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U.S. Congressman

Mark Steven Kirk

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois



** U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, Proudly Serving the People of the 10th District of Illinois **

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What do you think Congress should do in response to North Korea's nuclear weapons test?

Apply sanctions through the United Nations Security Council.

Authorize the search of North Korean ships and aircraft to ensure that nuclear material does not reach other countries.

Authorize military action.

*When you respond, we will also sign you up for legislative updates directly from Congress.

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Congressman Kirk's [statement](#) regarding former Rep. Mark Foley

Congressman Kirk's [editorial](#): "Congress Must Remember Kids Come First"

Last year, I formed the House Suburban Agenda Caucus to address the priorities of suburban families, including education, health care, the economy, and conservation. We had tremendous legislative success this Congress and recently unveiled our 7 bills for 2007. I want to update you on our progress and the initiatives we seek to accomplish in the 110th Congress.

Suburban Agenda 2006 Accomplishments

1. *The School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act (SAFE Act), H.R. 4894*

The *SAFE Act* ensures that schools will now have permission to review the FBI's national criminal data before hiring a new employee. **The *SAFE Act* became law on July 27, 2006.**

2. *The 401 (Kids) Family Savings Accounts Act, H.R. 5314*

Over 70% of Americans fear it may be difficult for their children to remain in the middle class. Access to college is the critical step to ensure the future income of a son or daughter. H.R. 5314, the *401 (Kids) Family Savings Account Act* rallied Congress to work toward permanently extending these savings accounts. **The House adopted legislation eliminating the 2010 sunset of the "529" program on July 29, 2006, backing permanent authority for college savings accounts.**

3. *The Health Information Technology Promotion Act, H.R. 4157*

The Health Information Technology Promotion Act accelerates the deployment of fully electronic medical records for all Americans by setting common federal standards. With medical errors now costing taxpayers billions of dollars a year, this bill provides the foundation to ensure more accurate diagnoses, eliminate duplicative testing, block fraud and simplify insurance claims. **The Act passed the House of Representatives on July 27, 2006.**

4. *The Deleting Online Predators Act, H.R. 5319*

One in five children is approached by an online predator. Myspace.com now has the personal data of 30 million American children while the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports over 50,000 predators are online at any one time. The Act requires schools and libraries to protect children against attacks from predators using social networking sites. **The *Deleting Online Predators Act* passed the House of Representatives on July 26, 2006.**

5. *Open Space and Farmland Conservation Act, H.R. 5313*

Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act establishes federal matching funds



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7/3/06: [GOP 'Suburban Agenda' Gains Traction on the Hill](#)

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for state and local contributions for the preservation of green and open space. **The Act passed the House of Representatives on September 26, 2006.**

6. Student and Teacher Safety Act of 2006, H.R. 5295

In order for our nation's students to get the most out of their education, it is imperative that they feel safe inside the classroom. Endorsed by the National Education Association, the *Student and Teacher Safety Act* allows states and school districts to conduct reasonable searches to ensure that the schools remain free of all weapons, dangerous materials, or illegal narcotics. **The Act passed the House of Representatives on September 19, 2006.**

7. Encouraging Charitable Donations for Open Space and Conservation Purposes, H.R. 5056

In expanding suburban communities, families want more action to preserve open space in their communities. The Act would create tax easements to encourage charitable contributions of real property for conservation and open space purposes. **H.R. 5056 became law on August 17, 2006.**

Our Priorities for the 110th Congress: Suburban Agenda 7 for '07

1. Gang Elimination Act, H.R. 5291

Gangs are no longer operating only within cities. Many sophisticated gangs backed by international drug cartels are moving into suburban communities. *The Gang Elimination Act* calls on the Attorney General to identify and outline a strategy to combat the three top national gangs.

2. Health Insurance Portability Act, H.R. 5740

The average American has seven jobs over their lifetime and millions exercise their COBRA rights to ensure health coverage. The Health Insurance Portability Act removes the 18 month limitation on COBRA coverage so that workers and their families can enjoy the same quality of care they have become accustomed to during a prolonged job search without having to purchase expensive individual policies or risk becoming uninsured.

3. The Alternative Energy Act, H.R. 6203

This bill advances the President's *Advanced Energy Initiative* by promoting alternative energy such as biofuels, solar, wind, nuclear, clean coal and other technologies to end the U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy. Also included are incentives for the design and construction of energy efficient buildings; and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle R&D and demonstration programs. **The Act passed the House of Representatives on September 29, 2006.**

4. Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act, H.R. 1313

Community health centers provide comprehensive and preventative care to nearly 14 million patients, many of whom are uninsured. *The Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act* extends medical liability protection to community health center volunteer doctors, making it easier for doctors to help families in their communities.

5. Math and Science Teaching Corps Act, H.R. 5871

American students must increase their competitive edge in math and

science. *The Math and Science Teaching Corps Act* provides new incentives for Americans to become math and science teachers and to stay in teaching.

6. *The Senior Safety and Dignity Act*, H.R. 6161

The Senior Safety and Dignity Act updates the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to require background checks for elder care job applicants and effective evacuation plans in the case of a hurricane or other disaster.

7. *Protect Your Home and Property*, H.R. XXXX

Helps restore the property rights of all Americans by establishing a penalty for states and localities that abuse their eminent domain power.

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