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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2013

TODD ROKITA  
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE

ROKITA.HOUSE.GOV

Sandra

Logansport, IN

Dear

Thank you for attending my Logansport Congress on Your Corner event on August 19, 2013. I would like to address your questions regarding issues of importance to you and your husband. In order to address each concern specifically, I have numbered them accordingly.

1. **ObamaCare** – 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.

2. **Debt Ceiling** – With a national debt approaching \$17 trillion, cutting spending is essential to deficit reduction. Washington's out of control spending is immoral, and it demonstrates complete disregard for our kids and grandkids. As we consider appropriate federal spending levels over the next several months, and whether to increase the debt ceiling, please be assured I will continue fighting to protect future generations from irresponsible debt.
3. **Common Core** – The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers in consultation with parents, teachers, and community leaders. Nearly all of the states, including Indiana, have adopted these new, voluntary, education standards. As you may know, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation earlier this year to "pause" the implementation of the CCSS and conduct a further review of the standards' impact.

**I fully support the rights of the states to determine whether or not to adopt the CCSS.** As Chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I am working hard to restore state and local control of our public schools. On July 19, 2013, the House passed H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, which I introduced with Chairman John Kline. This bill explicitly prohibits the federal department of

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- 4. U.N. Disabilities Treaty** – As you may know, the United Nation's (U.N.) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was voted down by the Senate in December of 2012. While the U.N. serves a purpose, I do not believe they should interfere with U.S. sovereignty over matters of domestic policy. That being said, the Constitution grants the Senate the power to ratify treaties. I encourage you to contact Senator Dan Coats and Senator Joe Donnelly with your views regarding this treaty
- 5. Unions** – I support the rights of workers to hold secret ballots to determine whether or not to unionize. I will reject any legislation that could lead to forced unionization. Workers should not be threatened or intimidated by management to unionize.
- 6. Housing** – I understand the housing market is crucial to our recovering economy. Homeownership is part of the American dream, and Congress should be careful not to discourage home buying and construction. Please be assured I will keep your views in mind should legislation regarding "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" come before me.
- 7. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)** – I certainly share your concern about the NLRB and its current board members. When the President first appointed these individuals, I immediately wrote a letter to him, signed by a number of my colleagues, calling this action for what it was – unconstitutional. I was pleased when the U.S. Appeals Court ruled that these 'recess' appointments to NLRB were, in fact, unconstitutional.

You may be pleased to know that I co-authored, along with my colleague Representative Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania H.R. 557. This legislation prevents those individuals purportedly appointed to the NLRB from receiving salaries, and prevents an unconstitutional quorum of the Board from taking agency actions, until there is a final decision in any pending lawsuit regarding the constitutionality of these alleged recess appointments. Please be assured, I am looking at all options to ensure the NLRB is held accountable and kept in check.

- 8. Judicial Appointments** – While I certainly appreciate and share your concern with President Obama's judicial nominees, federal judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As a Member of the House of Representatives, I do not

should not be spent on abortions or fund organizations that actively encourage the practice. As long as Planned Parenthood is promoting and performing abortions, they should not receive taxpayer support.

- 11. National Security Agency (NSA)** – I am extremely concerned that the NSA's massive collection of data is a violation of our Fourth Amendment rights. I have been an outspoken advocate for protecting our constitutional freedoms, and this case is no exception. In response to these NSA surveillance programs, I introduced H.R. 2475, with Representative Adam Schiff. This bill, which has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, requires greater transparency on the law governing NSA surveillance programs. Specifically, it requires the Attorney General to declassify significant Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) opinions, which will make clear to the public whether the court is correctly interpreting the PATRIOT Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

H.R. 2475 provides the needed oversight and transparency to ensure our constitutional rights are guarded. However, it does so in a way that does not compromise specific security techniques. Please be assured I share your concern with the activity of the NSA and will continue fighting to protect your constitutional freedoms while maintaining national security.

- 12. Benghazi** – I am extremely concerned about the way this administration the tragedy in Benghazi. 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.

I believe this administration 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. Please be assured I will continue pushing this administration for the truth and hold all responsible individuals accountable.

Again, thank you for attending my Logansport Congress on Your Corner event. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress

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