vote on HR899, the bill to terminate the department of education? If yes, please explain.

RH: I'd be opposed to that. I think there's a place. I'm a strong supporter of local control for education, so I wanta make sure that there is the focus is locally and if you are on school boards, thank you. You've got the toughest jobs. Although I don't think you have to do this very often. (laughter) Sit in front of a bunch of people. Thank you. If you sit on a school board, I just want to from the bottom of my heart say thank you. If you're a teacher, I want to say thank you. My daughter is studying to be a teacher. My wife is a teacher. And so I believe so strongly in teaching. I believe public education is vital. It's something so precious that we've got in America. But I also think there's a lot of different options that (*BOOs, yells*) unintelligible... One of my good friends that I served with in Springfield, James Meeks, senator from the south side of Chicago, amazing man, & he had a bill that I supported, which said for the 10% most failing school districts, it's not fair to those students. We ought to give their parents the ability to get them somewhere else. It didn't pass. I think there is things we can do to make sure, what I want to see that education whatever it is, that the goal is to take care of, to make sure it's serving kids. It's educating kids. That's it's not about serving any other bureaucracy, administration, anything like that. That's it's focused on making sure our kids can learn. Maximize their opportunity, maximize their opportunity, maximize their future. That's what our schools are all about. Education is a big part of that. Making sure that our teachers are prepared to really light that spark. And I see that especially in science. Where that's the challenge a lot of especially young people get that initial spark of fire maybe in grade school. Making sure that our schools & teachers are able to help light that spark of science or engineering, technology, mathematics. That is going to

be the future for us. Very supportive of our public. Want to make sure that they're doing the best that they can with the resources that they've got. But also very supportive of our catholic schools, some of the great work that they're doing, serving in areas of very supportive of other **choices** that people have. I think each child learns differently. And **choice** again what I hear is good.

Moderator: So as a follow up, would you support a national voucher system?

RH: No. I don't even know what you're talking about with that.

Moderator: (unintelligible, applause, shouts) It's been proposed by our education secretary. What steps would you take

RH: Here's what I would support. I did say I just wanted Illinois to support, I did say, I was a co sponsor of it. For greatest failing I think there has to be some recognition, when a school district is failing, when kids are being thrown away, when you can look at a zip code & determine if they can get a decent education or not, that's not right. And we've got to take (*unintelligible*) and figure out how do we get these schools working again.

#### **QUESTION FOURTEEN**

Education, the cost of education, to attend a college, particularly, is ballooning. And it's very important to the people in your district to hear what you will do to help lower the cost of attending college.

RH: Well first we need to recognize that we need to be good consumers of our own education. Recognizing that there's some really great **choices** out there that people have. It's interesting the way they do my district, that all happened in Springfield, just a couple of people drew all the congressional districts down there, the way my district is drawn, I mentioned 7 counties, but it has no 4 year university or 4 year institution in that. But I've got 7 great community colleges that serve that area. I'm so proud of our community colleges. I think, it started here in Illinois, I think we've got the best community colleges anywhere in the world. So part of the things that I'm doing, with young people that I'm talking to, if you've got a lot of money saved up or you can get a great scholarship to go to a 4 year university, great. You can do that, but make sure you know what you're signing up for, make sure you know what kind of debt you're gonna have coming out. I've got a bill that I've introduced called the Financial Transparency Act, the Students Aid Financial Transparency Act. And one of its Democratic co-sponsorship, David Scott, is a co-sponsor of this as well. What it does is saying that there ought to be disclosure of what payments there are going to be once you graduate. Sorta like when you sign up for a mortgage and to me it's just common sense. Yet the majority of kids that are signing up for loans today don't have this. The majority of loans that are given today don't have this kind of ultra disclosure, of what the ultimate loan amounts are going to be. It's not right. It ought to change. I think it'll get done this time. So we're gonna keep working on it. It's having a good **choice**. Let me give one last example. I was with a group of high school students from Burlington, we were here in St. Charles. We were going through Bison Gear, which is not too far from here. Phenomenal company making motors for ice makers around the world. Growing, really phenomenal, the guy who's taking us through started working part time at nights & now he runs the whole place. But he said to these high school students whatever you do get your education. But if you're not sure what you want to do, think about coming to work for us. We'll pay for your education. We'll pay for you to get a college degree while you're working. So there's not one answer. 4 year universities might be great for some people. Community college might be great. Maybe 2 years of getting the requirements out of the way & then going to the school that you want to go to. I think there's a lot of things that we can do. But in the mean time, we've got to have more transparency, so people know what they're signing up for, they're not hit like a ton of bricks, once they graduate. Realize they didn't find the job they wanted to find and now they have this huge payment that they're going to have to start paying. We've got to make sure we're honest with them as well. And that's what my bill will do.

## QUESTION FIFTEEN

President trump has continued to refuse to disclose his tax return despite having promised to do so & despite a long standing tradition to disclose. (*RH looking at his cell phone*) giving the very serious allegations of Russian collusion & the public's concern with trump's businesses profiting from foreign influences. What, if anything, are you prepared to do to require disclosure of trump's tax returns. (*RH pulled out his cell phone & read it*).

RH: Well, a couple of thoughts there. One is I would be very open to a law that would be in place to make sure that candidates have to disclose their taxes. (*Applause*) But you also have to realize in America we have what's called **ex post facto\***, so you can't go backwards & charge someone for a crime that wasn't there. That's the way ... (unintelligible) The election happened. Going forward I think it's something we ought to talk about. It's something that oughta be presented to congress. Let me get back to Russia. I absolutely don't trust Russia. They are not our friend. (drowned out by shouts) I'm gonna do everything I can do to do my job to protect you, to fight for you. My allegiance is to you. I know a lot of you didn't vote for me (*shouts, unintelligible*) ... I think that's the right place for it to happen. They're going to have real answers. I'm gonna do my job & let the facts come. And whatever the facts are & I will do what's right once I see what those facts are. Once we hear from the intelligence committees. (ORDER!!!!)

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**(\*EX POST FACTO LAW DEFINITION: A LAW THAT MAKES ILLEGAL AN ACT THAT WAS LEGAL WHEN COMMITTED, INCREASES THE PENALTIES FOR AN INFRACTION AFTER IT HAS BEEN COMMITTED, OR CHANGES THE RULES OF EVIDENCE TO MAKE CONVICTION EASIER. THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS THE MAKING OF EX POST FACTO LAW.)**

**Editorial: (I don't want the law changed. I have reasonable doubt that there is collusion. Therefore, ex post facto does not apply. There is "probable cause" to examine the tax returns. Randy had to view his cell phone notes on this one. Someone mis-interpreted the law.)**

Moderator: As a follow up, it sounds like a good answer, I just wanted to follow up, but would you support & advocate for an independent prosecutor? A bipartisan (*unintelligible-applause, yells, whistles*) to investigate interference ... with the election?

RH: I'm open to it. I do think it delays ... I've supported & have in the past. I would be open to supporting that in the future. The problem is it sets the process back probably 6 months. I think the right place it's already going. We've seen I think people that are very well respected on both sides of the isle, Adam Schiff, Mike Conaway, & a list of people, again, one talking to people who serve on the committee, who serve on the committee, on the Democratic side & the republican side, saying it's working. We really are having a positive movement on this. We're gonna have real answers to bring to congress. So I wanta see if that happens. If something else comes up where they literally cannot do it, then absolutely I'd be open to it. But I think the right place for it to go is with people who are serving on the intelligence committee, who are already in these places.

## **QUESTION SIXTEEN**

In light of trump's doing away with HJ resolution 40, the law that made it harder for mentally ill people to obtain guns, what is your stand on gun control & what legislation will you support to keep guns out of the hands of the seriously mentally ill?

RH: Again, it wasn't law. This was an executive order again that changed. It was an executive order that the ACLU was opposed to. The ACLU, I don't agree with the ACLU very often, but they felt like it was very unfair for someone who has somebody else care for their financial information because they just don't feel like they can do that for whatever reason, for them to be automatically disqualified to be able to apply for a permit. The law is already in place. The law says currently that someone who is mentally defective or committed to any mental institution, is already precluded from purchasing a firearm. That's the law. That's in place. But again, I don't always agree with the ACLU, but I think they're right on this. Just to assume that anybody who has a disability, a mental challenge, is dangerous, that is absolutely not true. There are so many people who struggle with disabilities, mental challenges, who are the kindest, nicest, safest people ever. And that is if someone is again is mentally defective, this is what the law says, or committed to a mental institution, they're precluded. Nothing has changed in that law. That law is still in place & I support it.

## **QUESTION SEVENTEEN** (video scans to stage right, Nick Provenzano filming)

Illinois some of the strictest conceal carry laws in the country. How do you justify your support for federal conceal carry reciprocity when this would make a mockery of Illinois laws?

RH: Look, local laws are still enforced. I question how the laws are working. I still believe when we see Chicago being the murder capital of the world, we've got to address that. With kids killing kids, that's unacceptable. It's not just, literally, it's kids killing kids & it's got to stop. It's relatively small part of Chicago & it's got to happen. So I still believe in the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment & I will continue to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. I believe other states are very different from ours. The challenges that Montana or Wyoming have are very different than ours. So again I think to recognize the differences in those states makes some sense. But as someone who's passing through, their 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights should be protected as well. (*yells, shouts, moderator: order! Order!*)

## **QUESTION EIGHTEEN**

OK. There's one more question I'd like to get to. Why did you vote "yes" to repeal the SSA to submit information to the national background check system?

RH: What was the number on that? (Moderator repeats question) Well, um, so no. (*loud shouting*) I think, I spoke to the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. I think goes & one of the issues we hear a lot about is terrorists getting access to guns (*unintelligible*) ... I want to make sure there's a judicial process not a bureaucratic process. I support judges making those determinations, especially when it's taking away someone's 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights. Absolutely there's time when it should happen. But there's also times where bureaucracy. A friend of mine, very liberal, Democrat, John Lewis, for a while was on the "no fly" list. I mean that's ridiculous. It's not an accurate list to use for that information. Courts ought to be a part of that type of information. Courts ought to be a part of that. Let the, if we've got information why someone shouldn't have the ability to have a constitutional right, we should be able to go to court to prove it & make a judgment to make that determination, not a bureaucrat.

## **QUESTION NINETEEN**

Thank you. Aside from a future law requiring future presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns, what will you do to require president trump to disclose his tax returns?

RH: (*yells, shouts, applause, unintelligible*) I couldn't hear the last part.

Moderator: Since congress has authority to require disclosure what will you do to ...

RH: (Interrupts moderator) That's not true. Congress does not have authority to, this is not the law. If it was something that was part of the election, people knew, you had to disclose it. (*yells, shouts, unintelligible*) I'm all for it going forward. I support that part of our judicial process is you don't go back. (*ORDER! ORDER! Shouts, yells, unintelligible*)

Moderator: We're gonna move on to another topic. I think we got an answer.

## **QUESTION TWENTY**

What will you do to insure the equal rights & safety of hardworking tax paying individuals who are LGBTQ?

RH: Support the law. Where there's any type of abuse that's happened, any type of hate crimes that are happening, I will continue to support the laws that are on the books. Continue to support what has passed & what is the law going in.

Moderator: What else will you propose under legislation to protect their rights.

RH: No. I think there's already (*unintelligible*)

## **QUESTION TWENTY ONE**

Let's switch gears again. Do you support a pre-emptive strike against North Korea? If so do you believe congress first needs to approve?

RH: Well, I don't. But again, I don't have all the information. So I won't support that. I absolutely do believe congress ought to be a part of that & support (*unintelligible*) being fully informed & making those decisions.

## **QUESTION TWENTY TWO**

We have watched president trump & his administration send many conflicting & contradictory messages on foreign policy, including our commitment to NATO, our activities in Syria & our intentions toward North Korea. Do you see this as a serious problem & how can congress address it?

RH: What was the first part? Can you say that again? Moderator: repeats

RH: I agree. It's been bumpy. It's been confusing. It's difficult even seeing the changes with Russia in the last couple weeks. I've been very consistent that I've been incredibly concerned about Putin. He's not our friend. He would love to do harm to us given the chance. And I will continue to have that perspective. Assad is, I think, a horrible, brutal dictator that I do not support. What's going on in North Korea again, a very scary, serious threat. So I will continue to do my job. I do think congress ought to be a part of this. Whatever decisions that are being made. I think, my hope is, with the state

department as that gets more people there, they're serving different important spots, that we'll be able to build important relationships with friends, making sure our allies know that we are going to stick with them. I still think that is our best course, is make sure we're not doing things alone. We're teaming up, certainly in the middle east with some of our best friends. Israel has been an incredible friend, Jordan, Egypt. Some of these areas making sure that we are reaching out to them. That we are working with them. Where possible. I think it makes much more sense for them to take the lead & for us to be supportive of what they do to bring stability to a very unstable region. I also think we need to see, my hope is with China, got real concerns there. My hope is that China could put some additional pressure on North Korea to change how they're acting as well.

### **QUESTION TWENTY THREE**

As a fiscal conservative, this is written by someone in the room,, I am concerned about debt & deficit. trump is on course to spend in one year what Obama spent in both terms on golf trips. What is your (*applause, unintelligible*) and what can congress do about it?

RH: Yes. I'm very concerned about it. You know I never questioned, you know, I know in the past, the presidents have traveled, uh, & we're gonna have to look at this. It is very expensive (*shouts : what are you going to do about it*) We're gonna keep looking at it. (*BOOs*) I'm gonna do my job. I'm gonna do my job. I'm gonna make sure that money isn't wasted, my money & your money. That there's accountability there. I do think, I'm not opposed to presidents traveling. I think it has to happen. They have to have security with them. I'll continue to support their security. But I think there has to be a reasonableness to it. We'll continue to watch it. For me it's way to early to say this is unacceptable. (*BOOs, thunderous*)

### **QUESTION TWENTY FOUR**

Assuming through some additional pressure (*BOO, BOO, ORDER, ORDER*) Back to education. It has been suggested that ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act, may be revoked, repealed. Do you support ESSA? Why or why not?

RH: yeah. I absolutely support Every Student Succeeds Act. Phenomenal response to No Child Left Behind. The idea of No Child Left Behind was good, but it didn't work. So many failing school districts, so much testing, so many problems with it, so many mandates that came down, was really a problem, wasn't working. Every Student Succeeds Act I think is an example that doesn't get a lot of attention of some really good work that we have done as a congress, with the administration, over the past couple of years. This was really congress taking the initiative on this one. But I'm so proud of my colleagues on the education & work force committee. Reaching out with other committees, Democrats & republicans working together from the very beginning & saying this current No Child Left Behind isn't working. It's failing. And we've got to see some changes there & they crafted something, there the Every Child Succeeds Act, that is absolutely the right direction to go. Reestablished a lot of open control. Still has help this is where I think there are places where federal government does have to provide some help. Where there is places where they just cannot sustain a local school district themselves. And in a state like Illinois where there's not any help from Springfield there has to be that ultimate back stop of making sure ultimately that kids have the opportunity to learn. So I think the Every Student Succeeds Act was very positive. Something that passed, I forget, I think there was like 400 yes votes on it. So it was very, very positive, very, very strong, very bipartisan. And there's other things we've done as well. Some transportation things we've done & a lot of other work that really has been coming together in a bipartisan way. So we can do it. Just need more of that.

be helpful. **QUESTION TWENTY FIVE**

Why did you vote to repeal the Stream Protection Rule which required a 100' buffer between coal mining & streams? It would have also required ... Let me finish please ... many companies to restore streams & mined areas to a state similar to what existed prior to mining. Why would you vote against protecting water from coal mining pollution? Why does this benefit the constituents in your district?

RH: Well, here's where it benefits. I don't have any coal mines in my district. But I do have a lot of farmers. I've got many farmers that are concerned about significant over reach for waters in the U.S. and this is really over reach by the EPA coming in. This was another thing that was a last minute rule. (*BOO, continued, unintelligible*) The clean water act still is there. The only thing that has changed with the clean water act, every single state, every single locality, if someone is dumping into rivers, it's illegal. If a mining company is dumping into rivers, it's illegal, it's already against the law. The law is there. I support the law. I support clean water acts.

Moderator: Excuse me. I'm sorry to interrupt congressman hultgren. We cannot have this screaming out. ... It is not civil. ... I implore you to please stop that.

**QUESTION TWENTY SIX**

Medicare, this is about Medicare, should those that are financially able to pay higher Medicare premiums than they currently do, to keep the system solvent in the future? So the question is should those who are able to pay higher Medicare premiums than they currently do to keep the system solvent in the future? Is that something you would support?

RH: My commitment is that we've got to strengthen Medicare. I don't want it to change. I want it to be strong. I want people who are on Medicare to make sure it's there. I think my biggest concern is again for them to have coverage but not care. I wanta make sure that they get both. I wanta make sure that Medicare is strong. That it's financially solid. I think anything in my commitment continues, has been & will be, that I want to make sure, anybody who's on Medicare continues to be on it. That there's no question that it's there for them, that it's strong. That it's gonna provide. That they're gonna be able to see the doctors they want to see. There's a lot of positives that are there & I'll continue to support that. I think if there is any other discussion, I'm getting closer to the age of 55 & I've always said, I want to make sure that we don't do anything that will affect anyone 55 & older. Whether it's Medicaid, Medicare or social security. But you know, the cruelest thing we could do is say it's fine. Don't worry about it. We're gonna be great. And then have something where it isn't. Where there isn't the resources there for someone who needs that care. So I want to make sure that care is strong. I'm gonna do everything I can to fight for our seniors. That's what my commitment all the way along is. So, just out of the blue, no I wouldn't support that right now. If there's a larger package for people who are younger, I want to see it. But as far as having, so I guess it's like a stepped up of paying for it now, for me that's a change in Medicare. In & of itself, I won't support it. If it's part of a larger discussion. Let's talk about it. I'll take a look at it. And if it's for people who are younger going into that. I've made the commitment that I'm not gonna change it for people who are on Medicare. I want it to stay the same. I want to make sure it's financially sound.

## QUESTION TWENTY SEVEN

League of Women Voters is all about transparency. And this is a question that gets to that issue. The trump administration just ruled that it will no longer release White House visitor logs. What is your position on this?

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RH: Yeah. I think it's a mistake. I'm for transparency as well. I talked about it with uh (*unintelligible*)... I think with the White House, this is our house. This is the people's house. We talk about that as congress in that way. But ultimately the White house (*applause, unintelligible*) unless there's a confidential meeting or something like that I would think there's already a provision for that. But to say it's not gonna be released, I think it's a mistake.

## QUESTION TWENTY EIGHT

Getting back to a tax reform question. Entitlements for the wealthy & corporations in our country are much more than entitlements for the poor & average person. Will you commit to keep social programs for the poor & middle class & reduce the entitlements for the wealthy? For example, one that's put on here, is carried interest tax rate for hedge fund owners. (*Applause*)

RH: Two parts. One is with tax reform. We'll see what comes. I think we ought to lessen benefits for people with lots of resources. And I hear there's openness from them to do that. (*Laughter*) I think we ought to make sure that the tax code is focused on hard working, taxpaying folks, people who are just workin hard, trying to support their families. That is working punished the most by the tax code & get the least benefits with the current loop holes that are in there that have been written in over decades. It is way too complex, way too confusing. It is, it is wrong. Where the more resources you have, the more attorneys you can hire, the less you pay. I'd like to see that change. I think it needs to be fair, flatter. (*BOOs*) I think it needs to be recognizing (*BOOs, unintelligible*) people with less resources should pay less. And I'm getting to the second part of it, that, after just doing my own taxes, I'd love for it to be easier. I think it ought to be simpler, to go file our taxes. I think a lot of other countries do a much better job of doing that. And I think we could too. As far as protecting programs, I've said that I'll continue to fight to protect programs specifically talked about, programs for seniors, disabilities. But other programs as well. I want to make sure they're truly serving the people that need the help most. That is really the idea of these programs. And I'll continue to fight for them. With everything there's abuse & we need to hold them accountable making sure that people who are trying to game the system that we're finding that out. There continues to be a lot of abuse for some of these programs. But there's some poor people that absolutely need to continue to be served. But I'll fight for that & make sure those programs are still there & working for them & solvent.

## QUESTION TWENTY NINE

In your 2016 campaign, you didn't hold any debates with your Democratic challenger. Why not & do you agree to hold debates for the 2018 election, preferably in each of the 7 counties of the 14<sup>th</sup> district? (*Applause*)

RH: This is not true. We did have debates. We had debates in Kendall County. We had debates other places. Some that I went to, that he didn't come to. And that's OK. (*Unintelligible*) People if they want to some. But we had multiple debate opportunities. We'll continue to do that. We'll see what happens in 2018. I enjoy them. I think it's a good opportunity to be able to see the differences of candidates. I'm confident with that. That I just want people to know who I am, what I stand for, what my character is, how I go through decision making process. I think that will influence how they're going to vote. And I think, I want more people engaged in the election process. I think that's a positive thing. Anything that we can do to get more people involved. I do think its sad coming off of municipal elections & seeing a very dismal turnout in certain places & we need to continue to talk about this. I think voting is a right, but more than that It's a responsibility.

That we have a responsibility to do our homework, to know about the candidates, to find out who they are, what they stand for, what they're like. And then to feel like we were a part of that whether our candidate wins or not.

### **QUESTION THIRTY**

The election of Donald Trump represented a revolt against the years of grid lock in congress. The only good thing I can see, this is from the writer of the question again, coming out of it would be that Republicans & Democrats would try to work together for the good of the country. Are you willing to compromise with the Democrats to stop the grid lock?

RH: (legs shaking under the table) I said we already have with Every Student Succeeds Act, with the caucuses that I'm a part of, yes. Absolutely. I started my work, public service, on the county board of Dupage County. Had the opportunity to serve down in Springfield. I was in the minority & super minority, while I was down in Springfield. And I was able to pass literally dozens & dozens of bills. The only way I could do that was to have Democratic co-sponsors. I continue to do that where the first thing we'll do if we have a new idea, I've talked about this Student Aid Financial Transparency Act. The first thing we did was before we file, we say we want to have Democratic co-sponsorship on this, so that things can pass. Also, mentioned Encouraging Employee Ownership Act. This is something that just passed through the entire house last week. It passed out of the senate committee. I think it's gonna pass the senate. But this is a good thing for employees. It's going to allow them to have more potential ownership in the company that they work for. It's a very positive thing. We had again republican support. Nancy Pelosi voted for it. Steny Hoyer voted for it. I worked with John Delaney, democrat from Maryland. He & I worked very, very closely on this. So it's important for me. I believe that if you're gonna get something done, that's gonna last, it's gotta be bipartisan. We saw that with things over the last administration. I'm gonna encourage that in the current administration. That really long term solution, like hopefully Every Student Succeeds Act, the WRDA bill, the Transportation bill, Long Term Surface Reauthorization & Transportation. These were done with very, very strong bipartisan support. But it has to start from the very beginning, by saying I'm not gonna get everything I want. You're not gonna get everything you want. How can we find a way to move forward so that we can have good things for the people you represent. Not 100%, but maybe 70 or 80%. And I think this doesn't get covered very much as well either. But I betcha in the average week, 80% of the things we vote on get pretty much unanimous bipartisan support. And there's 20% of the things we're fighting over. (*Yells & shouts*) and that's the news, the media, picks up. The stuff we're arguing over. It's OK. That's the difference. That's why elections are important. But there is many, many things we're working together on. I'll continue to do that. I'll continue to make sure that as we're putting together bills that we think are gonna make a difference, that we want to pass, we're gonna reach out & make sure we have Democrat co-sponsorship on that.

### **QUESTION THIRTY ONE**

There was a recent vote relating to funding of Planned Parenthood & we would like to hear from you what position you took on that bill & why.

RH: Yes. I am pro-life. It's something I believe in. But I also realize people have different opinions on that. For me, it gets to where tax dollars are going. And I think a big part of what America is, is about it making sure that people's consciences aren't violated. That their tax dollars are used for something (*Shouts, yelling, Women's Health*) I mentioned something earlier, this is (*unintelligible*) This is what we voted on & one of my concerns of Planned Parenthood, is one, I don't have one in my district. In Illinois, there's 670 community health centers, there's 18 Planned Parenthoods. (*Shouts, YOU DON'T HAVE A COAL MINE EITHER, laughter*). Community health centers provide a total care. I've talked about this Greater Elgin Community Health Center. Please take a look at it. See what you think. These are really good people. Not political. Not partisan. Just serving people. Helping people in need. Health care. They provide the full gamut of care. They provide prenatal care, which is really important, which is being provided right now. They provide mammograms (*unintelligible*) it's not being provided by Planned Parenthood. (*shouts, No, Liar, unintelligible*) Mammograms is not

covered. Prenatal is not covered. All coverage (*unintelligible*) children, boys, girls, men, women are covered at this community health center. I want to see the money go there. It's in my district. It's more accessible. It's something where the people I represent. We talked about representing the people who (*unintelligible*) this (*unintelligible*) this (*unintelligible*) I'm opposed to violating people's consciences (*unintelligible*) the vast majority of people in America say tax dollars shouldn't be (*unintelligible, BOOs*).

Moderator: (hultgren smiles smugly) Everybody, if you could please settle down. We got our answers. If you continue to do the yelling & interrupting, we will be finished this evening. We'd like to get more questions in. If we could please ask you to not interrupt. Thank you.

### **QUESTION THIRTY TWO**

Would you support a constitutional amendment to limit or provide transparency in campaign finance? And follow-up, how much money have you received from the NRA (*unintelligible, applause*)

RH: Again, I support full financial disclosure. We're a part of it. We just filed our financial disclosure. I encourage you to look at it. It shows everybody that's given us (*unintelligible*). Whatever the entity is, is capped. They can't give any more than an individual, unless it's a larger PAC, but even then it's very limited. I think it's \$10,000 in an election cycle where an individual can give \$5,400 per person. So I do support full disclosure. I do, I'm concerned, if there's absolute limitation on how much people can donate, that the only people who are going to be running for office are multi millionaires. I think that's a problem. So I think, it is, the thing that can break that, is the ability for people to continue to support candidates they want to support.

Moderator: This is a follow-up. Would you support a constitutional amendment to limit the amount that can be paid, can be given in a campaign?

RH: It's already there. Where it isn't, super PACs are not. And I think that's a huge problem we're gonna have to talk about. I think super PACs are a problem & both sides have abused it. And I think there needs to be much more transparency with that. When you're talking about individual candidate donations, it's already there. There's clear limits. Federal Election Commission is very strong, very strict, very proactive, to making sure every candidate is abiding by that. There's scrubbing of every single disclosure that we do. So again, it's out there. It's open. Anybody can look at it. (*Shouts, NRA, NRA*)

Moderator: I would suggest you look at his disclosures.

RH: I do too. I think it's certainly lower than 10,000. It's between 5 & 10,000.

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### **QUESTION THIRTY THREE**

The budget is set to expire April 28<sup>th</sup>. Will you fund the government from April 28<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, to avoid a government shutdown?

RH: Well, I wanta see what it's gonna be. I'm gonna make sure that things aren't put into it that we haven't been told about, which has happened in the past times in these type of government shut down situations. I want to make sure that we can't have a shutdown. I think it's very counterproductive. I don't think it's healthy for us. So my intention is to support making sure (*unintelligible*) and our kids & our grandkids by having (*unintelligible*) We've got to work thru that.

Moderator: We have 2 follow up questions & then I'm gonna do one final question.

#### **QUESTION THIRTY FOUR**

You voted to block a resolution requiring disclosure of president trump's tax returns. Can you explain that vote.

RH: Yeah. It was a procedural vote. We have literally every single day around Washington, D.C., I won't support a procedural vote for that. I talked about ex post facto law. It's very clear. I went to law school. It's a big part of the law. And so to require (*BOOs, Order, unintelligible*) again it's a procedural vote. I voted & it was a very important, happened several times, where these types of procedures are used. I know when we were in the minority, we tried to do this as well, using these types of procedural votes. But again I supported the final legislation that was being voted on. And I felt like this was an inappropriate time to do it. I've already said to you, I'm open to having a law for future elections to make sure that this (*unintelligible*)

#### **QUESTION THIRTY FIVE**

Thank you congressman hultgren. As a follow up to the Planned Parenthood question, federal tax money currently cannot be used for Planned Parenthood, by Planned Parenthood, for abortions. (*Applause*) If you used for all other health services, why not support those services.

RH: Well, I do support those services. (*Applause, unintelligible*) It's already been offered that if Planned Parenthood would stop doing abortions, then absolutely (*BOOs, unintelligible*) As soon as that happens. I'm gonna continue to support community health centers that are in my district, that are providing all the care that people should need. Look at these community health centers. Take a look at them. Go visit. This is where money should go.

#### **QUESTION THIRTY SIX**

If the president's campaign advisors are shown to have colluded with Russia during last year's election & the president knew about it, would you consider beginning impeachment proceedings? (*Applause*)

RH: I will do my job. Whatever my job requires. I will do my job. So (*unintelligible*) I will not answer a hypothetical question. I will do my job.

#### **QUESTION THIRTY SEVEN**

What specifically do you do to determine constituent views on an issue? Do these views influence your vote, or do you always vote your personal opinion?

RH: Absolutely, (*Applause*) We listen to constituents. We ask for information. I'm in the district every single weekend. My family is here. Offices are here. We are out talking with people. Listening to people. So it depends. There's certain issues where we're seeking feedback. We're wanting to hear from them. There's other things where I'm realizing, I'm getting information where there's a disconnect, where people don't understand, why I'm voting a certain way. To make sure that we're getting information (*unintelligible*) & so I listen to my constituents. You have to remember, though, you know, you talk about a democracy. We're really a constitutional republic. We are representative government (*unintelligible*) We (*unintelligible*) not take a poll for every vote we take & determine what the majority of my district says. (*unintelligible*) to the best of my ability to get the information that I need, often times it is connected with constituents. Especially when they have a specialty, a specialization. So I'm meeting doctors all the time. Meeting with

providers. Health care providers. Meeting with my physicists. I'm at Fermi Lab at least once a month to hear from them of what we can do. They're up in Washington, D.C. quite a bit. So, I hear from my constituents that influences my thinking & ultimately does influence my vote.

### **QUESTION THIRTY EIGHT**

What is the most effective form of constituent advocacy?

RH: Protest. (Applause) That's not true. I honestly think & there's people in this room, there's some people that I've seen, that we disagree on a lot of things. But we have some incredible conversations. I've learned from them. They've changed by way of thinking on some things. So I think it is helping us have information. I think it is having a basic level of respect, of recognizing that democracy is messy. That it's give & take. That we're not gonna agree on 100% of things. But if we respect each other, we're willing to talk, we're willing to listen, & learn, good things are gonna happen. And so I still think the best way is meeting. The second best way is writing a letter, a hand written letter. The third best way is making a phone call. I think the fourth best way is an email. Because we just get so many emails (unintelligible). So that would be the most effective way is for us to have a chance to meet. Or if for whatever reason, I can't meet with you, if you can meet with someone that I work with in my office, that can hear from you. I think that's very powerful. I just was meeting with youth advisory leaders on helping young people from getting involved in underage drinking & drug use, earlier today, up in Lake County. It's just encouraging to have the power that young people have to be able to go & meet their legislators. They can be such a great voice of letting us know what's working, what's not working. So, I just, having that connection, having a basic level of wanting to get good information, respect each other, recognizing we're different. But it can work & it does work.

### **QUESTION THIRTY NINE**

The final question. What will you do to protect the rights of people with disabilities in your district?

RH: Well, the big frustration to me, is Illinois is 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation, of caring for people with disabilities. That is a real problem. So many of our programs that are focused on helping people with disabilities flow through the state. So a lot of grant money, other things being started in the federal government, but flow through the state, but so little is going to help people with disabilities. And I think this is such an indictment on all of us, that our state is 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation. That's unacceptable. That's got to change. I'll continue to fight for people with disabilities, people with special needs, frail, elderly, people who absolutely need the help, need someone to come along side of them, someone to help make sure they're getting the care that they need. And so, I've done that. I'll continue to do that. I'll make sure that programs that are geared for people with disabilities are continued to be supported. A lot of that is state level stuff. But, I think what we can do, is push on the state to get it's act together & make sure this turns around & do not let this stand where we're 50<sup>th</sup> out of 50 of how we care for people with disabilities.

Moderator: Thank you very much congressman hultgren. And I will turn it over to Patty now for our final word statement.

Patty: Thank you for coming. This was really hard to put together & I want to thank representative hultgren's office. He reached out to us. So I think (unintelligible)...(applause)...But we had 250 questions, plus. And we really kept with the question specialists here. We had to really, really put them together. So, I thank you (unintelligible) ... (applause). Thank you for coming.

RH: Thank you all so much. Let us know how we can