Lipinski Opposes Trade Deals that Will Cost American Jobs, Demands Action Against China's Currency Manipulation

As part of his commitment to standing up for American workers and manufacturers, Congressman Lipinski recently voted against job-killing free-trade agreements with South Korea and Colombia. The deals, which were first negotiated and agreed to by President Bush, were sent to Congress by President Obama in October. On the House Floor, the Congressman made the following statement: "Expanding a NAFTA-style trade agenda that has already helped destroy 5 million manufacturing jobs when 25 million Americans are unemployed or underemployed is absurd. Time and again, we've seen supporters of these kinds of agreements assure us that they'll be just a job, only to watch as more American factories shut down and canned. Manufacturers in my district know this, workers in my district know this, that Congress and the President want blind to it."

The Congressman is also pursuing House Republican leaders to permit a vote on legislation allowing tariffs against currency manipulators such as China, which illegally acts to keep its currency undervalued so that Chinese goods are cheaper here. 

But while others waste time and fail to deliver for the middle class, actively promoting job growth, Congressman Lipinski works hard and does his part to move the country forward – just as they do. That is why I am standing up for the middle class, actively promoting job growth, and helping to make life better for my constituents.

Dear Neighbor, 

American need action that promotes job creation in the short term while restoring our nation’s long-term economic strength and fiscal solvency. Instead, Washington is delivering bickering and gridlock. The only exception hardly was when a majority in Congress joined with the President to pass job-creating, NAFTA-style trade agreements. It is no wonder public approval of Congress is at an all-time low.

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Congressional Assistance

My staff is available to assist you with:

- Social Security and Medicare
- Veterans’ benefits and military service
- Military Academy appointments
- Immigration and naturalization
- Mail delivery problems
- IRS problems
- Planning trips to Washington D.C.
- Ordaining a U.S. Capitol Big

Call Washington toll-free at 866-822-5701 or Chicago at 312-788-4401, or visit www.lipinski.house.gov.

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For more details, see the back page or visit www.lipinski.house.gov.
Administration Ends New Health Care Law Program, Echoing Lipinski’s Charge that Provision Was Fiscally Unsound

The admission by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that a new program created under last year’s health care law is fiscally unsustainable and cannot be made to work confirms what Congressman Lipinski said about the program and the health care law from the very beginning. In October, Secretary Sebelius halted implementation of the CLASS Act, a well-intentioned but ill-conceived program of long-term care insurance that experts agreed would eventually add tens of billions of dollars to the deficit with each passing decade. Under the law, the program was required to be self-supporting. Even before he voted against the health care law, Congressman Lipinski (picturing his work with a constituent repeatedly stated that the CLASS Act was a fiscal disaster waiting to happen. He also took action in March to save taxpayers from having to bail out the program by helping to introduce the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility and Retirement Security Act, H.R. 1175, to end the CLASS Act.

Seniors to Receive 3.6% Social Security Cost-of-Living Increase Next Year

After two years without an increase in their Social Security benefits despite surging costs for food, gasoline, and health care, seniors will receive a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment in 2012. This is good news, but the fact remains that the “urban wage earners” index used to measure inflation and calculate benefits is flawed. Congressman Lipinski has helped to introduce a bill to require the federal government to create a new measure of cost increases specifically faced by seniors. Washington needs to understand the reality that seniors face to pay their taxes and medical bills.

Lipinski Leads Successful Effort to Preserve Service on Metra’s Southwest Service Line

In September, Congressman Lipinski was able to defeat a proposal to end weekend service and reduce weekday service on the Southwest Service line. Using雄厚 instrumentality in establishing weekend service on the line in 2009, the Congressman led 21 suburban mayors and Chicago aldermen in sending a letter to Metra’s Board of Directors opposing a proposal that would have eliminated all six weekend trains and reduced weekday service, even as eight other Metra lines faced cuts. While disenfranchising Third District riders and increasing traffic on our already crowded roads, the Southwest Service cut would have saved less than one-tenth of one percent of Metra’s operating budget. At the time of this writing, Metra Board has yet to vote on proposed fare increase. Congressman Lipinski continues to urge Metra to maximize all avenues for reducing its budget deficit while preserving service and avoiding steep fare increases that can continue to erode the support of our communities at a time when many families are struggling to make ends meet.

Lipinski Helps Break Ground on Major Rail Project to Create Jobs, Ease Metra Delays, and Boost Local Economy

Last month, Congressman Lipinski helped break ground on the long-planned Englewood Flyover, which will create nearly 1,500 jobs, reduce Metra delays for Third District riders, and boost long-term economic growth as part of the CREATE rail modernization program. The Congressman helped obtain $135 million in federal funding for the flyover, which is a bridge to carry Metra’s Rock Island line over the Norfolk Southern/Amtrak tracks in Chicago. Currently, approximately 140 Metra, Amtrak, and freight trains clog the intersection daily, producing long delays. In addition to immediately reducing delays for Rock Island riders, the flyover is the critical first step toward eliminating delays on Metra’s Southwest Service. In total, 40,000 people ride these Metra lines each weekday, keeping traffic off local streets and highways. As part of CREATE, the flyover will also boost long-term job creation by helping to untangle Chicago’s aging freight rail system and ensure northwestern Illinois remains America’s transportation hub.

Lipinski Works to Strengthen America’s Economic Growth Through His Jobs Plan

In June, Congressman Lipinski released a five-point Jobs Plan to put people back to work by strengthening manufacturing, modernizing our infrastructure, improving education and workforce training, levelling the international playing field, and investing in American innovation. One of the critical elements of the plan is his National Manufacturing Strategy Act, H.R. 1366, which will revitalize manufacturing by requiring the government to work with the private sector to develop specific goals and policies for promoting American manufacturing success and producing jobs. Last year, the bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. This year, the bill continues to attract bipartisan backing, and the Congressman has been reaching across the aisle to see that it again receives a vote in the House and to build support in the Senate.

Lipinski Helps Job Fair to Help Get Third District Residents Back to Work

Helping Americans get back to work is Congressman Lipinski’s top priority. As part of his efforts, he recently hosted a Job Fair in Bridgeview that gave hundreds of job seekers a chance to meet with dozen local employers that are currently hiring. While working in Washington to promote policies that encourage job growth nationally, the Congressman has continued to promote employment and job creation locally, including connecting tens of workers with businesses that are hiring despite the rough economic times.

Lipinski Votes for Bipartisan Compromise to Reduce the Deficit

In August, Congressman Lipinski voted for the compromise agreement to cut the deficit and avoid a government default that would have damaged the fragile economy and hampered job creation. The final bill provides for a minimum of $1.2 trillion in deficit reduction and will force Congress to vote on an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced budget (Congressman Lipinski is cosponsoring two versions of a balanced budget amendment). Like many Americans, the Congressman was deeply frustrated by the posturing that occurred in Washington and that repeatedly delayed negotiations until the last minute. If we are to continue efforts to score political points, Congress could have reached an agreement sooner and focused on jobs rather than the debt ceiling. Going forward, the Congressman will continue to support responsible deficit reduction while preserving critical investments for the middle class, seniors, and veterans.

Seniors to Receive 3.6% Social Security Cost-of-Living Increase Next Year

After two years without an increase in their Social Security benefits despite surging costs for food, gasoline, and health care, seniors will receive a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment in 2012. This is good news, but the fact remains that the “urban wage earners” index used to measure inflation and calculate benefits is flawed. Congressman Lipinski has helped to introduce a bill to require the federal government to create a new measure of cost increases specifically faced by seniors. Washington needs to understand the reality that seniors face to pay their taxes and medical bills.

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