



CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI

Representing the Third District



FALL UPDATE | 111TH CONGRESS

Dear Neighbor,

These are tough times for many Americans. Like you, I am frustrated not only with where we are but with how we got here. In the year since the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout passed, many big financial institutions have made record profits while millions of Americans have lost their jobs. The stimulus bill passed earlier this year will spend another \$789 billion, but as I predicted, it has failed to provide enough help to hard-working middle-class Americans.

With unemployment still rising and other hardships continuing, I am fighting to put people back to work, protect American jobs, and improve the quality of life in the Third District. My top priority has always been to defend your interests in Washington and oppose misguided proposals by out-of-touch politicians so that our government works for middle-class Americans, not against them. This newsletter is designed to inform you of all that I am doing to help make life better in our communities.

To share your concerns or to receive help with Medicare, Social Security, Veterans' Benefits, or other federal issues, please come to my Town Hall Meeting on November 14 in Oak Lawn (see reverse for details). If you cannot attend, do not hesitate to contact me at one of my offices. It is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Dan Lipinski

CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI HOSTS TOWN HALL

Saturday, November 14 ■ Oak Lawn High School

See reverse for more details.

Lipinski Gathers Federal and State Leaders to Announce Central Avenue Bypass Funding



Thanks to Congressman Lipinski's determined efforts, the start of construction on the Central Avenue Bypass has never been closer. As a result of his work with state leaders, Illinois' new capital bill includes \$60 million for the Bypass. At the announcement of the funding (pictured above), Lipinski was joined by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan, and Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig, all of whom declared their strong support for the Bypass. With a total of \$170 million set aside for the Bypass, the Illinois Department of Transportation will now be able to complete pre-construction work. IDOT says this work could be finished and construction could start in a few years. The Bypass, which has been discussed for more than three decades, will connect Central Avenue through the rail yard in Bedford Park. By providing a badly needed north-south route in the three-mile gap between heavily congested Harlem and Cicero Avenues, it will sharply reduce travel times and spur economic development.

Lipinski Continues Fight to Reform Health Care

Since entering Congress, Congressman Lipinski has made it a top priority to reform our health care system so it works for the well-being of all Americans, not just for the profits of the health care industry. The rapidly rising cost of health care is placing an extraordinary burden on individuals, businesses, and the government. Families need health care, but they are struggling to afford it, especially in these very tough economic times.



Lipinski discusses health care with constituents at a town hall meeting.

It is clear that we need health insurance reform, including laws forbidding discrimination based on pre-existing conditions or dropping coverage for someone who becomes sick; as a diabetic, Congressman Lipinski understands this very well. But effective reform must improve the performance of all participants, including insurers, drug companies, hospitals, non-hospital medical centers, doctors, and long-term care facilities.

This is the only way that we can accomplish the two key goals of reform – reining in the skyrocketing cost of health care and facilitating insurance coverage for all Americans – without adding a dime to the deficit or compromising quality of care.

Congressman Lipinski continues to be very active in the health care debate, authoring a number of bills to improve the system, including:

H.R. 2566 Increases competition and lowers prices by requiring hospitals to disclose the prices they charge.

H.R. 2917 Eliminates the tax break that drug companies receive for advertising to consumers and promoting their drugs to doctors, saving billions annually.

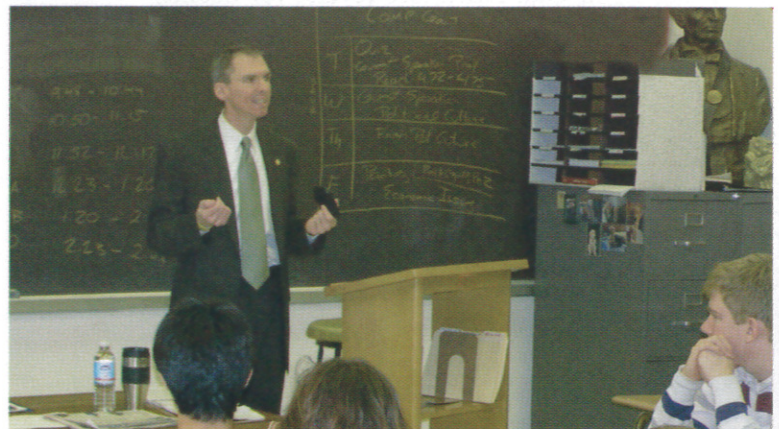
H.R. 3205 Eliminates the tax break that health insurance companies receive for advertising.

He also helped introduce H.R. 684 to save up to \$700 billion in Medicare drug costs, and supports eliminating the health insurance industry's exemption from federal anti-trust laws, which could increase competition and help lower insurance premiums.

As of this writing in mid-October, no bill had come to a vote in the House. Congressman Lipinski will continue to scrutinize the various health care reform proposals and fight to improve our health care system and protect hard-working Third District residents. Health care reform is needed, but it must be done right.

Helping to Make College More Affordable

As a former teacher, Congressman Lipinski is dedicated to improving American education and recently helped pass the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This bill takes billions of dollars that would otherwise go to bank profits and uses the money to increase federal student aid. Even before our economy fell into recession, many students and families were having a tough time paying for college. For the future of our children and our country, it is critical that we make college affordable for middle-class Americans.



Lipinski talks to students at Lyons Township High School about the importance of education.

Lipinski Seeks to End the Misguided Bailout



Lipinski meets with constituents and discusses his opposition to the bailout.

Congressman Lipinski voted three times against the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout, known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program. A year later, his predictions about the bill have unfortunately come to pass. We still don't know what the banks have done with the billions they were given, executives at bailed-out firms have taken home huge paychecks, foreign banks received taxpayer money, reforms have not been passed, and – most importantly –

“We don't even know where the money went,” says Rep. Daniel Lipinski, who recently called for TARP assistance to end in December.
— *USA Today*, Oct. 21

unemployment continues to grow. Yet some big financial institutions still live by the slogan “Heads we win, tails the taxpayers lose.” We must stop bailing out these banks and enact tough regulations to prevent further recklessness by Wall Street.

Lipinski Focuses on Job Creation

Thousands of Third District residents are out of work or have seen their hours and wages cut. Just as they continue to fight for their share of the American Dream, Congressman Lipinski is fighting for them and to make sure more do not suffer their fate. He has introduced a bipartisan bill to help restore the flow of credit to manufacturers, cosponsored legislation to stop illegal currency manipulation by foreign nations that costs American jobs, and led 28 members of the House of Representatives in demanding that any climate change legislation include vital protections for American manufacturers. Having brought home \$126 million in the last federal transportation bill, he is working to pass a new transportation bill *now* to put people to work rebuilding our infrastructure. He also continues to lead the fight for Buy American legislation so our tax dollars are spent at home. Meanwhile, with six unemployed for every job opening, he recognizes how difficult life is for many and has voted to extend unemployment benefits

to help those struggling to find work. Congressman Lipinski is focused on ensuring America rebuilds its economy on a foundation of real profits, not creative accounting, financial sleight-of-hand, and mountains of debt.



Lipinski recently toured Electro-Motive Diesel, a leading manufacturer of locomotives that employs 1,600 people in La Grange.

Lipinski Joins with State Leaders to Secure \$300 Million to Reduce Local Gridlock and Fix Rails

Congressman Lipinski's work with state leaders helped to secure \$300 million in Illinois' new capital bill for the CREATE rail modernization program, which will reduce congestion in and around Chicago while creating jobs and improving safety. CREATE includes the construction of a number of overpasses and underpasses where traffic currently gets blocked by trains. Other work will improve Metra service and help reduce idling by trains that creates pollution and noise. Every day, 1,200 trains pass through the Chicago area, supporting 38,000 jobs, but if improvements are not made the region could miss out on 17,000 new jobs. The only Chicagoland member of the powerful House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Lipinski previously obtained \$100 million in federal funding for CREATE and is seeking more in the next federal transportation bill.



Lipinski toured CREATE project sites with U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood (left) and Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig (right).



Relief from Train Horns is Coming

A quiet zone will soon prevent trains from sounding their horns except in emergencies at eight crossings in Riverside, North Riverside, and Berwyn. Rep. Lipinski played a pivotal role in creating this quiet zone – which is on track to be in place early next year – and is working on creating a similar quiet zone in Oak Lawn.

safety, reduce boarding and de-boarding times, and help prevent baggage-compartment overcrowding that unfairly results in some people being forced to gate-check their bag. Already this year, the House has passed legislation he authored that could result in airlines being forced to compensate passengers whose checked bags are delayed. In addition to working to crack down on airlines that strand passengers on the runway for hours in unsanitary conditions, Congressman Lipinski (pictured at left with Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Costello and Chicago Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino) has focused on safety at Midway Airport, helping to secure \$30 million for arrestor beds to prevent aircraft from overshooting the runway.

Lipinski Works to Improve Air Travel and Aviation Safety

National newspapers have hailed Congressman Lipinski's work on air travel and passenger safety, with the *L.A. Times* calling him "a leading passenger rights advocate." A *New York Times* editorial praised his bill to standardize limits on the size of carry-on baggage as "a plan worth lining up behind." This bill would increase

L.A. Times:
"Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) [is] a leading passenger rights advocate."

Congressman Lipinski's Legislative Leadership

Lipinski has authored legislation that would:

- Eliminate the tax breaks for advertising and promotion by pharmaceutical and health insurance companies, saving taxpayers at least \$43 billion over 10 years. (H.R. 2917/3205)
- Force hospitals to disclose the prices they charge for common procedures and medications, helping drive down health care costs through competition. (H.R. 2566)
- Help manufacturers create jobs by providing access to much-needed credit through a loan guarantee program at no additional cost to taxpayers. (H.R. 2936)
- Standardize limits on the size of carry-on baggage for air passengers, increasing safety and reducing baggage-compartment crowding that causes delays and unfairly forces some to gate-check their bags. (H.R. 2870)

Lipinski is cosponsoring legislation that would:

- Require complete, plain-language disclosure by health insurance providers of what their plans do and do not cover. (H.R. 2427)
- Place a fee on speculative oil trading, which will raise billions of dollars to improve our nation's transportation infrastructure and help lower gas prices. (H.R. 3379)
- Crack down on illegal currency manipulation by China and other nations that hurts American workers. (H.R. 2378)
- Strengthen the Medicare Prescription Drug Program by requiring the government to negotiate better prices with pharmaceutical companies. (H.R. 684)
- Require House legislation be available online for 72 hours before a vote so the public can be informed. (H. Res. 554)



Congressman Lipinski discusses Medicare and the need to lower prescription drug prices with a local senior.



Congressman Lipinski believes that in addition to curbing speculation that increases oil and gas prices, we must seek alternative energy sources. Here, he discusses solar technology with Richard Rioux, president of IBEW Local 134, during a tour of IBEW-NECA Technical Institute in Alsip, where workers receive extensive training in installing solar panels.

Congressional Assistance

My staff is available to assist you with:

- Social Security and Medicare
- Veterans' benefits and military service
- Military Academy appointments
- Obtaining a U.S. passport
- Student financial aid
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Immigration and naturalization
- Mail delivery problems
- IRS problems
- Consumer protection issues
- Planning trips to Washington D.C.
- Ordering a U.S. Capitol flag

Call Washington toll-free at 866-822-5701
or Chicago at 312-886-0481, or visit
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3rd Congressional District

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Lipinski Brings Home Millions for Local Projects

Congressman Lipinski has secured tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for local projects and organizations. Recent funding he has obtained includes:

- \$550,000 for Saint Xavier University for technology for its new library (pending final approval)
- \$500,000 to renovate Stone Avenue Metra Station in La Grange (pending final approval)
- \$125,000 for the Hickory Hills Police Department (pending final approval)
- \$225,000 for an emergency generator and 9-1-1 equipment for La Grange Park
- \$165,072 for Seguin Services in Cicero to help the disabled
- \$150,000 for the Valentine Boys & Girls Club of Chicago for after-school programs (pending final approval)
- \$190,000 to renovate a park/playground in the Mt. Greenwood area
- \$143,000 for Catholic Charities in Chicago to aid homeless veterans



Lipinski breaks ground with local mayors on Harlem Avenue streetscaping paid for with a \$3.28 million federal grant he obtained.

TOWN HALL MEETING Hosted by Congressman Lipinski

Saturday, November 14, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Oak Lawn Community High School Gym
9400 Southwest Highway
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Starting one hour before the meeting, staff will assist constituents with Social Security and other federal issues.

Congressional assistance is available at these offices:

6245 South Archer Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60638 312-886-0481
5309 West 95th St. Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 708-424-0853

19 West Hillgrove Ave. La Grange, Illinois 60525 708-352-0524



Congressman Lipinski secured \$190,000 in federal money for educational programs for the Oak Lawn Children's Museum.