

Jim Gottschald

From: StauberP@StLouisCountyMN.gov
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 4:57 PM
To: manderson@NRCC.org
Subject: Fwd: Hijacked!

This is from Nolan's email blast. Your thoughts

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Congressman Rick Nolan" <MN08RNIMA@mail.house.gov>
Date: December 18, 2017 at 4:51:39 PM CST
To: stauberp@stlouiscountymn.gov
Subject: Hijacked!

Monday Report from Representative Rick Nolan



The Internet's Been Hijacked!



Our Twitter graphic calling attention to the end of net neutrality went viral last week. The point is – this is what the Slow Lane of the Internet could soon look like.

Dear Commissioner Stauber,

The Trump faction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has hijacked the Internet for super-rich corporate America. Ignoring protests submitted by millions of regular consumers, the FCC's Republican majority voted last week to **end net neutrality.**

I've already joined with a number of my colleagues in sponsoring legislation to reverse this anti-consumer decision. But in the meantime, out the door will go rules that have prevented giant telecom corporations like AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast from creating a two-lane Internet – a fast lane for the wealthy who can pay, and a slow lane – or no lane at all – for everyone else left behind.

Now for example, with net neutrality rules gone, big box mega-store chains can pay their Internet service providers a premium price to speed online circulars to customers. Meanwhile, regular priced online offers from your local, family-owned hardware store will wait their turn. And **don't be surprised when your Internet provider begins offering high-priced service plans that look like Cable TV** –where you have to buy lots of channels you don't want to get the few you like and use.

In short, **the end of net neutrality will be bad for consumers, bad for small businesses, and bad for everyone who has come to depend on fast, dependable Internet in daily life.** Mark my words – I'm going to do all I can to put the Internet back in the hands of regular people – not wealthy service providers and the huge corporate interests that can pay for Cadillac level service others can't afford.

We will keep you posted as events proceed. Meanwhile, I want to hear your thoughts. Feel free to contact any of our offices listed below or [send me an email](#).

Sincerely,



It's Time to Launch an Assault on Sexual Assault!



Regardless of where sexual assault or harassment occurs, we need a simple, logical, common sense process to deal with it, and make certain it does not happen again.

All across America, **there is a major cultural shift occurring with regard to how we acknowledge and address cases of sexual assault and harassment in our society.** Congress must immediately take the necessary steps to support this long-overdue moment of progress for our Nation.

The bottom line is, **no matter where sexual harassment or assault occurs, there must be a three-step process** to address it. **First, victims must have a strong and open reporting procedure** – an avenue by which to report sexual assault or harassment if it occurs. **Secondly, there must be an independent body to investigate allegations of sexual assault** and determine whether or not they are credible. **Finally, there absolutely must be disciplinary action** taken

must be real consequences for offenders – otherwise our efforts will be to no avail.

Here in Congress, I am cosponsoring **Congresswoman Jackie Speier’s bipartisan legislation to prevent and respond to sexual harassment** in Congress, which will require more transparency, overhaul the flawed complaint process, and provide better support for victims and whistleblowers. It is our duty as lawmakers to facilitate this crucial moment of reckoning and **create the structural change necessary to defeat sexual assault once and for all.**

Pension Protection Can’t Wait!



Last week, Senator Amy Klobuchar and I joined Teamster General President Jim Hoffa and House and Senate Democratic Leaders at a news conference in support of legislation to protect the hard-earned pensions of millions of working Americans. Click on the screen above to hear me rally the troops.

Three years ago, a last minute addition to the final 2015 federal spending bill, hatched in the dead of night, opened the door to drastic, outrageous and unnecessary cuts in the hard earned pensions of millions of hard working Americans. This year, we are determined to use the 2018 federal spending bill to repeal that measure - which I strongly opposed - and **ensure that retirees who faithfully contributed to their accounts over a lifetime of hard work receive every penny they are entitled to.**

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer have made it clear that **pension protection for millions of hard working Americans will be high on the agenda when they sit down with President Trump and Republican leaders to negotiate a 2018 omnibus spending bill this week.**

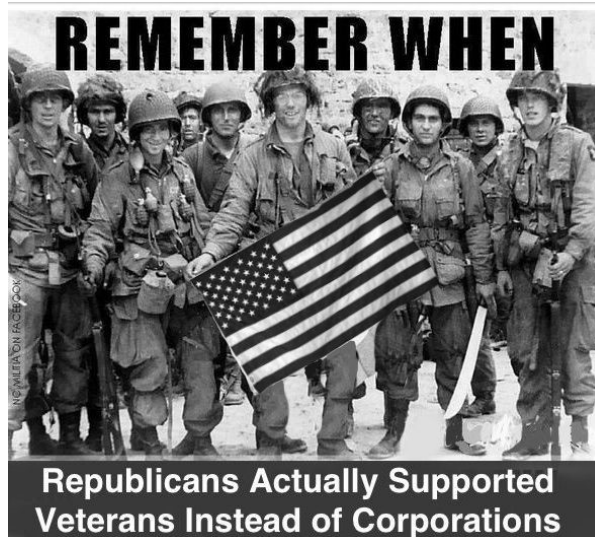
Pension protection can’t wait. More than 500 of America’s 1,400 multi-employer pension funds in serious or critical financial condition. And the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation – the government entity set up to bolster pension plans in trouble – is drastically under-funded. **That’s why I’m championing “The Butch Lewis Act” in the House.** The measure, named after an Ohio Teamster, would establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration through the Treasury Department through the U.S. Treasury **to ensure that no retiree’s hard-earned pension would ever be cut – not by one dime!**

As a co-founder of the new Pension Protection for Working Americans Caucus in Congress, **I’ve also taken the lead on a complementary bill to prevent companies that merge or go bankrupt from renegeing on their obligations to millions of workers and retirees.**

Among other things, my **“Keep Our Pension Promises Act”** ensures that **when a company merges or goes bankrupt, their pension obligations to their workers are put at the top of the**

until retirees can be assured of getting every last dollar of their rightful pensions.

Six Big Ways the GOP Tax Bill Hurts Veterans & Military Families



If the GOP tax bill becomes law, the collateral damage it will do to America's military Veterans and military families will be particularly egregious.

America's heroic military Veterans are facing a new enemy – the Republican tax bill. The GOP plan hands super-rich individuals and wealthy corporations a \$1.5 trillion tax cut – and pays for it by targeting and eliminating programs Veterans and their families depend on.

Like most other middle class Americans, Veterans and military families will pay more taxes under the GOP measure – and their children and grandchildren bear the burden for the enormous deficits this Republican bill will trigger. But if this bill becomes law, the **collateral damage to Veterans will be particularly egregious** in six additional ways:

1. The Republican tax bill makes it harder for Veterans to find good paying jobs.

The GOP measure **repeals the Work Opportunity Tax Credit** for employers that hire Veterans who have a service-connected disability, are unemployed, or receive benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

2. The Republican tax bill discourages small businesses from making their workplaces more accessible to disabled Veterans.

The GOP measure **repeals the Disabled Tax Credit**, which helps small business owners pay for measures to increase accessibility.

3. The Republican tax bill makes education more costly for Veterans and undermines the GI Bill.

The GOP measure **eliminates the deduction for interest payments on student loans** – a benefit many Veterans rely on to make up the difference between their GI Bill benefit and the cost of school.

4. The Republican tax bill makes it more expensive for military families to sell their homes when they're forced to relocate.

The GOP measure **requires homeowners to have lived in their home for at least five of the last eight years** to get a tax exemption from money made on the sale of a home. Military families often relocate every two or three years.

5. The Republican tax bill hurts Veterans already battling chronic illness.

The GOP measure **limits the expansion of the medical expense deduction**, making life in the future even harder for Veterans struggling to pay costly bills not covered by their health insurance.

6. The Republican tax bill targets Medicaid benefits 1.75 million Veterans rely on for a wide range of family and health care services.

The GOP measure boosts the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over ten years, automatically triggering enormous cuts to Medicaid in order to offset tax cuts to millionaires, billionaires and wealthy multinational corporations.

Nolan Bill Would Ensure NO CUTS to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid!



Republican leaders have made it clear that they intend to pay for their \$1.5 trillion tax cut for rich people and wealthy corporations with drastic cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Make no mistake – when you hear “entitlement reform,” that’s what they’re talking about.

In light of these cold, calculating and serious threats, I have introduced House Resolution 659, stipulating once and for all that there will be **NO CUTS to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security**. No cuts in any bill. No cuts in any resolution. No cuts in any conference report.

Here’s the simple truth. **If we have enough money to hand a \$1.5 trillion dollar tax break to the richest one percent of Americans and the wealthiest multi-national corporations, then we darn sure have enough resources to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.** These programs are foundation of the middle class. They have helped lift millions of Americans out of poverty to live better and more productive lives.

Advancing the War on Cancer in 2018



It was great spending some time last week getting to know Dr. Ned Sharpless, the new director of the National Cancer Institute, and discuss the newly-formed National Lung Cancer Roundtable (see below). Dr. Sharpless's credentials as a cancer expert are unparalleled, and I look forward to working with him to build more bipartisan support for lifesaving cancer research funding.

The war on lung cancer is intensifying, and major allies are coordinating their strategies. The National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the Lung Cancer Alliance, and more than 60 other federal agencies, cancer research and treatment centers, medical groups, and patients organizations came together last week for the first major meeting of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable.

The fundamental premise of the Roundtable is that **collective action among member organizations will be more effective in advocating for more funding for lifesaving research - and in helping to reverse the false stigma that lung cancer is always the result of smoking.** In fact, more than half of all lung cancer patients are non-smokers.

As a founder and Co-Chair of our Congressional Lung Cancer Caucus, **I'm strongly urging House and Senate leaders to provide a major boost for federally supported cancer research** in the omnibus spending bill they are negotiating for 2018.

To be sure, the \$5.7 billion we spent on cancer research in 2017 is a lot of money. But according to the National Cancer Institute, **our Nation's investment in research to better prevent, diagnose, treat and cure cancer has declined by 25% since 2003** when adjusted for inflation. We can and must do better.

And while progress against many forms of cancer continues to be remarkable, **the battle to find successful treatments, and ultimately a cure, for lung cancer stands virtually deadlocked.** Lung cancer is the most deadly of all cancers, and I've made it my mission to boost federal funding and support for lifesaving lung cancer research in every way I possibly can.



I also met last week with the co-chairs of the House Cancer Survivor's Caucus. That's Texas Republican Congressman Ted Poe on the right and California Democratic Congressman Mark DeSaulnier on the left. In the middle is Greg Simon, President of the Biden Cancer Initiative, established by former Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden.

This fall, with overwhelming bipartisan support, **the House passed my amendment to boost cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$3.1 million next year.** My measure, with an intended focus on lung cancer, brings total funding for cancer research at NIH to nearly \$6 billion for 2018. That's considerably above the \$4.2 billion requested by the Trump Administration.

Those funds are in addition to **my amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill, increasing lung cancer research for the Pentagon's Directed Medical Research program by \$2 million** – bringing the 2018 total to \$14 million for 2018. Our active military are particularly susceptible to exposure to carcinogens during combat situations, and those funds can make a real difference in saving and extending the lives of our heroes.

Our Week in DC



As Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, I've been meeting with farm groups from Minnesota and throughout the Nation to discuss the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill. Minnesota members of the National Association of Farm Service Agency County Office Employees stopped by last week.



It was great to see Scott Dane, Executive Director of the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers of Minnesota, in Washington last week. Among many other things, Scott and I worked closely together on my successful safety amendment to allow logging trucks to use Highway I-35 and avoid downtown Duluth. Pedestrians, businesses, and truckers are all safer because of that measure.



Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and I met recently with Tom Reeder, Director of the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation (PBGC), to discuss our legislation to protect workers' pensions and provide the PBGC with additional resources to ensure that retirees receive every dime of the money they've paid into their pension plans.



Congressman Donald Norcross of New Jersey, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and I met with pension activists from several states who described how the pension crisis has personally hurt them. Make no mistake, I will keep pushing Congress to provide immediate pension relief for these honest, hardworking men and women who paid every penny, nickel, and dime into their pension funds.

Our Week in Duluth



The Duluth AFL-CIO welcomed new members last week with their annual Holiday party at the Labor Temple. Nolan Congressional Field Representative Hannah Alstead had the enjoyable task of attending the festivities on my behalf.

Our Week in Virginia



Essentia Health held its monthly Healthy Communities Meeting in Virginia last week. St. Louis County Public Health Educator Raymond Jobe hosted the session, and he's pictured here speaking

to significantly cut funding for things like healthy meals for children and seniors, as well as community mental mental healthcare services. Nolan Congressional Field Representative Jordan Metsa snapped this photo from the audience.

Our Week in Minneapolis



Military Veterans here in the 8th District and throughout Minnesota have a new Center for Integrative Health and Healing for their use as part of the Minneapolis VA facility. Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director Patrick Kelly (far right in this photo) and other members of the leadership team cut the ribbon last week, with Nolan Field Representative Rick Olseen attending on my behalf. The new center will offer a healing-oriented, whole person approach to healthcare, maximizing the body's own capacity to heal using Tai Chi, Yoga, Group Acupuncture, Mindfulness, iRest Yoga Nidra, Integrative Nutrition, and Whole Health Group techniques. Veterans can choose courses they'd like to attend after approval by their primary care team and a 90 minute orientation session.

Our Week in Monticello



The Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services do a great job of providing job training and career counseling throughout our region. Nolan Field Representative Rick Olseen attended their Workforce Development Board's Legislative Breakfast last week, and snapped this picture of some of the clients who have received help with their careers, along with staff who provide the assistance. Rick Olseen tells me that each one of these folks told a compelling story about the help Jobs and Training Services provided for them.

Coming Up in Washington

This week:

- The House is expected to take up the Republican tax bill by mid-week. Meanwhile, House and Senate negotiators continue to attempt to hammer out a 2018 federal spending package or an extension before the December 22nd deadline for the federal government to partially shut down.
- The House is expected to pass legislation I've supported known as the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, which would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop, maintain and update a strategy to recognize and support family caregivers.

Finally...

Don't Miss the Deadline -- Sign up for Health Insurance!

ALERT!
→ **Minnesota's deadline to sign up for health insurance is January 14, 2018.** ←

You can visit MNsure.org to sign up!

There's less than a month left to sign up for Minnesota health insurance for 2018. You can click on the picture above to visit MNsure.org and sign up!

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