

Randy Hultgren Phoney Hall 5.17.18, 6:30p.m.

I will be updating you on what is going on in Washington that affects you & that I want to hear from you so that you will have the opportunity to ask me questions. You can also contact me by calling my office at 630-584-2734. Or by visiting my website at hultgren.house.gov. Again join in ** support on congressional conference call to stay on the line & you will be connected to the call. Thank you.

Please hold while we connected to you access live event. This access live event is currently in progress. Please note this call may be monitored & recorded or rebroadcast. If you would like to ask a question during today's event, press *3 telephone keypad at any time.

Some of the best ideas I would able to bring him to the 14th (speaker is inaudible or unclear) I tknow that I want you to know that the office we have here in Campton Hills like McHenry also in Washington is your direct line to the federal government. Before we get you questions I want to give you a quick update. I have sought to work hard (speaker is inaudible or unclear). Congress is accomplishing some important things that tax job cut January 1. We lowered individual tax rates across the board, doubled the standard deduction, ?condolence high corporate tax rate in the developed world. I have been talking with employers & families across the district to hear who are already benefiting from a growing economy, receiving more take-home pay. The house also passed my bill the Community Bank Reporting Fact without any opposition. This is a priority (speaker is inaudible or unclear). Relationships with farmers & manufacturers in small business & families less time on unnecessary paperwork. The house also passed another piece of my legislation titled the Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act. Hellp insure that actors cannot steal Social Secutity numbers from children or from others without a credit history like recent immigrants. I am hopeful other legislation that I have led including (speaker is inaudible or unclear). Another issue I would really like to see some congressional action on this infrastructure. I have proposed protecting & explanding (speaker is inaudible or unclear). To get local projects going I will also continue to push hard to get this as well as legislation to lower healthcare costs. I firmly believe we need to find permanent solutions for doctor recipients & at that at the same time we need to strengthen the borders so that we can determine who can legally enter our country. Clearly we do face challenges ahead. Know that we are working hard for the people of the 14th district. Again I want to hear from you & I want to hear what your concerns are so I can better (speaker is inaudible or unclear). Retirement I will & my initial comments here & turn it back over to James & again I want to remind you all if you want to ask a question please press star three. Thank you so much for joining us tonight.

(New voice) Thanks Manny I think our staff is still getting to those consists of twins who are interested in pressing a question. The axis life of an operator has been notified that you wish to press the question.

(New voice) Amendments are being voted on. It is an open process where amendments are coming on the floor. It was really excited you had a very (speaker is inaudible or unclear).Significant reform to the veteran's administration & how our veterans can receive care. Uh...roofing quality of care speed of care speed of payments for any kind of care that they receive. As I mentioned in my opeing comments I have been very concerned about veterans being hrt when they have use thinks like the choice program for them to choose to go to other doctors that they would lay far away from a VA facility. Sometime of delay because of the bureaucracy of paying doctors & hospital. Horribly veterans credit have been damaged because of government's failure to pay on these promises. So my hope is through the legislation that passed we are still moving forward on the bill that I have sponsored And I will I'm hoping that will move forward pass to the house was for the Senate to act on that. But we did pass significant veterans reform early this week also looking forward to next week. Something I have been working on over the last year is really fighting for our local financial institutions our credit unions and community banks. The entities right & our communities making loans to families to small business sponsoring little leagues & rotaries. Have really been hurting by overly burdensome regulation that was really intended

for huge multinational banks but ended up hurting local community banks the most. So I am really excited there was a bipartisan bill. Both democrats & republicans voted for reform package. Passed out with I think it was almost 70 votes out of the senate & we are going to vote on that next week. I think Tuesday. And send that out to the president to sign & that will be significant for our community banks & credit you need to have some relief. So a lot of things going on that. We are continuing to do everything we can to fight for you so. With that I will turn it back to you Jamison.

(New voice) Again for those just joining a star three is what you press our first question is out of McHenry this is Tabitha.

- (1) Thank you so much for taking time to take some questions. You spoke about wanting to protect our children from social security fraud. Can you please advise on your stance on how you would be voting with regards to gun reform. Specifically for limiting semi automatic guns going into specifics on how you would plan to do so to protect our kids.

RH: I know every parent on the call, my wife & I have 4 kids & to hear the tragedies that have happened in Florida & other spots we have even heard about threats & shootings just a little bit west of us out in Dixon & uh...not too long ago threatening Naperville that unfortunately law enforcement acted quickly & was able to apprehend the person there. You know increase funding to schools that I do not think this is a one-size-fits-all so some of the challenges that Montgomery ordered Naperville may be facing are different from up north in my district. Durango & Harvard & Hebron. Very different school districts but want to make sure that the kids are safe. So we want to make local school districts be able to make these decisions to have the security that they need. We heard about the situation on accident it was a program that I have been supportive of to make sure that there can be law enforcements uh...available at school & it was one of these officers who was well-trained they had also just completed an active shooter training at the school out there. It worked out that no one was shot but the shooter. And us...you know it was a success so uh...my concern is looking at all gun violence and what can we do to stop certainly gun violence but also violence that we are seeing with bombs. We saw down at Austin lives we are seeing people act out getting trucks & driving into crowds of people. We have got to get to the heart of this issue so what is causing especially young men which is most often times young men who are uh...choosing to act in a way to reach out to try to harm & kill other people. Sometimes they are using guns sometimes they are using another weapon even like a truck to do it so I am

(New Voice) Okay ma'am thank you for your question & participating tonight. I will be returning you to the conference call now & if we are able to get to your call you will hear your name called. Thank you.

(New voice) That people are using what I want to make sure is that we are taking guns away from criminals & people with mental illness not law-abiding citizens. I think far too often our loss to the folks taken guns away from people to follow the law but not doing enough from people who are breaking the law. I also want to make sure we just keep hearing heartbreaking stories out of Florida of failure of authorities. We saw a recent story where literally for years the school knew that this person was trouble that they should have been involved in the court system. And they swept it away. They decided not to pursue it. They ignored it. He was literally screaming out for help so we have got respond quickly. We have got to make sure that schools over the person is that uh...the schools are speaking out. That they are getting help from law enforcement. I mentioned in Naperville Neuqua Valley just a couple of weeks ago there was a threat. Police there acted incredibly quickly apprehended the person & make sure they were able to get the guns away from this person. No one was harmed. The person was ultimately the hope was they were not a threat to somebody else. My hope was they could get help that they need. I have been supportive talking about funding for school districts so every parent can feel confident that their kids are going to be safe. I think the other thing that we need to continue to look at his mental health. We are so often times we are saying that these people who are acting out to kill other people especially when they are doing mass shooting have obviously serious mental struggles & they need help. They need

counseling. They need therapy & so we have increased that under this bill that we passed. We also passed the comprehensive or uh...mental health funding over the last couple of years so we have taken steps. It is never enough. There is always more that we need to do. I think the most important thing is continuing to say if we see something in our community say something. If we see someone who is in trouble who can cause harm we need to speak up. We need our law enforcement or school districts are at local communities to step in & to make sure that someone cannot cause harm to other people. But ultimately the hope is that they can get the help that they need & uh...they can be safe but other young people can be safe so that is where I am not continuing to work through this. Always open & making sure that when we have something that is right there is also responsibilities to it. I think with second amendment rights are clear responsibilities. We have taken steps to rid of automatic weapons & I think that is a good thing. I also do think we just need to continue to go after other gun violence & what is driving people to do this so. Thank you for the question. We will keep working on it & we want to make sure that every child is safe in school.

(New voice) For those just joining us star three is what you push to ask a question to the congressman. A staff member will get to you soon. The next call is from Janice in Yorkville. Janice would you be able to repeat your question for the congressman?

(2) I would like to know when congressman Holtman will be holding his next in person live town hall meeting so that we can visit with him much & offer support or ask questions.

We have done those. Continue to do a lot of meetings throughout the district open meetings. We have done veterans town halls. We have done seniors town halls. Very focused. We did just an open town hall. A few months ago. Quite a few months ago now & it was good. We had about 700 people there. It was also pretty disruptive to the community. A lot of police officers had to be there. I was grateful to do it. We had a good exchange. But we will be doing more of them. I would say always if there are things you want to meet with me get together call me. Call our office. I am back in the district every weekend. Usually back in the district office at least one week a month. We have a office in Campton Hills, Central Kane County. Another one up in McHenry. Every week I am out of the district meeting with people, going to schools, going to retirement communities, going to companies. Meeting with families. And so we always are available & open to do that. We will certainly let you know when we do the next large & in person town hall. We will certainly be doing those. We do not have any scheduled right now but my guess it will be summer when we are finished up with a little bit more of the heavier schedule of congressional votes. And I think it will likely be in the next couple of months but certainly we will get that out to you. But in the meantime if there is any way also we can be helpful please give us a call & we will schedule a time where we can meet face-to-face.

(3) Yes, I am interested in hearing how you are going to protect Medicare & Social Security from compensating for the trillion dollar deficit.

I think the key is to make it a priority to make sure that we are absolutely committed to uh...fully funding Social Security & Medicare. It is something I have been strongly committed to making sure that every senior can count on it to know that Social Security is going to be there for them. That it is not going to be pulled away. I think even more important to the discussion we need to continue to have is how do we make sure that these important programs are growing with increasing cost. We certainly hear from seniors I just talked with a senior recently on how expensive groceries & eggs & prescription drugs have gotten. So we need to continue to do everything we can. Social Security & also with Medicare making sure that if not enough just to have Medicare you have to make sure that doctors are willing to take Medicare. And that has been problem of making sure that these programs are getting paid quickly that people are getting the care & coverage that they need. So I'm going to continue to prioritize it. I think the other thing that is most helpful to these uh...really strong programs for our seniors is a strong economy. We have low unemployment. More working, more people in the workforce. We are seeing significant increase in revenue coming into governments & that is a really good

thing. For Social Security & Medicare when a lot of these programs were started many decades ago a lot of times there was 10 or 15 people working for every single retired person on the program. Now it is much much lower than that. So grateful with great medicine we are living longer & enjoying healthier lives much longer but we also have to make sure that these programs are equipped to last longer. And the best way for that to happen is for more people to be working. More people to be paying into the support programs & again making sure they are strong & solid for our seniors & those who are planning on looking forward to retirement. So my commitment is to again do everything I can to vote for Social Security strengthening it keeping it strong making sure that our economy can grow because as we continue to have people working it is a big thing that helps strengthen these important programs.

(New Voice) Next call is from Mike in Plainfield. Mike could you repeat your question for the Congressman?

(4) Yes thank you for the opportunity. I am disappointed that the U.S. Senate has arcane esoteric rules that kill a lot of good legislation that comes out of the House of Representatives. I think the worst offender is the 60 vote requirement for most legislation. I'm sure the Congressman knows this 60 vote threshold is not part of the U.S. Constitution. It is not part of any statute. It is just a self imposed rule that the Senate set a long long time ago may be close to 100 years ago & as I understand it it was put in place at that time by Democrats. To help stop the civil rights legislation. Back when the Democrats controlled things in the south. So that again is something that Republicans need to do more than just say oh well we cannot get anything more done because of the senate rules but I think in all due respect rather weak. I think if we had better rules in the senate & better reconciliation processes we could do more on the banking legislation that the congressman described. And uh...also we could have been a much better spending bill. I think this last spending bill was so bad Pres. Trump said he would never sign another one like it. So you know we should not have grown deficits when our economy is a strong so for a humble taxpayer like me this is really hard to understand. It is hard to support the republican brand when there were repubs control all the legislation in Washington & we still cannot get responsible spending. Of bills passed so thank you for hearing me out & I hope that uh...congressman hope being that you will be much more vocal perhaps more like your fellow congressmen (speaker is inaudible or unclear). ... Your district is relatively safe one. I think you are an ideal candidate to be a spokesman for change. Thanks again.

(New voice) Thanks Mike I appreciate it. Yeah, I am so frustrated with the senate, uh it is so broken. Of being more beholden to senate rules, like you said arbitrary senate rules, that are not part of our constitution. That are not legislatively driven & yet they come I think put their own rules ahead of constitutional responsibility sometimes. And I just disagree with it. Uh it was never intended by our founders, where one or two or three people in the minority could absolutely stop everything that goes through. We are seeing that you know with the 60 vote threshold it has absolutely crippled what the senate can do & I disagree with it. I have been outspoken about it. I do get on some shows my focus obviously is more on my district & doing media that just going to get information out to my constituents, certainly never opposed to doing things on national TV, but my focus is always going to be on Illinois. In the 14th Congressional District first & foremost, ... going to keep pushing, as we have done what we can, spoken out every change we get against this cloture rule they call it. What is basically one person each a couple people in the senate can just say I vote against this. I don't want this to move forward, unless they can get 60 votes it does not move forward. And again with uh a relatively very slim majority 51 to 49, uh it stops almost everything & so I would love to see them change it. You are absolutely right, that we would've had such a better spending bill. We did our work here in the house. We passed our 12 appropriations. It was very responsible, reasonable, real cuts to the deficit, uh...real focus on making sure we are strengthening our military. Doing important programs, caring for seniors, caring for people with mental illness, uh but would have done it again. A very responsible way & I agree with what the president said that I know he would never sign another bill like that. Uh it was such a horrible process but is really the only reason that that bill was as big as it was because of the filibuster threat in the senate. Something really change to you know we had, they have had the filibuster for quite a few years, quite a few decades, but for the most of those years you really did have to get up & speak & not

give up the senate floor uh you could not take a break. You cannot leave. You could not have any food. You cannot go to the bathroom. Uh & so you know you're really had to be on the senate floor & hold the center floor to do that & now they don't have to do that. Sometimes they still do just kind of for the media show of it but most times almost every time no. We are seeing them use the filibuster & not even have to go through the pain of a filibuster. So for the many many many decades but that they had it where they had to actually get up & take the floor of the senate, it was only using ??? times. Since they have done away with that are all they have to do is just say uh I'm opposed to this bill moving forward. I do know we have had literally dozens & dozens & dozens & dozens of times where bills have been stopped & had not moved forward, so I'm going to keep speaking up, doing the right thing, you know, doing our job in the house hoping the senate does their job. Hoping uh senate leadership changes how they run things and uh ... allowing good legislation bill to move forward which can get a majority vote. That's how it ought to be. That's what happens in the house. That's what ought to happen at senate. Do a thing I would say is elections have consequences. And uh there have been times where either side has had the votes where they could override that filibuster. And uh so you know again I think its is important for us to be part of pushing the senate to change how they are acting. Also make sure that we realize that elections & votes do have consequences. So I'll keep uh doing what I can to push them to change but ultimately it's going to be up to the senate to do that.

(New voice) And again for those just joining us, *3 is what you push to ask the congressman a question & the staff member will assist you shortly. The next question comes from I believe Nick from Naperville, could you repeat your question for the congressman.

(5) (New voice) Hi congressman. My name is Nick Kiel there, I am active duty in the United States Navy & calling from Florida Webstation, & I was curious what your perspective is on net neutrality. I've heard a lot of it in the media bout neutrality uh that recently passed a bill in the senate, or so I've heard, was wondering what your stance is on that, and specifically I heard net neutrality called kind of the freedom of ideas on the internet, uh...& kind of having like this open internet where we can share innovation different ideas, uh & kind of build that kind of internet economy. So wanting what your what your perspective was on that. Thank you for the opportunity to discussion.

Thank you. First thank you for your service, so critical, thanks for getting on a call from Florida, & I really do appreciate that your willingness to serve our country. In any way we can help you & your colleagues please let us know. As far as net neutrality goes, I feel like there's a lot of misinformation out there on this. I support free & open internet. I absolutely support innovation. I serve on the science base & tell technology committee. I'm cochairman of the Finn tech caucus which is technology the ??? financial services & options for people in investments. So I'm very supportive of that, what I saw happen in 2015 was it was basically an executive order, it was not something that came through congress. It was a judge action by the president that put 10 significant new literally hundreds of pages of new regulation on uh...internet providers, internet services & uh...it was a fight really between 2 different bureaucracies uh, the FTC federal trade commission & FCC federal communication commission, & it was kind of this turf battle of who was going to be in charge of this & the change in 2015 moved it from the FTC to the FCC. I think the FTC is about much better place to deal with this, they have got uh...much better oversight powers. They also have the ability if there is an entity out there that is manipulating or uh overcharging or limiting access of people the FTC has the ability to be able to go back & not only fine but refund customers. The FTC has no ability to do that, ??? & so I support when you think about how the internet grew, what was the structure that allowed it to grow? It really was with light touch regulation. Uh & that's what we are going back to. Much of what I have supported. The move back again in 2015 to put the significant new regulation under title II which was uh I think very limiting & uh what I like is going back to again you think about when did google & facebook & twitter & netlix all start up. Well it started up under this light touch regulation, that is what we are trying to

go back to, so it is going to be ongoing discussion, I think there will be presentation & votes. There's people with strong opinions on both sides of this. Want to get as much information as I can. I will look at legislation as it goes forward. I do think it makes more sense, the FTC has more ability to actually regulate & enforce the rules, than the FCC does. But again I think this is something that ought to go through congress. Did not happen in 2015. There was a resolution that the senate recently took up. I think there will be further discussion in the house on this. But to me I want the internet again to be open so as many people as possible, I think for me quite honestly the bigger issue above net neutrality is broadband access. The importance of opening up access of uh high-speed internet to rural communities, there are still a lot of areas even in my district that just do not have good access to internet. Anything we can do to encourage investment in more broadband more fiber more access to every single community when you look at the high school students, you know it's a huge percentage. I think it's like 60 or 70% of the work that they need to do the homework that they need to do requires internet access. And yet there is significant parts of our nation that still do not have high speed internet access. And so to me that is more pressing problem of kind of the have & have-nots of, of internet access. And we will see. I again I think on this battle between the FTC & the FCC that will come forward we will have a chance to vote on that in the house, & certainly would love to hear your thoughts & suggestions as we look at that as different ideas different legislations come toward.

(New voice) Great. Yeah, next call is from Plainfield, Mike could you repeat your question for the congressman?

(6) Yes, my question was about better benefits & rights for veterans who served this country. I served the country with honor for 24 years of service, with an honorable discharge & I got injured in the line of duty twice. Okay? And at the benefit section there, our benefits just keep on dwindling further & further. It just seems like our government just keeps on taking away all of our benefits for serving this country. And they are not adding to them. I mean I am a service connected disabled veteran, & our, our country refuses, the government refuses to acknowledge that. The most they can acknowledge is by only giving me 20% disability. I am 63 years old as of this year. I am all the way 100% disabled because my legs & my back. That I injured in the line of duty. Okay? And all they're willing to give it is no more than \$265 a month, in benefits, & that is it. I just finally got my retirement check approved by the Department of the Army. I had to beg for it & fight them for 3 ½ years. No vet should have to go through that after serving his country with honor. That should be given to them for their years of service. And you know how much they are giving me for 24 years of service? \$168.72. for 24 years of service. That is how much they are giving me each month.

(New voice) Thanks Mike. Well first Mike thank you for your service. I'm so grateful for what you've done, until sorry for your injury. We want to help uh & you know if there's anything that you are that you are not getting, we will go fight for you. I'm continuing uh mentioned just this week that we passed a significant upgrade to veterans benefits to lessen bureaucracy to speeding up things, increasing payments, passed the house passed the senate, my hope is that they will do that quickly. Though we took our step here & I think it was a really good bipartisan bill, republicans & democrats voted for it, & it went through the process right away. Uh...I would, yeah, if we could do for you, uh anything that is still stuck out there you know we would have to know the situation I guess it sounds really low. Of what you're getting, so like just to know more information. If you can maybe get that to us we could follow up with you after the call. Check on that, if there is more that is due to you that you are not getting, let us know. Uh a couple of things as I mentioned we did pass this VA bill, I also have been supportive of makings sure that we are protecting veterans credit. I do talk about that to the financial services committee that I serve on, cosponsor, chief cosponsor of protecting veterans credit act to make sure the governments is not paying bills quickly enough veterans credits should not be hurt by that. That passed unanimously out of the house again waiting for the senate to act. I've also supported making sure that we can hire more veterans, there was a legislation that I was a cosponsor on of encouraging companies to hire veterans & recognizing that there are some veterans who have medical coverage still from their veterans benefits & so making sure that small businesses who are looking to hire them would not be basically discouraged from hiring veterans because they would be

bumping up against that number of employees. When they would begin to hire cost with the Affordable Care Act so we had a higher more ??? act that was passed, also supported more transit legislation when the transportation asked that we pass not too long ago that would allow veterans to get credit for training that they had while in the military & be able to bring that back for certifications specifically with commercial driver's licenses for them to get their CDL, to get credit for time that they were driving while serving in the military. Up there's a lot of other things that we're doing, we do, it's something that absolutely does bring us together, republicans, democrats, house & senate. I'm doing everything that we can to provide for veterans, fight for them, to make sure that they are getting the benefits that they deserve, & to make sure that those benefits are increasing also fighting for their families. I have met with many Goldstar families & trying to do everything that we can to make sure that families can still uh...receive benefits. Of, uh, that were earned by their loved one who was killed in the line of duty, or killed in service, ???that the family ought to receive those benefits as well, so a lot of things out there, there's always more that we can do, specifically I would say to any veteran or someone who knows a veteran or has a veteran in your family, who is struggling with the red tape of bureaucracy in government, give us a call, call us at our Campton Hills office, our DC office & we would love to help. I've got amazing people in each of those offices. We've got veterans who are working for us who have been through this process themselves & know how to get things done, how to cut through the bureaucracy. So there is anybody out there that we could help uh please let us know. Let me just give you Craig is our veterans outreach uh he is an amazing guy, and uh, I will just give you his uh...a gmail address it is Craig.Genteman@mail.house.gov, or again just give us a call & we can get you directed to Craig, uh he is a veteran himself, a wounded veteran, is really cool. He was just recently honored at one of the Cubs games a couple of weeks ago. We are so proud of him & his service. Uh but uh anything we can do for you Mike, or for others, veteran to serve, thank you & we want you to get everything that you deserve & more.

(New voice) Okay, great, our next caller is from Aurora. We've got Mark from Aurora, could you please repeat your question?

(7) (New voice) Hi yeah, uh this is Mark uh...what I want to ask is what is your stance on small businesses & communities & what aid will you provide for them?

(New voice) Thanks Mark. I am passionate about our small businesses, grew up in a family business, my family has a funeral home in Wheaton. My older brother runs the family business. My parents still live at the family business, & so I'd, I am passionate about small business & we are doing everything we can. Couple thoughts come to mind. Uh one that we are continuing to work on this is the impact of internet on local business. Again it's a wonderful thing that we have access to the internet, but up there ought to be fairness & how taxes are paid. For people kind of across the board, we have got already laws in place but we have a problem in collecting out to those taxes & we need to clean it up & there are a couple different tools that others were looking at that I think hopefully will move through congress here in the next couple months. Another thing that I have been working on a much with especially the financial services committee that I serve on is making sure that small businesses can get access to capital to money to be able to start up a business or grow a business or hire more people, & the best way to do that is to have a local financial institution, a small community bank, a small credit union, right in the community, that knows the community, knows the people & can make loans to help people start to grow businesses. We have seen dramatic change, talked about how we were just voting, we had a bipartisan bill passed the senate, that makes some real changes to the law, which was a bill huge huge bill that was passed back in 2008 the uh was, eight & nine that was response to financial crisis, but had a very detrimental effect on small banks & small credit unions, & I just believe we need strong regulation against these huge multinational banks. Uh & insurance companies, but a local small financial institution credit union bank is very different risk profiled in one of these huge multinational bank. We've ought to see that regulations have not be one-size-fits-all that we ought to tailor it to the real risk & as we are doing that like I said this bill added to that is alleged significant reform to Dodd-Frank passed with uh republicans & democrats from the senate were going to post next week to the house. I think it is going to have bipartisan support in the house here as well. We're going to do what we can there. Uh

the other thing we are doing is uh tax reform. I'm grateful for the tax bill that passed in every time. I am back every weekend & the weeks that I spend back in the district each month us I'm hearing incredible stories of especially new optimism in small business, people hiring move people, us this absolutely believe that the key that it took to turn around the high unemployment that we had a few years ago was getting small businesses growing again. And they really are the backbone of our economy & they were really the only answer to this very very high unemployment that we suffered from for so many years. Now we see such a low, much much lower edge unemployment, which I am encouraged by. We are seeing uh...some historic numbers when it comes to certain communities. Latino communities, African-American community. It is literally some of the lowest unemployment in decades, so that is encouraging, & again much of that is done because of tax reform that has helped small businesses us helped people who are looking to start or grow a business. And we are going to continue to do everything we can to be fighting for small businesses that they cannot only stay alive, but that they can thrive & grow & hire more people.

(New voice). And again *3 there's what you post to ask a question. Our next caller is from Sherwood. This is Sarah. Could you please repeat the question for the congressman.

(8) (Speaker is inaudible or unclear). The so-called dreamers. Is there something in the works for them?

(New Voice) Thank you Sarah from Shorewood. Yes, thank you & there is. I think optimism. I'm hopeful. I'm frustrated that it's taken us so long. I'm you know we had this March 5 deadline that uh, I felt like again it's incredibly aggravating to me but oftentimes it takes a deadline for congress to act. And I'm you know I think it was a good thing the court acted in the way that it did to was that it took away a deadline where I think there would've been potential action at the end of February beginning of March, but now I do believe uh my hope is in the next couple of weeks, we are going to have the opportunity in the house, um...to debate & discuss what we do um...for these people, as you mentioned to be brought here, uh, a lot of them when they are very small, babies the only country that have been their country, they've ever known. This is the only language they speak. This is their home. This is where they want to be. Many of these young, uh DACA or Dreamers, have done really well in school, want to go on to college, get their degrees & yet, sometimes that's when they are finding out that they are, that they don't have legal documentation, & are shocked & scared & I'm very unsure, of their own future. So I just want to make sure that we are giving them a certainty to them, to those again that are, are pursuing their education wanting to work, a number of them are determined part of America wanting to get back uh, to our economy, & to our communities that they have that chance, um...my hope is that we will do something to bring that um...certainty us, that they will be kicked out, that they uh, can stay, can continue to work, & continue to pursue their education. And then also that we make sure that they don't have the same problem again, 3 or 4 or 5 years from now, that we have real change in border control, & that we make it very clear, that we want, people to follow the law, uh, that we are opening up uh, to other people, to come here illegally, that we are going to have secure borders, & clear laws that people can follow, but also that we can bring certainty & um...peace of mind, & hope, to these young people, & meet with them almost every single week when I'm back in Illinois, has a chance to meet with, just incredible, young people, uh, who I are doing all the right things, they want to um...get their education that they need, they want to work, they want to pay taxes, they want to correct contribute to social security, all these things, but they can't do it because they don't have that legal documentation. So my hope is that we can clear this up, while at the same time securing our borders. My hope is that is going to happen in the next couple of, there is a lot of discussion, & there are several different bills out there. Um..., there is several uh, that I think are very good & edge, not perfect but steps in the right direction & I think we absolutely need to do this. My hope is that we will get it done un...certainly come in the next month or two.

(9) (New Voice) I moved from Atlanta 3 years back & uh, I have been trying to buy a home here but the property crisis...making it a very expensive proposition for me. So I wanted to understand what are the steps that are being taken to lower the property prices.

(New voice). Thank you for your call & we are glad that you are here even though I know it is very frustrating especially the high cost of housing & especially property taxes. The biggest chunk of property taxes are not federal, but out state & local, so certainly our schools are part of that & we want good strong schools & we want to make sure they are getting funding, but we do need our state to step up & do more its act in order. We see a lot of other states that have great schools, but that have property taxes that are much much lower than ours, but we've got to figure this out.

...discouraging for people to own homes or discouraging for people to stay in Illinois & we've seen it, I'm sure you've all seen stories & some of the newspapers of the number of people who are moving out of Illinois, & really makes me sad. I love Illinois, was born & raised in Illinois, my kids, & maybe someday grandkids to want to be in Illinois as well. And yet it's, it's been hard when we see how expensive it is especially taxes. State income taxes & property taxes uh, we saw a big jump in & we all feel um...our property taxes going up & we need to keep putting pressure on Springfield uh, & learning what is working at other states, edge to make sure that we have great quality schools uh, but lower our property taxes affordability & homes. A couple of thoughts, certainly uh, making sure that people can get loans, uh, if they do want to buy a home & they have the ability to buy that. Holding on to be able to go & get a loan to do that. We saw a real struggle for quite a few years uh, in the last decade where it was difficult for people to purchase a home. And a lot of that was because the only entities making loans were huge huge banks really just don't work communities & don't have that much of an interest in our local communities, so that's where I do think it is important to have local community banks, who can make uh, home loans that they can have the ability to make a judgment call, about the types of home loans they had a make. That I do not come from Washington DC being able to make those decision. The other thing I think is really important is uh, it doesn'tbring down the cost but I think it makes it more affordable asare going up as more & more people are making more money uh, has the economy is growing & people are making career wages uh, that is something helpful for people to be able to purchase a home & then afford to stay in the home. So uh, I want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to make sure that we grow the economy. And to have that option.....

Most likely tomorrow we are still a lot of amendments that have to get through that are to be next week. I have been supportive of snap, I do a lot of stuff with our local food banks. We have got amazing food banks in each of our counties. Northern Illinois food bank is phenomenal. My family & I go & volunteer there & hunger is still a huge problem. I do think it's important where we can, to encourage people to be trying to work, so certainly want snap to be strong, but I also think it's important for someone who is able to, who is younger age, who doesn't have young children, to encourage them to be working, or looking for work. And uh, I don't think it's too much to ask people to be pursuing a job & especially as I've seen the number one problem in our district, has flipped in the last couple of years, from really really high unemployment, to now the biggest challenge is uh, companies looking for more companies to come & look for them. So it's qualified work force, people who will come & you, this work into these jobs, so there is tons of jobs that are still open that are going unfilled literally millions of jobs that are going unfilled, & so my hope is that we have programs like snap that absolutely are there, working well for people who are in extreme poverty. People who are frail elderly or who have young children, we want those programs to do very very well, uh, & to be there for them but for people who are able to work we want to encourage that. I think that's, it's, they change that they are talking about we will see how the final version looks, but it's again for able-bodied people who aren't elderly, uh, or uh, close to retirement, or also don't have young children at home uh, to encourage them to work 20 hours a week, uh, I think that is something that is not too much to ask. And it is I think something that is make sense & ultimately is good for people. One of the things that it does break my heart is how as people stay, are unemployed for a long period of time, the longer you are unemployed the more difficult it is to find work, uh, & to get back into um...into the workforce & so anything that we can do to encourage people, especially now, because the economy is so strong, those were able to, & there is great opportunities with workforce development, with our community colleges, with a lot of companies who will pay for any kind of certification that someone would need to be able to come & work for them. The opportunities have literally never been better to be able to get out & find, great work that can provide for them, that truly can be career paying uh, opportunity, with just upside potential, growth in network, opportunity for them to be able to provide for their families,

to be able to save for their own future, to be able to give back to the communities, & to things that they believe in. So that is really what I want to see happen, & that's really the only changes that I see happening to the snap program is putting back some form of work requirements of relatively small number of hours to 20 hours a week for people who are able-bodied, & you know don't have those other things that are kind of keeping them from being able to work.

(New voice) Okay I think we have time for one more question. If your question is not answered you can leave a message for the congressman & we would be happy to get back with you. This next question is from Eddie in Plainfield. Could you repeat your question for the congressman?

(10) Yes. Hi congressman. Right along the lines of what I was going to ask us about our taxes, why they are so high at the state, federal, local levels. In the hidden taxes like gasoline & other products, that you buy, that by the time you get through with paying your taxes, you are lucky if you have 50% income that you earn from working so hard. And I had some more comments about & you answered those. I am a veteran, retired & since I am not going to ask a continuation question I have one more about the veterans, & if it's if you don't mind me throwing that in there I didn't clear that with your people. I spent 22 years in the military to earn my military retirement. During my service putting my life on the line I was in war zones & everything else. To earn that retirement. During my service I sustained some injuries and have gotten at 20% disability. And a 20% disability is paid by the VA, to me at a tax-free rate which is great, but then, my retirement pay that I spent the 22 years putting my life on the line for, gets reduced by the amount that the VA pays me & I don't think that's fair, because I spend 22 years & there to earn that percentage of retirement & then just to have well your 20% disability, we are going to give you a little money, give you a small tax break, but when then we are going to reduce your retirement benefits by that same amount of money. It's not fair. You are basically robbing from Peter to pay Paul, & the veterans, who are injured, & retired, are not really receiving any benefits, extra benefits, further service injuries. By the time that, because if you pay one and reduce the other, it's still the same money. What, What's the difference. There's no benefits there. So if you could address that, or maybe address that at a later time, or address that with me I would be grateful.

(New voice) Eddie thank you again for your service & I am sorry again for your injuries but thank you so much for serving our country. We would love to help. Again that doesn't make sense to me & we want to find out if there are changes that we could help specifically for your case. But my, if you're facing this there is other veterans that are facing the same situation. You know you are right it doesn't make sense to me, if one benefit is cutting away from another benefit that you would already been receiving, it's not really a benefit. So we would like to help. Again I would need more specifics if you can maybe follow up with our office. I mentioned uh, Craig Gentleman who is one of our great constituent service folks, he's a wounded veteran himself & just knows this process so well & really knows how to help our veterans as he is one & has gone through an injury himself. So I think I mentioned it before but it's craig.gentlemen@mail.house.gov so if you could maybe either call or email Craig. Let me say one more thing about the taxes, I would love to see us make taxes permanent again the one thing again the senate version came over was it didn't have permanent for individuals. It was 5 years & cosponsor, on legislation that one of my colleagues from Illinois Rodney Davis has sponsored to make individual tax cuts on the federal tax cuts & job creation act to make this permanent. So my hope is that we will do that & we will keep pushing for it & there needs to be that confidence there for individuals & small businesses, that it's not going to get pulled away from them uh, 5 years from now, so my hope is that we will move forward & sponsor of that and will support that as it happens.

Let me thank you all so much for getting on the call with us tonight. It's such a privilege to be able to serve you, to be able to represent you. I love to hear from you & even when we disagree on stuff, I know, I want you to know I respect you. I want to hear from you. I want to learn from you and uh I take that very seriously this responsibility that I have to be your representative, to be your voice in Washington DC. So I want to do everything I can to fight for you, whether we agree on each thing or not, to continue to hopefully fight for good things, for our district, or for freedom liberty on

opportunity for every single family. That's what I see, what happened things are joining us. If every can be of any help please reach out to us, give us a call, come meet with us, we would love to have a chance to be able to hear more specifically issues that you have, or ideas that you have for things that we can be helpful with. Thank you for being on the call & thank you for the privilege of for me to be able to serve you. It means so much. And I'm grateful. With that, Jamison, hand it back to you.

(New voice) thanks randy & again thank you for foining this congressional conference call & if you are not be able to answer a question please stay on the line & you will be able to leave a message. We will be able to happy to assist you or pass along any.... And the staff as you interact with the federal government please don't hesitate to call our district office at 630-584-2734. Or you can email randy through his Hultgren.house.gov, thank you everyone. Have a great evening.

