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In the Doldrums: Dold Votes to Repeal Affordable Care Act – Again

Less than two weeks after the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as constitutional, Republican Congressman Robert Dold joined all but one member of his party on July 11 in a symbolic party-line vote for H.R. 6079—a bill proposing the full repeal of the President’s landmark healthcare legislation. The vote is largely symbolic because the legislation has virtually no chance of actually becoming law. Even if it were to pass in the Democratic-led Senate (an unlikely event), it would still face the President’s veto.

H.R. 6079 is not the first time Dold has voted for the full repeal of the ACA, and it highlights his foremost priority: protecting the profits of the corporations that fund his party and his election campaign—at the expense of the American public’s access to vital medical care.

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Tenth News

AUGUST 2012 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 9, Edition 8

Tenth Dems Goes Video

As the critical November elections approach, Republicans are forcing restrictive voter ID bills through state legislatures. Tenth Dems volunteers produced “Right Wings (Let Me Vote)” to the tune of Simon and Garfunkel’s “Cecilia.” Click on the image below to view!

continued on page 2



Free event! Meet **Brad Schneider** on August 2nd in HP. [Click here for more information.](#)

Tenth Dems Goes Video *(continued from page 1)*



Musicians Shelley Orbach and Clara Berman perform for videographer David Akinde.

RIGHT WINGERS

Lyrics by Eleonora di Liscia

*To the tune of "Cecilia,"
With apologies to Simon and Garfunkel.*

Right Wingers,
You're breaking my heart.
You're taking my rights away daily.

Oh, Right Wingers,
I'm down on my knees.
I'm begging you please
Let me vote!

Right Wingers,

You're rigging the rules
'Cause you only can win
When you're cheating.

Oh, Right Wingers,
Here's my student ID.
Won't it prove that it's me
At the polls?

Purging votes in the afternoon with
right wingers
For democracy.
If you vote, they'll lose the race.
So when you show up, you'll find
Your name's just been erased.

Right Wingers,

That isn't my name.
I'm not that armed robber
From Texas.

Oh Right Wingers,
You want so many forms,
I can't prove I was born
In this world.

Vote Suppression,
Block Tyrone and Jesus
'Cause they're going to vote blue
If you let them.

Vote Suppression,
They won't stay on top,
Unless they can stop
You again!

In the Doldrums:

Dold Votes to Repeal Affordable Care Act – Again *(continued from page 1)*

Repeal of the ACA would have a devastating impact on the lives of tens of millions of Americans. Writing in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, highlights some of the potential consequences of ACA Repeal.

- Millions of Americans will lose their insurance.
- Americans with insurance will again face the risk of lifetime dollar caps and cancellation of their coverage when they get sick.
- Insurance companies will again be able to throw children with pre-existing conditions, like asthma and diabetes, off a family policy, or refuse to cover their illnesses.
- Tens of millions of insured Americans will pay more for preventive care. Under the ACA, 54 million people with private health insurance now have access to free preventive care like vaccinations, check-ups, and cancer screenings.
- Senior citizens on Medicare will lose free preventive care, including cancer screenings and annual wellness visits which Medicare now covers with no co-payments.
- Millions of seniors who reach the Medicare prescription drug donut hole will lose the 50-percent discount provided under the ACA.
- Investment in expanding community health centers and training doctors and nurses in medically underserved regions, which now is taking place under the ACA, will slow to a halt, making it harder for people in medi-

cally underserved communities to get the care they need to stay healthy.

“Repeal will take us back to the days when insurance companies were not accountable,” Sebelius told the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. The ACA now requires insurance companies to spend at least 80 cents of every premium dollar on healthcare and quality improvements, not CEO salaries or advertising.

With so much at stake, it seems unconscionable that Dold would vote to repeal the ACA. But he did, and not once, but several times. Working on behalf of the insurance industry to protect its profits and control over Americans’ access to healthcare, Dold voted on January 19, 2011 for H.R. 2—Repealing the Job Killing Health Care Law—the first bill to propose full repeal of the ACA. When this effort failed to pass the Senate, Dold voted for numerous smaller bills aimed at defunding healthcare reform one provision at a time. These include:

- H.R. 1214—A bill that proposed to block \$200 million in mandatory funding for the construction of school-based health centers (SBHCs), despite the fact that the centers have proven highly effective and cost-efficient in providing medical care (including mental health and social services) in public schools. SBHCs currently serve nearly two million children and adolescents across the country. Numerous studies have shown they increase academic performance, as students do better when they come to school healthy. SBHCs are also linked with lower emergency room usage, fewer hospitalizations, and reduced Medicaid costs.

• H.R. 1213—A bill that proposes to repeal funding for the State Health Benefit Exchanges (SHBEs). Health benefit exchanges allow individuals and small businesses to compare the costs of various health plans and different types of health benefits. In the process, they help make the health insurance market more transparent and competitive.

• H.R. 1217—A measure that proposes to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the ACA to provide approximately \$15 billion over 10 years to assist state and community efforts to increase preventive care.

What’s more, despite repeated campaign promises and public statements touting his commitment to preserving Medicare, Dold voted for two Republican budgets that effectively kill the program and replace it with an inadequate voucher system.

Each of these votes, individually and in the aggregate, flies in the face of Dold’s repeated campaign and website claims about his commitment to protecting Medicare and improving Americans’ access to quality healthcare. That’s because the claims—along with virtually all of Dold’s other claims about working on behalf of the American people—are outright lies intended to deceive 10th District voters into believing he is working to protect their interests when, in truth, he is working against them. As his voting record demonstrates, Dold’s only priority is helping to further the agenda of the corporate interests (e.g., the insurance companies) that fund his party and his campaign. His disregard for the healthcare needs of the American people and willingness to cast symbolic votes against President Obama’s signal legislative achievement make it imperative for 10th District residents to come together in November to elect Democratic challenger Brad Schneider to replace Dold as our representative in Congress.



HOUSE HAS VOTED 32 TIMES TO REPEAL ALL OR PART OF HEALTHCARE REFORM LAW!

Pants on Fire, or Where Trust Goes to Die by Jack Altschuler

President Kennedy was as human as the rest of us, but we Boomers hung an idealistic sense of hope on him. After he was murdered, the Warren Commission did its kabuki theatre of an investigation and produced an absurd document that nobody believed. That started a generational cynicism that continues today.

Lyndon Johnson had his "credibility gap." That was the way the press labeled his disconnect from truth, as he lied us into the full-blown military incursion in Viet Nam. That illicit war ripped America apart, with fathers and sons and brothers estranged from one another and our belief in the validity of our government shaken to its core.

Nixon told us he had a secret plan to end the war in Viet Nam and then dragged his feet for years, allowing an additional 26,000 of our young to die and eight times that many more to be wounded.

Watergate brought us a peculiar question: Which was more shocking,

that Nixon was a crook or that he had compromised himself and the office of the President so severely that he felt compelled to deny his guilt?

Then President Ford pardoned Nixon for all crimes "which he may have committed." With that one stroke of the executive pen our nation of laws was cast aside to exonerate a guilty man from unknown, unrevealed crimes, a permanent *get out of jail free* card for his high crimes and misdemeanors.

Ronald Reagan ran up budget deficits greater than all the presidents before him combined. Wait a second: didn't he say he was a fiscal conservative?

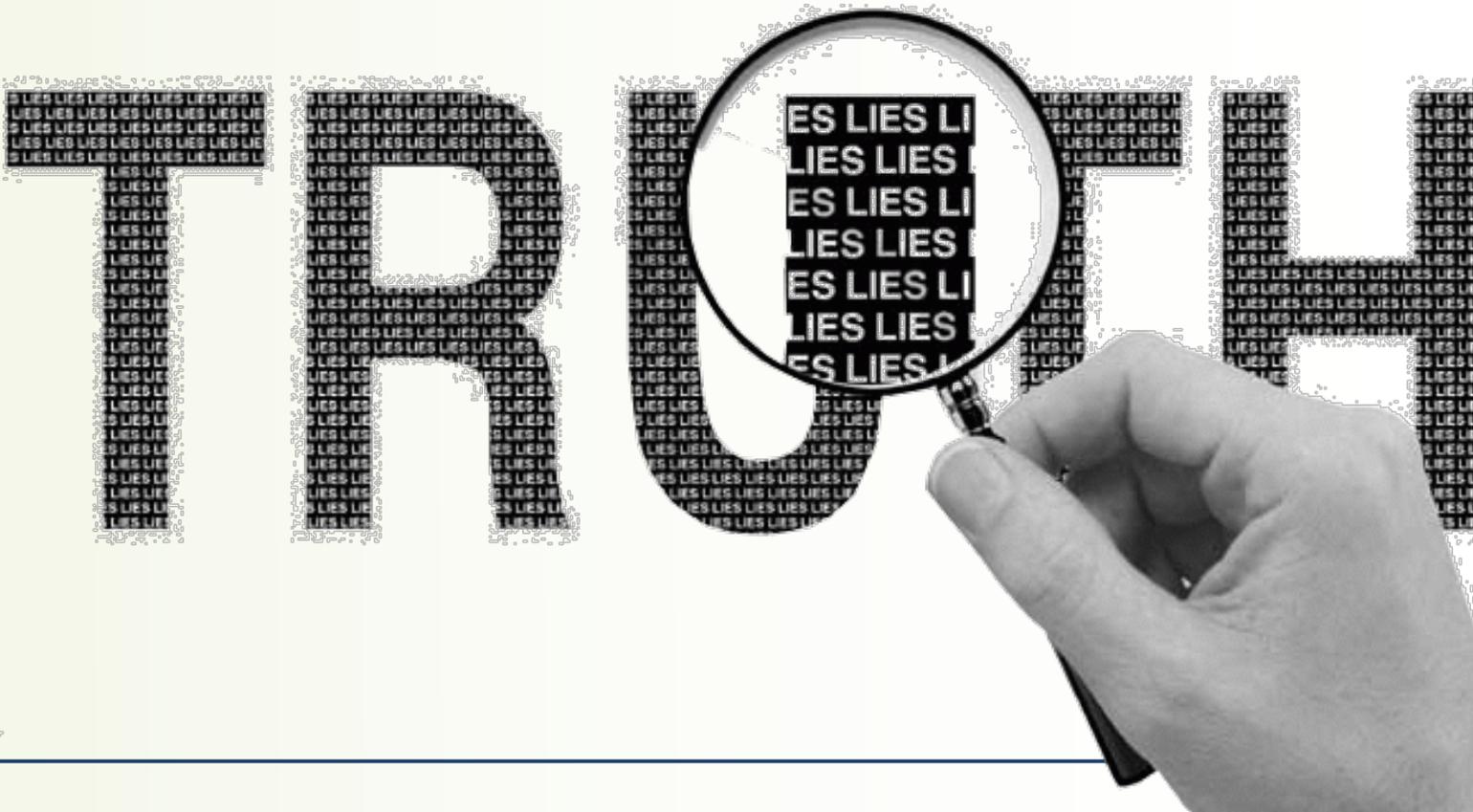
George H. W. Bush told us, "Read my lips: no new taxes." Then he raised taxes.

Bill Clinton pulled the plug on the protections against financial disaster of the Glass-Steagall Act, leading directly to the financial meltdown of 2008.

The Republican Revolution of the 90's brought us Newt Gingrich and a continuing witch hunt of Bill and Hillary, which paralyzed Congress for years. Gingrich's crowning achievement was getting expelled from the House for his ethics violations.

Then George W. Bush became president by means of a legal contortion created by the Supreme Court. In a ruling they said was a one-time-use judgment, they stopped the recount of the vote in Florida, disenfranchising tens of thousands of American citizens whose votes were not counted.

Bush lied us into war in Iraq, scaring us with threats of nonexistent weapons of mass destruction. Then he refused to pay for the war, effectively doing Enron-style, off-balance-sheet accounting and leaving the mess for someone else. Our CIA and Special Forces could have nabbed bin Laden at Tora Bora, ending our need to invade Afghanistan, but Bush pulled our forces out and allowed him to escape, ensuring years more killing, maiming, and dying. *continued on page 5*



Pants on Fire, or Where Trust Goes to Die *(continued from page 4)*

The financial house of cards that Wall Street had become finally collapsed under the crushing weight of its fraud and abuse, causing financial destruction for millions of Americans. To date, not one Wall Street banker has been brought up on charges, much less done time, making it clear that the biggest of wrongdoers can get away with anything, leaving the rest of us to pick up the tab and suffer the consequences.

This is just a short list of the shocks we have taken to our sense of trust in authority and order, in our belief in our institutions and, correspondingly, our belief in ourselves. We've even promoted our own cynicism with our love-hate mania for uncovering conspiracies and wrongdoing.

We have made ourselves into a tabloid society of cynicism and distrust. And it gets worse.

In his article *The Downside of Liberty*, Kurt Andersen argues, as others have, that Boomers are the "me generation" and then he takes that notion one step further. Letting "me" stand for any of us, if it's all about me, he suggests, then Congress has to operate the way I want. Seen that way, compromise itself is an elongated four-letter word, so legislative strangulation makes sense. Seen that way, perhaps the Goldman Sachs people were giddy with "it's all about me" justification, as they shorted their derivatives and, at the same time, sold the worthless stuff to unsuspecting clients. Perhaps our generational self-indulgence is foundational to our national paralysis.

We have reduced ourselves to shouting at one another while nobody listens. An honest exchange of ideas with the hope of working together to seek a better path forward simply doesn't happen. Our decades-long habits of institutional dishonesty, betrayal of trust, and self-indulgence keep us from solving our very real and vexing challenges. How will we find a way forward when our trust has been so severely undermined? "My way or the highway" won't get the job done. We have to find a better way; otherwise, we can kiss our self-image of American exceptionalism good-bye and learn to accept our insignificance.



When your opponents' sworn objective is to ruin your presidency, you just might look for other ways to get things done.

After Republicans blocked President Obama's American Jobs Act ("People back at work! That will kill us!"), the President took matters into his own hands. Declaring "We Can't Wait!" he created change through his own presidential powers.

For those of you who want numbers—although I've recently concluded that they are entirely superfluous to winning the political debate—in Obama's first two years, Democrats filed 137 motions for cloture (a vote on cloture is needed to end a filibuster). The highest number of cloture

motions filed to date was 139 during the Bush presidency's final two years, after you-know-who took back the Senate. For the session immediately prior (2005-2006), while Republicans happily stuffed their policies down our throats, only half that number was filed—68. The top number of motions filed on Democrat filibusters was 82 during Clinton's term (1995-1996) and 71 during the Bush administration (1999-2000 and 2001-2002).

Besides the Jobs Act, Republicans filibustered bills 1) holding down student loan interest rates, 2) repealing tax breaks for oil companies, 3) setting a minimum tax for households earning more than \$1 million a year, and 4) helping communities pay for

teachers and first responders. "Republicans say the measures were flawed and potentially harmful to the economic recovery," wrote *The New York Times*. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/us/politics/senate-republicans-block-bill-on-student-loan-rates.html>)

Obama has faced criticism for skirting Congress to carry out his agenda, as he had criticized Bush for doing the same thing. Like it or not, however, these tactics form a legitimate part of our Constitution's separation of powers.

The We Can't Wait! Program has moved forward on a variety of fronts:

JOB: Since blocking Obama's Jobs

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BALANCE
DEMOCRACY
JUSTICE
AMERICAN CONCISENESS
PEACE
TRANSPARENCY
GREATNESS
EQUALITY
FAIRNESS

YES, WE DID! WE CAN'T WAIT *(continued from page 6)*

Act spurred We Can't Wait!, many initiatives appropriately concern job creation. The American Jobs Act had included money for summer jobs and year-round employment for low-income youth. When that failed, Obama formed a coalition of businesses, non-profits, and government to help at-risk youth find jobs through paid internships and through teaching skills such as resume-writing.

Through Startup America, the White House earmarked capital investment for new business startups. The administration also shortened the time for products to go from research to marketplace and launched Business USA, a centralized website for businesses to learn about federal resources.

Spearheaded by former President Clinton, the Better Buildings Challenge creates jobs by getting the private sector to invest in energy upgrades for commercial and industrial buildings.

To help farm communities, Obama increased government purchase of bio-based products such as soaps and paints that come from farms instead of from chemical companies. The Rural Jobs Accelerator awards money for innovative rural job creation. The government will also work to connect

colleges in rural communities with the resources they need to train health professionals.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: A new "Privacy Bill of Rights" is aimed at online consumers. The Bill of Rights serves as a guide to companies handling consumers' private information. Under the Bill of Rights, consumers should control what data is collected and how it is used.

HOUSING: New rules make the Home Affordable Refinance Program more accessible and allow anyone with a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage who is current in payments to refinance, with potential savings up to \$2,500 a year per household.

HEALTHCARE: Through the Affordable Care Act, the administration offers awards to hospitals and doctors who create innovative ways to deliver high quality medical care while keeping down costs. The administration also took steps to combat prescription drug shortages by requiring early notification of possible shortages and by quicker review of drug manufacturing sites. The administration will also watch that companies do not jack up prices by hoarding drugs in anticipation of a shortage.

EDUCATION: Hoping to grab those

G.I. Bill dollars, some schools have used deceptive practices to recruit veterans. For example, schools have enrolled veterans with brain injuries while failing to offer the necessary academic support. Or schools have pushed veterans to take out expensive school loans when they might have qualified for federal aid. The administration acted to keep schools with misleading practices off military bases and require transparent information about financial aid options (the Know Before You Owe form) as well as about a school's record on graduation and job placement.

To help students manage overwhelming debt, Obama capped student loan repayment at 10 percent of discretionary income starting this year instead of waiting until 2014. In addition, the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet will help students better compare the financial aid packages offered by competing institutions.

ENVIRONMENT: Using its rulemaking powers, the administration has worked to reduce greenhouse gases through mandating fuel-efficient cars. By 2025, cars and light trucks should achieve 54.5 miles per gallon.

The Obama administration also invested in major energy-saving upgrades to federal buildings and garnered commitments of private money from labor leaders, universities, CEOs, and mayors for more energy-efficient projects.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Recognizing that domestic violence can harm both federal workers and the federal workplace, Obama directed federal agencies to set policies on domestic violence, improve workplace safety, and help victims of violence.



The Empire of Locked Roots by Debra Shore

When European settlers made their way from the East to Illinois, emerging out of the hardwood forests of Appalachia into the tallgrass prairie of the heartland, they were astonished, disbelieving. The land that was to become the Chicago region was a tapestry of rolling savanna and prairie, clear streams and noble groves of ancient oaks. Buffalo, cranes, turkeys, beaver, mountain lions all made their home here. Vast beds of mussels and clams were found.

The Chicago region happens to lie where three major biomes converge. We are situated at the southernmost extent of the north woods from Wisconsin; we are at the eastern extent of the tallgrass prairie; and we are at the western edge of the eastern hardwoods from Appalachia. And wherever you have these major biomes converging, you get enormously rich biological diversity as a result. So, for instance, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which is fairly small as national parks go, has the third most plant species of any national park and more than the island of Great Britain.

The rich black soil was recognized soon enough as the permanent foundation of a Midwestern economy, and a great metropolis was destined to grow here. Indeed, one historical fact worth noting is that Chicago is the largest city in the country whose name links it to the native landscape. For Che-ca-gou was the Native American name for the wild onions that grew in profusion along the riverbanks and swampy areas when Father Jacques Marquette and Louis

Jolliet paddled their canoe into these waters in 1673.

Marquette wrote in his journal: "We have seen nothing like this river that we enter, as regards its fertility of soil, its prairies and woods, its cattle, elk, deer, wildcats, bustards, swans, ducks, parroquets, and even beaver. There are many small lakes and rivers. That on which we sailed is wide, deep, and still, for 65 leagues. In the spring and during part of the summer there is only one portage of half a league."

Settlers coming west in the mid-1800s rode through the oak groves, kept open by periodic fires set by lightning or by Native Americans, and made their way across a sea of grass. "From the first oak openings of Ohio and Kentucky till it washed to the foot of the Rockies, grass ocean filled the space under the sky," wrote naturalist Donald Culross Peattie. "Steppe meadow, buffalo country, wide wilderness, where a man could call and call but there was nothing to send back but an echo."

Peattie has called the deep root systems of native prairie plants the "empire of locked roots.... Root touched root across this empire," he wrote. Those roots of native prairie plants, some stretching 10 to 15 feet belowground – shown here in a wonderful illustration by Heidi Natura -- are a carbon capture system and a *water capture system*. In contrast, the roots of Kentucky bluegrass carpeting our lawns and corporate campuses extend about

three inches down.

The plows the settlers brought with them from the East could not break the tough prairie soils, the "empire of locked roots." It was not until a blacksmith named John Deere in McHenry County (and another named John Lane in Will County) invented a steel moldboard plow that settlers were able to "break" this tough prairie soil and the empire began to fall. Once this new plow demonstrated its effectiveness, within the space of a generation we had transformed the landscape, converting the prairies into Illinois' rich agricultural base.

The benefits were enormous – but so, it turned out, were the costs. We have lost much of our native biological diversity, and the ability of the ecosystem to capture water and carbon.

There is a wisdom in these native plants, a wisdom reached over thousands of years evolving in this climate, in these soils. Come to think of it, prairie plants don't need to be mowed or watered! Given the drought we are experiencing now in Illinois, should we consider the merits of the carbon and water-capture system that native plants provide, a pathway for water to recharge our aquifers, a repository for carbon from the atmosphere?

Go ahead. Liberate a part of your lawn. The birds, the bees, the butterflies and beneficial insects, and your wallet will thank you.



HELP WANTED

PHOTO EDITOR. The *Tenth News* is looking for a photo editor. This important job would entail (1) ensuring that all important Tenth Dems events are covered for the newsletter by a photographer and (2) ensuring that all event photos are promptly forwarded to the newsletter editors and identified. No experience necessary. If you're reliable, organized, and want to make a positive contribution to Tenth Dems, you're the person we're looking for. Contact us at newsletter@tenthdems.org.

Tenth Dems Rally with Nuns on the Bus

Nuns on the Bus was a highly publicized nine-state tour that included stops in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois on its way to Washington, D.C. It was organized and led by Sister Simone Campbell SSS (Sisters of Social Service), an attorney and the executive director of NETWORK. The nuns' mission was to lobby Republican members of Congress against the Paul Ryan budget because of its failure to provide for the poor, elderly, and disabled or for working and middle class families and other vulner-

able populations. The bus tour visited Congressman Joe Walsh in Fox Lake, which is now in the 10th District. There, joined by a number of Tenth Dems volunteers who lent her their enthusiastic support, Sister Simone presented the "Faithful Budget" as an alternative to the Ryan plan.

Although incumbent 10th District Congressman Robert Dold did not receive a visit from Sister Simone and the other nuns on her bus, readers of the *Tenth News* should know that he certainly

was worthy of such a visit. As explained at length in the February 2012 issue ("Who Represents the 10th District?") (available at <http://www.tenthdems.org/2012/02/february-2012-newsletter-joe-walsh-representing-the-10th/>), Rep. Dold has joined his caucus-mate Joe Walsh in consistently voting "yes" for the Ryan budget.



Max Maxwell, Kim Kearby, Jim Walz, Swapna Baumann, Barb Hogman, Mary Jean Kelley, and Maxine Zerbst wait for the nuns to arrive.



Sr. Simone Campbell addresses the crowd. Joe Dubaniewicz and Sharon Narrod are on the right.



Supporters follow the nuns across Grand Avenue to Congressman Joe Walsh's office.



The nuns prepare to leave on their bus.

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Join Tenth Dems for our Ravinia Event

The Guthrie Family Reunion:

Happy 100th Birthday Woody Guthrie



Arlo Guthrie



Mary Chapin Carpenter

Reserve your tickets!

Date: Sunday, August 19, 2012

Time: We'll start gathering at 6:00 PM; show starts at 7:30

Location: Ravinia Festival (200 Ravinia Park Rd., Highland Park)

Contact: For more information or to RSVP, call 847-266-VOTE (8683), send an email, or RSVP online.

Individual Lawn Ticket and Dinner \$40

Two Lawn Tickets and Dinner \$75

Host Committee Levels

Bronze \$250

Silver \$500

Gold \$1,000

Platinum \$2,500

Benefactor \$5,000

Arlo Guthrie, son of the legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie, has released several critically acclaimed albums and been an active voice in politics, most recently speaking out against the actions of Scott Walker, Wisconsin's Republican governor. Rolling Stone has called him "the natural heir to the best qualities of the folk movement: its concern for an ethical politics, an abiding sense of place and the preservation of tradition."

Mary Chapin Carpenter is a five-time Grammy Award-winning country folk singer. Her albums have sold over 12 million copies, and *The New York Times* has described her voice as "a voice made to engage in hushed heart-to-heart all-night conversations about things that really matter."

Quinn-terns:

Tenth Dems Interns Help Staff Event; Mingle with Illinois Governor

