

## Adam Kinzinger Questionnaire

*What are the challenges you can see to covering a large, and for some, new district?*

The new 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes 14 counties a stretches from the Wisconsin border down and around the Indiana border. A district this large needs a representative that is home every weekend there is not Congressional duties. The people deserve someone who will hold open forums and will meet with small business owners, farmers, health care professionals, first responders, educators, students, and more to hear their concerns and ideas. Over the last year, I've worked tirelessly to restore representation to my current district. We must return government back into the hands of the people and I have the energy and know-how to do that in the new 16<sup>th</sup> District.

*A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll*

*(<http://www.langerresearch.com/uploads/1133a1CongressandObama.pdf>) finds just 13 percent of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing, the lowest rating in 40 years. One of the criticisms of Congress is the amount of squabbling between parties. Would you work across the aisle and why? If yes, use specific examples of how you could/have accomplished that?*

Republicans and Democrats have fundamentally different opinions on how best to get Americans back to work and revive our economy. These ideological differences have resulted in the gridlock we've seen for the past year in Washington.

When I was elected in 2010, I knew it would be difficult to reduce spending and remove government barriers to job creation in a divided government. By taking a stand, the conversation in Washington has changed from how much we should spend to how much we should cut.

Both sides need to do a better job of working together to find common ground, and I've been just as frustrated by the gridlock as anyone else. However, the problems our country presently faces arose because too many members of Congress, for decades now, have gone along to get along. I'm happy to compromise, so long as we're not compromising our nation's future.

Presently, I'm excited to work with a Democrat member in the Illinois delegation on a manufacturing reform proposal that aims to promote manufacturing in the U.S. I will continue seeking out opportunities to reach across the aisle and find common ground.

*Do you approve of the recent healthcare reforms? Are there portions you approve of or would you like the whole law repealed? What would you like to keep and what would you change?*

I co-sponsored and voted to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have been working to roll back provisions that the Obama Administration has also agreed are not needed including the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act which repeals the onerous 1099 reporting requirement for small businesses, as well as the Fiscal Responsibility and Retirement Security Act which repeals the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Program.

First, we must focus on short term costs to long term costs through preventative care. Seventy-five percent of our nation's health care spending is tied to the treatment of chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Some treatment that is excluded from coverage now should be covered because it shifts the focus to disease prevention, leading to cost reductions through the management of chronic diseases.

Secondly, I support the creation of Association or Small Business Health Plans. These plans allow groups of small employers to band together to increase purchasing power for their employees' health insurance thereby receiving a more affordable rate. This would be a major step for people in small businesses or self-employed people to obtain affordable health coverage.

Anything that reduces costs will change the price of health insurance premiums, which affects the number of people who can afford coverage. To that end, I fully support federal income tax deductibility for health insurance premiums, uniform medical records and reimbursement forms will also streamline the system and reduce administrative costs and I'd like to see Congress extend and expand individual Health Savings Accounts and maintain their tax-free and tax deductible features. We also need tort reform, which will also help bring down costs.

I support measures to disconnect health insurance from employers and instead make it easily portable with a person through different jobs over the course of their lifetime. By focusing on the individual, not the employer, it will allow those who have pre-existing conditions to continue their insurance when they change jobs.

There is no easy answer in solving our health care crisis. However, by implementing these types of reforms, we will see the cost of health costs decline in the long-term. The creation of a whole new government bureaucracy, as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act does, is not the answer nor are the reforms the American people are looking for.

*What are your thoughts on President Obama's proposed Buffet Rule for Taxes?*

I do not believe we should be raising taxes in this economy. The way to increasing our revenue is by getting more folks back to work.

I supported House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's Path to Prosperity budget resolution, which tackled our national debt in a responsible way by reforming the tax code, repealing President Obama's health care law and restructuring entitlement programs while keeping promises to current seniors and those nearing retirement age. It took our country decades to get into this mess and it will take us decades to get out of it due to bad decisions by prior Administrations and Congresses. In stark contrast, this budget cuts more than \$6 trillion in spending from the budget the President put forward over the next decade.

The reform of 1986 achieved great things by cleaning out all kinds of dubious deductions, credits, favors and the like. Since those reforms, Congress has inserted hundreds of different tax preferences, creating a complicated tax code that rewards those with close ties to Washington. I support tax reform that will remove or reduce tax advantages in all sectors while lowering the base rate for everyone. The tax code should be designed to extract the revenue we need to operate this country with the least amount of pain, in terms of foregone growth, that we can get.

For too long, the government has been in the business of picking winners and losers. If you are popular, you get special breaks; if you are not, you pay more. Instead of the government targeting specific industries for reward or punishment, we should aim to create a simplified tax code that broadens the tax base and lowers the rates for growth for all sectors of our economy in a fair, uniform way.

*Congress has a ban on earmarks. How do you propose funding projects or programs in the district? Please offer specifics.*

Before my freshman class fought and won a ban on all earmarks, Republicans and Democrats, spent millions and millions of dollars in earmarks.

An earmark takes spending for a Congressman's pet project out of the committee of jurisdiction, away from being objectively ranked on the merits of the application, and forces the additional spending to get that Congressman's vote on the overall bill. It is a terrible way of doing business that has led to hundreds of billions of dollars of spending on wasteful projects that wouldn't stand up on their merits.

The government has a responsibility to properly allocate funds for transportation and infrastructure through legislation. The new House Majority has been working diligently toward this.

*Do you support the troop draw down in Afghanistan and the exit strategy?*

Afghanistan is one of the vital fronts in the war on terrorism where we face many challenges.

Success in Afghanistan is defined when the Afghan government is able to withstand any Taliban resurgence with limited from U.S. military involvement. We cannot allow the country to once again become a training ground for terrorists and see all of our work and sacrifice over the last ten years be for nothing. The Taliban have a saying, "The Americans have the watches. We have the time." Providing a timetable for a pullout will only cause the Taliban to wait it out. I was disappointed by the president's announcement of troop withdrawal, as it should depend on current conditions on the ground and advice from our commanders. American withdrawal and stability of the region need to be done in a manner, which achieves both goals.

The threat of a nuclear-armed Iran would be devastating to the security of the U.S. and our allies. While President Obama appears resigned to the fact that Iran will obtain a nuclear weapon, our ally Israel is not ready to concede. Current global sanctions on Iran will increasingly isolate the Iranian regime, but more must be done. A peaceful resolution will require the international community to implement additional sanctions aimed at collapsing its central bank. President Obama must support these sanctions and work with our allies to respond quickly to any disruption caused by Iran to the world oil market. Strong words followed by smart action are the best deterrence to Iran's aggression.