



THE DAVIS DOCKET

Issue 3, February 27, 2015

Page 1 of 3

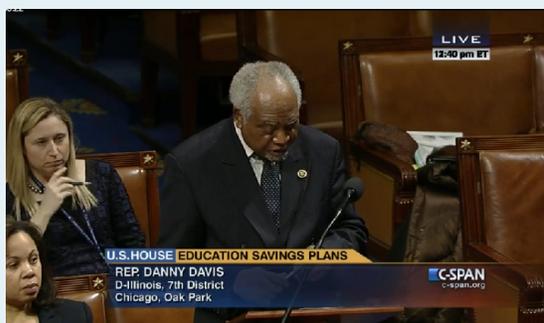
Dear 7th District Constituent,

Congress is back in session after the first recess of the year last week, and we have had a very intense week of debating and compromising. The agenda in Washington in this last week of February was dominated by the looming threat of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security. The Majority party has moreover decided to assign this week to be a week of education bills. We debated on the long overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as No Child Left Behind Act) and the improvement of the 529 Education Plans which will make college more affordable for our young people. Moreover, regarding college affordability, I will start an educational [tax breaks campaign week](#) starting on March 2, 2015. Please keep checking my website to learn more.

This Week in Washington....

As the funding of DHS would expire by the end of February, my colleagues in the democratic party and I have again pledged to the Majority in both House and Senate to approve a clean bill to fund the DHS and to keep our borders and national security intact. Unfortunately, nothing in Washington gets done without being pulled into bickering political partisanship. Instead of approving the clean funding bill that will guarantee the function of the DHS until the end of this fiscal year, the Republicans in the House have tried to prolong the game by initiating a new stopgap bill that would only fund the DHS for three more weeks. The short term funding bill does not change the scenario and only exacerbates the uncertainty of those employees who protect our national security. Congress averted the shut down by approving a seven-day funding bill to allow more time for a debate next week. I hope that eventually the Republicans will agree with us and have a vote on the clean funding bill which will keep the DHS funded until the end of fiscal year.

"I strongly support college affordability"



I speak on behalf of the democratic party on H.R. 529 to improve the 529 Education Plans which will help more people save for college."

Earlier this week, Congress debated on the H.R. 529 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 Plans. The legislation is under the jurisdiction of Committee on Ways and Means on which I sit and I have closely followed the development. The 529 Plans are an example of federal incentives that serve the purpose to incentivize families to save for college by providing tax benefits. Many young people today can afford college study through the savings in 529 Plans. ***I am therefore strongly supportive*** of the H.R. 529 which would modify 529 accounts to include computers and software as qualified educational expenses. It would also allow for refunded tuition and education expenses (i.e. when a student withdraws from school due to illness) to be returned to 529 accounts without a tax penalty. Additionally, it would disaggregate distributions for individuals with multiple 529 Plan accounts, allowing non-educational-related distributions from accounts when they have no otherwise taxable gains.



"I remain committed to serve the 7th District of Illinois in this new Congress"

Top issues of the week

[Immigration Reform and DHS funding](#)

[ESEA Reauthorization](#)

[529 Education Plans](#)

[#TaxBreaks4Students](#)

[Keystone XL Pipeline](#)

[Click here](#) for my voting records



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Issue 2, February 13, 2015

Page 2 of 3

“The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has long been overdue”

This week I met many of you who visited my DC office to share your ideas and concerns with regard to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). I applauded the commitment to our education system and that Congress has made education one of the priority legislations this year. However, I see the current version of H.R. 5 Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act as problematic and that is why we spent so much time on debating on many provisions of the bill this week. To briefly inform you, the bill would make cuts of funding permanent through the next years and also change the structure of programs funding and regroup that into a block grant that will allow States and local districts to use these grants for any activity at any school. As a result, we are rolling backward from the progress we have made in creating a school system with accountability and fairness for all children. H.R. 5 would also eliminate the poverty threshold requirement of current law as well as weakens protections for students with disabilities and fails to ensure that all children receive quality education. H.R. 5 would provide inadequate funding and move backward on equity and accountability, harming the education of our nation’s children. ***I cannot support this bill.*** It is in my interest to ensure that our children of all colors and race receive an equitable share to education and that our teachers get appropriated support for their invaluable work.

Snapshot of the week



Delighted to meet and hear from the group of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 11 of Chicago



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Page 3 of 3



Fruitful talk with the American Burn Association (left) and the Student American Chiropractic Association (right)

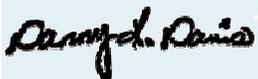
What next....

As this week ends with the continuing resolution to fund the DHS for another week, Congress will come back on the first week of March and have more debate on this issue. Moreover, I expect that the debate on H.R. 5 to reauthorize the ESEA will come up again this month. The extended debate of H.R. 5 shows that education is the issue at heart to us in Washington and we want to work together to reach the best solution for the future of our education system.

In the pipeline next week is also my tax campaign week starting March 2, 2015. [#TaxBreaks4Students](#) aims to raise awareness of educators, colleges, students, and parents, with regard to tax benefits available to make college more affordable. Higher education should not remain a dream and my campaign will bring some light to many of you and guide the way to how you can maximize the tools available for your higher education goal. Visit my website <http://www.davis.house.gov/press-releases/rep-davis-leads-taxbreaks4students-publicity-campaign/> and my Facebook page for more information.

As always, I very much appreciate your calls, emails and feedback. Your comments are important and valuable to help me improving our District. I am more than happy to hear more of your ideas on what we can do.

Most Sincerely,



Questions or concerns, please contact us via 773-533-7520 or 202-225-5006