

REPS. DAVIS, PITTS and SENATORS SHAHEEN, KIRK FORM THE CONGRESSIONAL SUGAR CAUCUS

WASHINGTON, DC (march 4, 2011) - Rep. danny k. davis (D-IL) issued the following statement ON THE FORMATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SUGAR CAUCUS

Today, I joined my colleagues, Representative Joe Pitts (R-PA) and Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) in forming the Bi-Partisan, Bi-Cameral Congressional Sugar Reform Caucus. Nationally, high sugar prices were responsible for the loss of 112,000 jobs in sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2009. Good manufacturing jobs are leaving this country for Canada and Mexico where companies can access sugar at the much cheaper world price.

In Chicago, home to many candy makers, the number of jobs in the sugar and confectionary manufacturing industry fell by almost 50 percent over the last decade. The Congressional Sugar Reform Caucus will fight for a fair and balanced U.S. sugar policy. The sugar subsidy program is one of the last remaining protectionist barriers in U.S. trade and reforming this system will improve trade opportunities for all U.S. producers, while ensuring an affordable supply of sugar in the United States and saving taxpayers money and preserving American jobs.