

KIDS COME FIRST

Kirk Leads Efforts to Expand Stem Cell Research

More than 50 kids from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation made a surprise visit to Congressman Kirk's office to thank him for his support of expanded stem cell research.



Congressman Kirk led a coalition of 45 moderate members of Congress to rally support and pass the historic Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. If the bill becomes law, stem cells that would have been discarded could open new lines of research funded by the National Institutes of Health. One hundred million Americans suffer from diseases like Parkinson's, diabetes or Alzheimer's that might be treated using stem cell therapies. Backed by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the bill should be signed into law as soon as possible. **Congressman Kirk voted to override President Bush's veto of the bill.**

Kirk Working to Protect Kids From Online Predators

After learning that pedophiles turned popular social networking Web sites like MySpace into "virtual hunting grounds," Congressman Kirk is leading efforts to have the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) require these sites to better monitor and protect online users. Kirk's efforts led the FTC to issue two consumer alerts: one for kids and one for parents. One in five children receives unwanted sexual advances online. Social networking sites contain web pages for tens of millions of American children. Using the anonymity of the Internet, pedophiles are preying on unsuspecting kids.



Congressman Kirk with his Student Leadership Advisory Board — composed of Tenth District high school junior and senior class presidents — who helped produce television Public Service Announcements aimed at warning parents about the dangers of online social networking sites.

PIONEER PRESS

Schools Tackle Internet Safety

Worried expressions and startled gasps filled a meeting room at the Bannockburn Village Hall during a program on Internet safety aimed at parents of local school children... The Student Leadership Advisory Board, a group of class presidents from Lake Forest, Highland Park, Stevenson and Vernon Hills high schools that meets regularly with U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, made three public service announcements last week to broadcast on the Comcast cable network in May. "The messages were simple," said Andrew Adair, senior class president at Stevenson. "The main idea is that teenagers need to be careful with the information and/or pictures they put out on the Internet, and that parents need to help make sure their children are safe."

April 27, 2006

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Kirk Legislation Will End Sewage Dumping in Lake Michigan

Congressman Kirk introduced the *Great Lakes Water Protection Act* to set a federal deadline to ban sewage dumping in the Great Lakes. The bipartisan legislation imposes strict fines for violations and promotes the construction of water projects to protect the drinking water for 28 million Americans.

Concerned by over 145 beach closings in his district last summer, the congressman introduced the legislation saying, "It is time to ban dumping in Lake Michigan. While Chicago upgraded its sewage infrastructure, Milwaukee continues to dump untreated sewage into our lake. I am proud to join with Republican and Democratic leaders to advance this needed environmental reform." Kirk was joined by Congressman Dan Lipinski and leaders from the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Sierra Club and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago who support the bill.



Congressman Kirk was joined by leaders from the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the Sierra Club as he announced legislation that will ban sewage dumping in the Great Lakes.

EDITORIAL: Make lake clean

PIONEER PRESS

School's out. Summer's in. The perfect time for a day at the beach and a dip in the lake. Only you can't take a dip in the lake because the water in Lake Michigan might very well make you sick.

This happened 613 times in 2004. That's the number of beach closings for that year, up from 213 beach closings in 2003.

A major culprit in the poisoning of Lake Michigan is the municipalities that dump sewage into the lake. Lest we forget, Lake Michigan not only is a recreational resource, it is the source of our drinking water. **U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, of Highland Park summed it up bluntly when he said, "We must put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply."**

Kirk and U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-3rd, of Chicago, introduced legislation last week aimed at eliminating the dumping of sewage into Lake Michigan.

Among the supporters of the Great Lakes Water Protection Act are the Alliance of the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, Lake Forest Open Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Wilderness Society and the North Shore Sanitary District.

The legislation has our support, too, and we hope, yours.

July 6, 2006

Environmental Stewardship

Congressman Kirk continues to lead efforts in the Congress to protect our environment and quality of life. His work includes:

- Author – *Great Lakes Water Protection Act*
- Author – *Mercury Pollution Reduction Act*
- Original co-sponsor – *Great Lakes Restoration Act*
- Co-sponsor – *Save Our Waters from Sewage Act*
- Awarded Medal of Courage by Alaska Coalition for protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Congress
- Secured transfer of Ft. Sheridan Bluffs to environmental trust
- Secured funding for environmental cleanup of Waukegan Harbor
- Original co-sponsor – *Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act*



A SUBURBAN AGENDA

Kirk Leading Family-Focused Agenda for Congress

Recognizing that suburban families face a number of critical problems, Congressman Kirk is leading a 60-member Suburban Agenda Caucus in the House. As chairman of the Suburban Agenda Caucus, Kirk and caucus members worked for six months to design an agenda for Congress to meet key priorities in education, health care, economic growth and conservation.

“American families are focused on keeping their kids safe, securing a strong financial future, preserving the natural beauty of their community and ensuring healthcare coverage — our Suburban Agenda addresses these critical issues.”

Congressman Mark Kirk

“Drug gangs are moving to our suburban communities, thousands of online predators are trying to contact our kids, green and open space is rapidly disappearing from our neighborhoods, and millions of Americans worry that it may be more difficult for their children to enter the middle class than it was for us. Suburban families have shared their concerns and they deserve a voice in the Congress,” said Kirk during an event in Washington to announce the Suburban Agenda.

Congressman Kirk visited the Kohl’s Children’s Museum in Glenview to observe students from the Andrew Cooke Magnet School in Waukegan were participating in their Early Childhood Connections Program.



The Suburban Agenda

Our Families

Our Communities

Our Commitment



- ✓ **The School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act** (H.R. 4894) links state and national criminal databases to make sure pedophiles are not hired as teachers or coaches.
- ✓ **401 Kids Family Savings Act** (H.R. 5314) establishes savings for kids from birth to pay for education or to purchase a first home.
- ✓ **Health Insurance for Life Act** (H.R. 5740) extends the rights of people to continue their health insurance indefinitely under COBRA.
- ✓ **Delete Online Predators Act** (H.R. 5319) protects children from online predators especially on social networking sites such as MySpace.
- ✓ **Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act** (H.R. 5313) establishes local grant programs to protect suburban open space.
- ✓ **Gang Elimination Act of 2006** (H.R. 5291) requires the Justice Department to identify and take down the nation’s top three major drug gangs.

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SURVEY SAID

Over a thousand people responded to our recent key issues survey and we thank you for your thoughtful input. Below find a summary of your replies:

91% Supported reforms that would enable school districts to review pedophile databases before hiring teachers and coaches. Four percent opposed this as violating job applicant privacy rights.

84% Agreed that Congress should raise the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all cars to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. Fourteen percent opposed this as an unneeded burden on auto makers and unions.

65% Supported the creation of 401(Kids) tax-deferred savings accounts to fund a child's college education or first-time home purchase. Twenty percent opposed this for deficit reasons.

48% Did not like either major option related to immigration reform – granting amnesty or deportation. While 19% supported amnesty, 32% supported arresting illegal aliens for deportation.

70% Believed teachers should be given wider powers to search students for a weapon or drugs. Twenty three percent opposed this as violating the rights of students.

46% Thought the U.S. military should stay until the elected Iraqi government asked them to leave. Thirty percent supported an announced, scheduled departure while 18% supported an immediate retreat.

73% Agreed that Congress should mandate new industry controls to reduce mercury pollution in Lake Michigan. Twenty percent opposed such controls because electricity costs too much.

38% Believed implementation of the Medicare prescription drug program should continue. Fourteen percent favored scrapping the plan while 26% favored ending all choices and offering only a government plan.

83% Supported Congressional reform to extend federal criminal jurisdiction against gang members in schools. Twelve percent opposed this as an unwanted expansion on federal criminal jurisdiction.

73% Thought the National Security Agency's wiretap program to monitor potential terrorists in the United States should continue. Twenty one percent thought the NSA program should be stopped.



Academic Excellence and Community Service

Congressman Kirk was joined by Captain James Lovell, Apollo 13 Commander, Naval Academy graduate and chair of the congressman's Military Academy Selection Steering Committee, to applaud the accomplishments of nine area students who received appointments to U.S. military academies. Appointees include: U.S. Naval Academy – John Moore, Woodberry Forest School; Elizabeth Trujillo, Zion Benton High School; Michael Wright, Rolling Meadows High School; and Brian DeYoung, Lake Forest High School. U.S. Air Force Academy – Frank Vicari, Loyola Academy; Kenneth Mattuck, Fremd High School; and Kyle Knight, St. Viator High School; U.S. Military Academy – Nicholas Vottero, Lake Forest High School and Peter Chung, Glenbrook South High School.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Kirk Efforts Bring Jobs to North Chicago

In June, Congressman Kirk joined North Chicago's mayor, Navy leaders and Commerce Department officials for a groundbreaking ceremony to reopen the Navy Base's 22nd Street gate – the essential step in revitalizing the city's business district. This project will help create new jobs and increase revenues for local schools.

Kirk secured more than \$1 million from the Economic Development Administration and worked with the Navy on a \$4 million redesign of the Navy's Gate 4 to prepare for the 22nd Street revitalization. The congressman will continue to work with Mayor Rockingham and the Navy's Great Lakes leadership to attract other federal economic development programs to fuel the recovery of North Chicago's business community.



A Bronze Star

After helping to secure Buffalo Grove resident Richard L. Idstein's long overdue bronze star for heroic efforts in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, Congressman Kirk joins Idstein's wife, Geraldine, to pin her husband during a Memorial Day ceremony in Arlington Heights.



Navy Heroes

Congressman Kirk joined veterans and North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham to honor the Navy's historic "Golden 13" during a groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial to African-American veterans of World War II. Kirk secured \$97,000 to erect the memorial in North Chicago's Veterans Memorial Park.

Ethics Reform

Kirk legislation to strip congressional pensions from any member of Congress convicted of a felony was included in the ethics reform package passed by the House of Representatives. "The integrity of the Congress should never be called into question. Lawmakers should be held to the highest standards of the law," said Congressman Kirk.



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Congressman Mark Kirk

A Suburban Agenda

