



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Jill Normington
Date: January 25, 2012

The following is a summary of findings from a telephone survey conducted among 400 likely Democratic primary voters in the new 8th Congressional District of Illinois. Interviews were conducted January 10-12, 2012. The sampling error for this survey is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

With less than 60 days before the Illinois primary, former Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth is in a dominant position to win the Democratic nomination for the Eighth Congressional District.

Duckworth enjoys 83% name identification with 67% of the electorate rating her favorably and just 7% evaluating her unfavorably. This glowing assessment is enviable for any candidate but for one in the expensive Chicago media market, it is literally worth millions.

She leads former Illinois Deputy treasurer Raja Krishnamoorthi 59% to 17%. She holds a three-to-one margin with key constituencies: voters who say they will “definitely vote,” voters who voted in at least two Democratic primaries out of the last four, voters age 50 and older, liberals and pro-choice voters.

In addition to her solid vote support, Duckworth is also the choice of 65% of likely voters when asked who has the best chance to beat Joe Walsh in November. Just 13% opt for Krishnamoorthi.

After positive messages from both candidates are simulated, Duckworth maintains her 59% support while Krishnamoorthi is able to climb to just 23%. So while we expect the race to tighten somewhat as Krishnamoorthi communicates his message to voters he neither gains significant traction among undecided voters nor is able to cut into Duckworth’s support. It should be noted that this informed vote is nearly identical to the informed vote from our July poll, which showed Duckworth ahead 60% to 21%.

As veteran strategist David Axelrod said, “I have never seen anyone overcome a 42-point deficit this late in the race.”

Duckworth continues to build a solid campaign. She has raised more than a million dollars (outracing Krishnamoorthi every quarter she has been in the race) and enjoys the endorsements of Senator Dick Durbin, SEIU Illinois as well as nearly a dozen other labor unions, EMILY’s List and VoteVets.

Duckworth is extremely well-positioned to win in March and pick up this seat for Democrats in the general election against Tea Partier Joe Walsh.