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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2013

TODD ROKITA
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

ROKITA.HOUSE.GOV

Carl

Danville, IN

Dear

Thank you for attending my Danville Town Hall event on September 3, 2013. I appreciate you giving me the chance to address your questions.

First, I am extremely concerned about the way this administration handled the tragedy in Benghazi. I believe this administration absolutely failed our diplomats and security personnel in Benghazi. I also believe officials sought to cover up this failure by lying about the nature of the terrorist attack. It is clear this was not a spontaneous attack that stemmed from a YouTube video, and it is also clear that this administration did not do nearly enough to ensure the safety of Ambassador Stevens and the other American personnel.

We must continue to pursue the facts, including what prompted the attack, how U.S. officials reacted to the attack, and the administration's response in the attack's aftermath. I believe the American people, and especially the victims of this tragedy, deserve the truth.

In addition to the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I also cosponsored H. Res. 36, introduced by Representative Frank Wolf of Virginia on January 18, 2013, calling for a Select Committee to investigate and report on the terror attack in Benghazi.

Second, I am very skeptical that we need to intervene militarily in Syria for a number of reasons. It is clear that what is happening in Syria is a terrible tragedy. However, it is not clear to me how this tragedy affects the United States, or how effective a military strike will be in preventing further bloodshed in Syria. Furthermore, it is important to remember that many of the people fighting in this conflict, on both sides, are self-professed enemies of the United States. Intervening when neither side is supportive of the United States is a dangerous use of our precious resources.

As you know, the president has requested Congress postpone any action authorizing military force in Syria until diplomatic channels are exhausted. While I believe this most recent turn of events, and especially the incoherent way the president

shifted from plan to another, demonstrates his failure of leadership, please know that I will continue to press the administration for answers regarding U.S. intervention in Syria. Congress has a duty to carefully consider and account for the true cost of war, including human and financial costs, before putting American servicemen and women in harm's way.

Finally, I believe we need to roll back ObamaCare in every way possible, including defunding the law altogether. While the House has been successful in repealing and defunding parts of the law, more work is needed. Since elected to Congress, I have voted to repeal, delay, or defund all or parts of ObamaCare forty times.

Unfortunately, due to the legislative tricks that were used to pass the law, much of the funding for ObamaCare was appropriated in advance, making it much more difficult to cut off the funding streams. That said, I am committed to defunding and repealing ObamaCare, and will use every opportunity to do so. That is why I have signed the letter led by Representative Mark Meadows urging Leadership to defund ObamaCare and signed on as a cosponsor to Representative Graves' H.R. 2682, the Defund ObamaCare Act.

Again, thank you for attending my Danville Town Hall event. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

TR/tb