

Joe Walsh (IL-08) Research Book

The following report contains research on Joe Walsh, the Republican incumbent from Illinois's 8th Congressional District. Research for this research book was conducted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Research Department between February 2011 and May 2011.

By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it.

Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.

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Biography

This section provides background information on Joe Walsh's personal life, including education, personal finances, property holdings, and other areas. Searches were conducted in Illinois and via media outlets including the *Chicago Daily Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, as well as a number of other online resources, including Lexis-Nexis.

Birth Date

Walsh was born on December 27, 1961. [Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, Cook County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11]

Residence

Since May 2010 Walsh has been renting a three-bedroom house in McHenry, IL 60051 for \$2,000 a month. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/12/10; Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, McHenry County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11]

Education

Walsh attended Grinnell College (1980-1982), received a bachelor of arts in English from the University of Iowa (1985), and a master of arts in public policy from the University of Chicago (1991). [[National Journal](#), 11/24/10; CQ Member Profiles, Joe Walsh, [accessed 3/25/11](#)]

According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), in the mid-1908s Walsh "studied at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in New York and places out West." [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/17/11]

In 1980 Walsh graduated from "Barrington High School, where he was senior class president and active in sports." [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/17/11]

Family

1987-2004: Married to Laura Walsh, Had Three Children

On March 21, 1987 Walsh married his first wife, Laura Walsh. They were married until to March 24, 2004 when their divorce was finalized citing irreconcilable differences. Together they had three children. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 2/24/03; Verified Certificate of Dissolution, filed 3/24/04]

Note: For further information about Walsh's divorce please see the Divorce Case section of this book.

2006: Remarried to Helene Walsh, Has Two Step-Children

In 2006 Walsh married his current wife, Helene, who had two children of her own. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 3/04/10; CQ Member Profiles, Joe Walsh, accessed 3/25/11]

Religion

Walsh is a Roman Catholic. [CQ Member Profiles, Joe Walsh, [accessed 3/25/11](#)]

Claimed to Celebrate both Christmas and Hannukah

In December 2011, Walsh claimed he, his wife, and their five children celebrated both Christmas and Hannukah. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/24/11]

Property Ownership

The following section provides an overview of Walsh's property ownership from 1993 to 2009:

1993: Purchased Property at 1722 Harrison St, Evanston, IL for \$210,000

On August 20, 1993, Walsh and Charles M. Walsh purchased the house at 1722 Harrison Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201 from David G and Elizabeth J Brittsan for \$210,000. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 93720058, Executed 8/20/93]

1993: Obtained \$150,000 Mortgage

When Walsh purchased the house, he obtained a 30-year, \$150,000 mortgage from Liberty Federal Savings Bank with an adjustable rate that began at 5.0 percent. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage, Document Number 93720059, Executed 8/20/93]

Note: Charles Walsh is suspected to be Joe Walsh's father. Although neither of their wives were listed on the deed for the property, Joe's wife, Laura Walsh did sign the mortgage and Charles' wife, Susan, was listed on the document.

2001: Sold Property for \$325,000

On September 5, 2001, Walsh sold the house to Nancy L Owens for \$325,000. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 0011179745, Executed 9/05/01]

Property was the Homestead of Joe and Laura Walsh

Charles and W Joseph Walsh signed the warrantee deed selling the property to Nancy L Owens.

Joe's wife Laura signed the deed but "solely for the purpose of releasing any homestead rights she may have" in the property.

The deed stated, "This property is not the homestead of Charles M. Walsh and Susan S. Walsh." [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 0011179745, Executed 9/05/01]

Below is a picture of the house:



[1722 Harrison Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Photo Taken on Collection, 3/16/11]

2001: Purchased Property at 2110 Harrison St, Evanston, IL for \$684,500

On November 20, 2001, Walsh and his wife purchased the house at 2110 Harrison Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201 from Anne C Berkeley for \$684,500. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 0011102852, Executed 11/20/01]

2001: Obtained \$500,000 Mortgage

When Walsh purchased the house, he obtained a 30-year, \$500,000 mortgage from Option One Mortgage Corporation with an adjustable rate that began at 10.0 percent. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage, Document Number 0011102852, Executed 11/20/01]

2001: Obtained \$15,000 Second Mortgage

When Walsh purchased the house, in addition to the \$500,000 mortgage, he obtained a three-year, \$15,000 second mortgage from Anne C Berkeley, the seller of the house. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage, Document Number 0011102852, Executed 11/20/01]

2004: Nicor Gas Company Filed \$4,500 Lien

On April 8, 2004, Nicor Gas Company filed a lien for \$4,527.72 against Walsh and his wife for unpaid natural gas service. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Lien, Document Number 0410548089, Executed 4/08/04]

2004: Sold Property for \$717,500

On May 5, 2004, Walsh sold the house to Robert Eugene Spurlin and Valerie Spurlin for \$717,500. The deed noted that Walsh and Laura had divorced when they sold the property. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 0414704168, Executed 5/05/04]

Below is a picture of the house:



[2110 Harrison Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Photo Taken on Collection, 3/16/11]

2004: Purchased Property at 1415 Sherman Ave, Unit 406, Evanston, IL 60201 for \$320,500

On May 5, 2004 Walsh purchased the condominium at 1415 Sherman Ave, Unit 406, Evanston, Illinois 60201 from Robyn Ladin-Schwartz for \$320,500. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 0413433103, Executed 5/05/04]

2004: Obtained \$288,000 Mortgage

When Walsh purchased the house, he obtained a 30-year, \$288,450 mortgage from Fremont Investment & Loan with an adjustable rate that began at 7.25 percent. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage, Document Number 0413433104, Executed 5/06/04]

2006: Refinanced Mortgage for \$303,500

On September 19, 2006 Walsh refinanced the mortgage on the house and obtained a 30-year, \$303,500 mortgage from HSBC Mortgage Corporation. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage, Document Number 0627605111, Executed 9/19/06]

Added New Wife to Deed

When Walsh refinanced his house, he also filed a quit claim deed that added his new wife, Helene Miller to the deed. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Quit Claim Deed, Document Number 0627605110, Executed 9/19/06]

2008: Property Went into Foreclosure

On September 17, 2008 a lis pendens was filed with the Cook County Recorder of Deeds indicating that foreclosure proceeds had begun on the property. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Lis Pendens, Document Number 0826805033, Executed 9/17/08]

2009: Foreclosure was Finalized

On October 13, 2009 the foreclosure of Walsh's property was finalized and a sale of the property by the Cook County sheriff's office was approved. [Chicago Daily Herald, 3/03/10; Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Judicial Sale Deed, Document Number 0930804005, Executed 10/28/09; HSBC Mortgage Corporation v. Helene Miler, et al, Cook County Circuit Court, Case No 2008-CH-34451, filed 9/22/08]

2010: Mortgage Company Sold Property for \$275,000

On March 12, 2010, the Federal National Mortgage Association sold the property to Margaret Kessler for \$275,000. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Warranty Deed, Document Number 1008826291, Executed 3/12/10; Chicago Daily Herald, 10/19/10]

Claimed Foreclosure Helped Relate to Voters

In a March 2010 email to the Chicago Daily Herald which was published unedited, Walsh criticized Congress for becoming a "millionaires' club" and claimed his experience of a foreclosure helped him better relate to the voters. He wrote:

I know all too well what 8th district families are going through to make ends meet because I've experienced some of the same difficult and humbling financial challenges. Like so many others in Illinois in recent years, and 1 in 9 Americans nationally, I know what it's like to lose a home to foreclosure. [Chicago Daily Herald, LTE, 3/04/10]

Walsh: "No Body's Fault but Mine"

In May 2010, Walsh admitted responsibility for the foreclosure of his condo saying it was "no body's fault but mine. It was a painful, painful thing to go through. I took a hit economically."

When an interviewer attempted to use the economic turmoil of 2008 to justify the foreclosure Walsh said, "Hit me over the head if I ever make excuses. The economy definitely took a downturn... That condominium was on the market for three years and we couldn't sell it." [iCaucus Interview, 15:30, 5/07/10]

Note: For a complete copy of Walsh's email to the Chicago Daily Herald please see the Appendix II- Letters to the Editor section of this book.

Below is a picture of the house:



[1415 Sherman Ave, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Photo Taken on Collection, 3/16/11]

2009: Paid \$3,300 Per Month to Rent an \$860,000 Home at 329 Locust Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093

In 2006, Walsh remarried and the combined family had a total of five children. Walsh and his family moved from the condo to a rental home in Winnetka, IL. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), Walsh LTE, 3/04/10]

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), in 2009, Walsh moved to another rental house in Winnetka, IL. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/18/10]

On his Cook County voter registration filed November 2, 2009, Walsh listed 329 Locust Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093 as his home address. The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh paid \$3,300 per month to rent the house which was valued at \$860,000 and included an in-ground pool. [Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, Cook County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11; [Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/07/10]

Chicago Daily Herald Questioned how Walsh Afforded Rent while Earning \$40,000

In March 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) questioned how Walsh could afford to pay \$3,300 per month on rent when he claimed to only earn \$40,000 per year or \$3,333.33 per month. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/07/10]

Walsh gave no explanation but admitted paying rent and a mortgage was not possible when he said, “I overextended myself. No doubt.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/18/10]

Later, Walsh insisted that despite renting the \$3,300-a-month house he was not wealthy. The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) wrote that “he admitted living above his means.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/21/10]

In May 2010, Walsh said, “I’m not a wealthy guy, I’ve never been one. In many ways deciding to run last fall was a real difficult decision...I knew I was leaving my house in a bit of a financial mess.” [iCaucus Interview, 1:30, 5/07/10]

Below is a picture of the house:



[329 Locust Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093, Photo Taken on Collection, 3/16/11]

2010: Paid \$2,000 Per Month to Rent a \$350,000 Home in McHenry, IL

In May 2010, Walsh and his family moved to a three bedroom rental house located in McHenry, IL 60051 so that Walsh would live within Illinois’ 8th Congressional District. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/12/10; Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, McHenry County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11]

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that he paid \$2,000 per month and McHenry County Treasurer assessed the home value at \$354,621. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/19/10; McHenry County Treasurer, 2009 Real Estate Tax Bill]

Property Tax Payment History

Walsh paid his property taxes late a total of four times in 2005 and 2006. He was assessed \$769.44 in interest for the late payments. These were the only years between 1994 and 2010 in which his property taxes were paid late.

Below is a table of Walsh’s property tax payments on his condo located at 1415 Sherman Ave:

1415 Sherman Avenue, Unit 406		
Date Paid	Amount Paid	Interest Paid
11/18/2005	\$2,269.70	\$306.45
11/18/2005	\$3,205.73	\$48.09
10/05/2006	\$2,737.72	\$328.56
10/05/2006	\$2,878.10	\$86.34
02/13/2007	\$2,807.91	
11/19/2007	\$2,903.69	
02/19/2008	\$2,855.80	
10/28/2008	\$2,796.61	
02/13/2009	\$2,826.21	
11/25/2009	\$3,043.23	
02/16/2010	\$3,228.19	
Total		\$769.44

[Cook County Treasurer, Property Tax Payment Records, Accessed 3/23/11]

Note: Despite the condo being foreclosed upon in 2009, Walsh’s name still appears on the payment from February 16, 2010 because it was the second payment for the 2009 tax year.

Below is a table of Walsh’s property tax payments on his house located at 2110 Harrison St:

2110 Harrison Street	
Date Paid	Amount Paid
03/01/2002	\$4,370.59
10/31/2002	\$6,245.14
02/27/2003	\$5,307.87
09/26/2003	\$5,484.49
02/25/2004	\$5,396.18

[Cook County Treasurer, Property Tax Payment Records, Accessed 3/23/11]

Below is a table of Walsh’s property tax payments on his condo located at 1722 Harrison St:

1722 Harrison Street		
Date Paid	Amount Paid	Note
03/01/1994	\$2,191.43	
09/01/1994	\$2,395.13	
03/01/1995	\$2,293.28	

11/03/1995	\$2,555.42	
03/01/1996	\$2,424.35	
09/11/1996	\$2,571.31	
03/04/1997	\$2,497.83	
09/19/1997	\$2,533.95	
03/03/1998	\$2,515.89	
10/28/1998	\$2,597.70	
03/02/1999	\$2,556.80	
03/02/1999	\$2,556.80	Paid Bill Twice
11/01/1999	\$2,904.99	
05/12/2000	-\$2,556.80	Refund of Overpayment
03/01/2000	\$2,730.90	
10/02/2000	\$3,338.80	
10/31/2001	\$3,148.16	
03/01/2001	\$3,034.85	

[Cook County Treasurer, Property Tax Payment Records, Accessed 3/23/11]

Criminal Record

Searches of a nationwide database, the Cook County Clerk of Court, and numerous public records requests to law enforcement agencies in Illinois as well as Iowa yielded no criminal records for Walsh.

Driving Record

According to the Chicago Tribune, Walsh's driver's license was suspended twice in 2008 after he failed to appear in court, and he was cited twice for not having auto insurance in June 2009. [Chicago Tribune, 11/04/10]

Lost Driving License for Nine Months

According to a spokeswoman for the Illinois Secretary of State, "for almost nine months ending in April 2009, Walsh lost his driving privileges because of a failure to appear in court on a traffic case." [Chicago Tribune, 8/17/11]

Lost License Again for Failing to Maintain High-Risk Insurance

According to the Chicago Tribune, Walsh's license was suspended again in April 2011 "because he did not abide by a state requirement to maintain high-risk car insurance known as SR-22, which is used by the state to monitor what it calls problem drivers." [Chicago Tribune, 8/17/11]

Admitted Talking on Cell Phone while Driving

In May 2010, Walsh explained that he was pulled over for driving while talking on his cell phone. He claimed that his license was suspended because his auto insurance had lapsed. Walsh said:

I readily confess that I was pulled over last fall for talking on my cell phone. Again, not the wisest thing to do and unbeknownst to me, my auto insurance had lapsed and so unbeknownst to me as well my driver's license had been suspended. I was driving on a suspended license and didn't realize that. So I paid the fine, I got my insurance, and I got my driver's license back...at the end of the day, that's still my fault. [iCaucus Interview, 18:00, 5/07/10]

Judgments, Liens, Bankruptcy

In January 2011, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh had "federal liens for failing to pay his income taxes in their entirety in the 1990s and taxes on an education trust fund in the 1980s." [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/03/11]

Over \$25,000 in Tax Liens Filed Against Walsh

According to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Walsh has had four individual income tax liens filed against him by the United States Internal Revenue Service and the Illinois Department of Revenue totaling \$25,195.43. Each of the liens has been satisfied and released.

The table below summarizes the liens filed against Walsh:

Lien Type	Tax Type	Date Filed (Filing Number)	Date Released (Filing Number)	Amount
Federal Tax	Individual Income Tax	06/04/1992 (92390868)	08/10/1993 (93628148)	\$2,239.29
Illinois Tax	Individual Income Tax	03/04/1994 (94206598)	03/27/1998 (98242036)	\$610.81
Federal Tax	Individual Income Tax	06/27/1994 (94559740)	01/11/1996 (96029258)	\$21,566.40
Illinois Tax	Individual Income Tax	12/09/1994 (04034489)	08/03/2001 (0010705121)	\$778.93
Total				\$25,195.43

[Cook County Recorder of Deeds]

Walsh: "I Had No Idea that (Money) was Taxable"

In October 2010, Walsh attempted to minimize his tax issues saying, "There's been so much with me. It's part of the package. That's why this tax lien stuff has never been a big deal. The foreclosure and the struggles I've had since have been a more interesting story."

Walsh called the \$2,239 and \$778 tax liens "miscalculations." He also claimed the \$21,556 lien originated from an education trust fund set up by his grandfather to pay for college and said, "I had no idea that (money) was taxable." [Chicago Daily Herald, 10/19/10]

2000: Judgment of \$4,434 Entered Against Walsh by Robinson Furnace Company

In 2000, Robinson Furnace Company filed suit against Walsh and his wife for failing to pay \$4,250 related to the installation of a Lennox gas fired boiler at their home. The court entered a judgment against Walsh totaling \$4,434 which included interest and court costs. The court garnished Walsh's wages from the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation in order to satisfy the judgment. [Robinson Furnace Company, et al v. Joe Walsh, et al, Cook County Circuit Court, Case Number 2000-M2-000142, filed 1/19/00]

2006: Judgment of \$3,559 Entered Against Walsh by 1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association

In 2006, the 1415 Sherman Avenue Condominium Association filed suit against Walsh for failing to pay \$2,286.17 in homeowner assessments. The court entered a judgment against Walsh totaling \$3,559.25 which included court and attorney costs. [1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association v. William J Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Case Number 2006-M1-706985, filed 3/31/06]

2009: Judgment of \$2,305 Entered Against Walsh by 1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association

In 2009, the 1415 Sherman Avenue Condominium Association filed suit against Walsh for failing to pay \$1,590.19 in homeowner assessments. The court entered a judgment against Walsh totaling \$2,305.44 which included court and attorney costs. [1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association v. William J Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Case Number 2009-M1-704736, filed 2/24/09]

Two Judgments Totaling \$3,711 Dismissed

In addition to the judgments that were entered against Walsh, two suits filed by the 1415 Sherman Avenue Condominium Association totaling \$3,711.74 were dismissed before a judgment was made:

2005: Judgment of \$2,046 was Dismissed because Summons were not Properly Delivered

In 2005, the 1415 Sherman Avenue Condominium Association filed suit against Walsh for failing to pay \$2,046.03 in homeowner assessments. However, the association failed to properly deliver a summons to Walsh so the case was dismissed. [1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association v. William J Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Case Number 2005-M1-723143, filed 9/27/05]

2008: Judgment of \$1,665 was Dismissed at the Plaintiff's Request

In 2008, the 1415 Sherman Avenue Condominium Association filed suit against Walsh for failing to pay \$1,665.71 in homeowner assessments. However, less than two months after filing the suit the association requested the case be dismissed. [1415 Sherman Ave Condominium Association v. William J Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Case Number 2008-M1-703046, filed 2/05/08]

Voting History

Walsh registered to vote in Cook County, Illinois on August 31, 1994.

On July 28, 2010, Walsh moved his voter registration to McHenry County, Illinois where he voted in the 2010 general election.

Walsh has consistently voted in all every general and primary election between 1994 and 2010. The table below details the elections in which Walsh has voted:

Election Date	Election Type	Party Ballot	How Voted
11/02/2010	General	N/A	At the Poll
02/02/2010	Gubernatorial Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/04/2008	General	N/A	At the Poll
02/05/2008	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
04/17/2007	Consolidated Election	N/A	At the Poll
11/07/2006	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/21/2006	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/02/2004	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/16/2004	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/05/2002	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/19/2002	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
04/03/2001	Consolidated Election	N/A	At the Poll
11/07/2000	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/21/2000	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/03/1998	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/17/1998	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/04/1997	Non Partisan	N/A	At the Poll
11/05/1996	General	N/A	At the Poll
03/19/1996	Primary	Republican	At the Poll
11/07/1995	Non Partisan	N/A	At the Poll
11/08/1994	General	N/A	At the Poll

[Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, Cook County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11; Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, McHenry County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11]

Divorce Case

In 2003, Walsh's first wife filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences after 16 years of marriage. This section summarizes the divorce proceedings including custody and child support disputes as well as Walsh's personal finances at the time.

December 2010: Ex-Wife Filed Suit for \$117,000 in Unpaid Child Support

In December 2010, shortly after Walsh's election to Congress, his ex-wife, Laura, filed suit claiming he owed \$117,437 in unpaid child support. The suit specifically noted that Walsh was able to loan his Congressional campaign \$35,000 while not paying child support. Laura's lawyer wrote:

The apparent availability of large sums of money from either his employment, his family or his campaign has allowed him to live quite a comfortable lifestyle, while at the same time, due to his failure to pay child support or any of his share of the education costs or medical expenses, Laura and his children were denied any of these advantages.

Filings from 2004 charge that despite Walsh's "claims of poverty, he took a vacation to Mexico with his girlfriend and another to Italy." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 7/28/11]

Walsh Disputed the Child Support Charges

After the details of his child support case were published, Walsh claimed, "Virtually everything in that [Sun-Times](#) piece was wildly inaccurate...I will privately and legally do whatever I can to refute what was alleged about me and clear my name."

Walsh also said, "There's no way anyone in the media is going to get me to talk about my three kids in public...This is personal, and this is something I'm going to fight." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/05/11]

Chicago Daily Herald: "Deadbeat Dads" Cost Taxpayers \$5.8 Billion per Year

While Walsh claimed the case was a "private matter blown out of proportion by his political opponents" the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) noted that:

So-called "deadbeat dads" are a serious drain on local, state and federal resources. In 2010 alone, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, government agencies handled 15.9 million cases of child support enforcement at a total cost to taxpayers of \$5.8 billion. Any elected official accused of contributing to that expense surely has an obligation to explain himself. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/14/11]

Judge Scolded Walsh for not Appearing in Court

During a September 2011 court hearing the judge gave Walsh's attorney a puzzled look and asked why Walsh was not in Court. His lawyer said, "Mr. Walsh is a U.S. congressman," to which the judge replied, "Well, he's no different than anyone else." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 9/15/11]

Walsh Claimed he Provided Full-Time Care while his Ex-Wife Lived in a Different State

In October 2011, Walsh issued a press release claiming he had submitted proof, including canceled checks, "that he did in fact make years of payments at a time in which Laura Walsh claimed she received no payments from Mr. Walsh."

He claimed, "In fact for almost a full year while Laura Walsh was making \$140,000 a year and living in another state, Mr. Walsh provided full time residential custodial care for his youngest son, despite making significantly less money than Laura Walsh." [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 10/12/11]

Over \$2,000 Garnished from Walsh's Congressional Salary

In October 2011, before the final decision in Laura Walsh's case claiming back child support, \$2,136 was being taken every month from Walsh's congressional paychecks. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/12/11]

Walsh Claimed Ex-Wife had "Verbal Agreement" to Stop Paying Child Support

In October 2011, Walsh admitted he had stopped making child support payments but claimed he and his ex-wife had reached a "verbal agreement" in 2008 that he could stop. He accused her of "blatantly and knowingly submitting false information in her pleading." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/13/11]

Ex-Wife: "It's been extremely difficult."

In September 2011, when asked how she and the children had lived without support from Walsh, his ex-wife said, "It's been extremely difficult. We get through one day at a time."

Walsh disputed the challenge claiming, "The truth is the children have experienced an unabated life of private instruction, private schools, dance classes, private sports instruction, and European trips and she has enjoyed a six-figure income." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/13/11]

2003: Wife Filed for Divorce from Walsh

In February 2003, Laura Walsh filed for divorce from Walsh. They had been married on March 21, 1987 in Davenport, Iowa. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 2/24/03]

On March 24, 2004 the divorce was finalized citing irreconcilable differences. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Verified Certificate of Dissolution, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/24/04]

Three Children from First Marriage

During Walsh’s first marriage to Laura Walsh, the couple had three children. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 2/24/03]

2003: Earned \$123,000

In 2003, Walsh earned a total of \$123,000 from the American Education Reform Counsel as well as the Fabretto Children’s Foundation according to the disclosure statement filed in his divorce case. The table below shows what Walsh reported as his monthly income:

Income Source	Amount
Salary/wages/base pay	\$9,583
Other Income: Additional Employment	\$500
Total	\$10,083

[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Disclosure Statement, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 1/31/04]

2005: Earned \$97,515

In 2005 Walsh earned a total of \$97,515. The table below shows the sources of his income:

Income Source	Amount
Advantage Futures	\$50,000
Velvet Steam Roller- Employment (Commencing August 15)	\$27,000
Velvet Steam Roller- Consulting (February and June)	\$20,515
Total	\$97,515

[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Agreed Order, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 11/18/05]

...Five Year Later Claimed to Never have been Wealthy

In March 2010, when news of his condo foreclosure became public, Walsh said, “I am not a wealthy man -- I never have been. We have lived the past couple of years on a salary that averages \$40K year, and which is more in line with the average family in the 8th.” [Chicago Daily Herald, LTE, 3/04/10]

In May 2010, Walsh said, “I’m not a wealthy guy, I’ve never been one. In many ways deciding to run last fall was a real difficult decision...I knew I was leaving my house in a bit of a financial mess.” [iCaucus Interview, 1:30, 5/07/10]

2004: Owed \$116,800 in Liabilities

In his 2004 Statement of Liabilities, Walsh reported to the court that he owed \$116,800. The table below details Walsh’s debt at the time of his divorce:

Creditors Name	Payment For	Balance Due	Minimum Monthly Payment

Loyola Academy	Past Tuition	\$9,000	
St. Athansius	Past Tuition	\$12,000	
IRS	Past Taxes	\$5,000	
Burke Warren & McKay	Legal Bills	\$1,300	
Dr. Graber, Orthodontists	Past Bill	\$2,500	
Sallie Mae	Tuition	\$6,000	\$60
Wells Fargo Financial Corp	Car Loan	\$13,000	\$430
Steve Walsh	Real Estate Loan	\$43,000	
Anne Barkley	Second Mortgage	\$18,000	
NICOR	Old Bills	\$3,000	
COMED	Old Bills	\$600	\$100
City of Evanston	Water Bill	\$300	
Dr. Graber	Dentist Bill	\$2,000	
Melisa	Renter's Deposit	\$1,100	
Total		\$116,800	\$590

[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Disclosure Statement, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 1/31/04]

Sale of House Used to Pay Marital Debt

At the time of Walsh's divorce, their house was under contract for sale. According to the Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, following the sale and the repayment of both the initial mortgage and second mortgage, much of the marital debt would be retired using proceeds from the sale.

Walsh and his ex-wife were to then receive an equal distribution of the sale proceeds from which debt assigned to each party would be paid. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

The following table summarizes the debt Walsh was responsible for paying out of his half of the proceeds:

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Wife	Attorney's fees	\$3,000.00
Nicor Gas	Past obligations of gas bill	\$3,952.10
Commonwealth Edison	Past obligations of electric bill	Unspecified
Evanston Water Department	Past obligations of water bill	Unspecified
City of Chicago Department of Revenue	Past and present parking tickets and/or moving violations	\$200.00
Loyola High School	Past due tuition	Unspecified
Rosenfeld, Rothenberg, Haftron & Shaptio	Attorney's fees and costs	\$17,864.75
Available Total		\$25,016.85

[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

Reported \$3,000 in Checking Account, No Other Cash Assets

In 2004, Walsh reported that he and his wife had a joint checking account valued at \$3,000 but no other cash or cash equivalent assets. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 12/27/02]

No Reported Investments or Securities

According to the 2004 disclosure statement filed in his divorce case, Walsh and his wife reported no investments in stocks, bonds, or securities. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Disclosure Statement, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 1/31/04]

2004: Did Not Have Health Insurance

According to the 2004 disclosure statement filed in his divorce case, Walsh did not have health insurance coverage. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Disclosure Statement, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 1/31/04]

Petitioned for Custody of Children, Claimed Wife had Psychological Condition

During his 2004 divorce, Walsh sought sole custody of his children claiming that his wife, “Laura suffers from psychological and other conditions that mitigate against her being awarded temporary and permanent custody of the minor children.” [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Affidavit of William Walsh in Support of Petition for Temporary and Permanent Custody, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 2/23/04]

Claimed to Have Been Primary Caretaker

Walsh claimed to have been the primary caretaker of the children for the year and a half before the divorce during which time he worked from an office in the home. Before that he spent three years working in Evanston where the children lived while his wife worked in downtown Chicago. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Affidavit of William Walsh in Support of Petition for Temporary and Permanent Custody, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 2/23/04]

Awarded Joint Custody of All Children, Residential Custody of Oldest

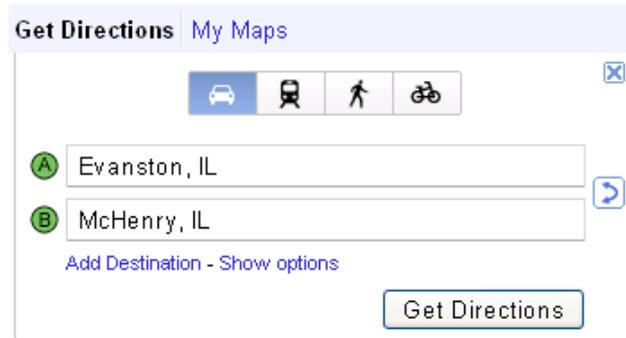
According to the Joint Parenting Agreement filed in Walsh’s divorce case, Walsh and his ex-wife were awarded legal joint custody of all three children. Walsh was awarded residential custody of the oldest, while the younger children would continue to live with his ex-wife. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

Possibly Relinquished Custody of Child to Run for Congress

According to the Joint Parenting Agreement filed in Walsh’s divorce case, “If either Party relocates to a location more than fifteen (15) miles from Evanston, the Party remaining within a fifteen (15) mile radius of Evanston has the right to sole custody of the children.” [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

In May 2010, Walsh and his family moved to a three bedroom rental house located in McHenry, IL 60051 so that Walsh would live within Illinois' 8th Congressional District. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/12/10; Joseph W Walsh Voting History Report, McHenry County Clerk, accessed 2/16/11]

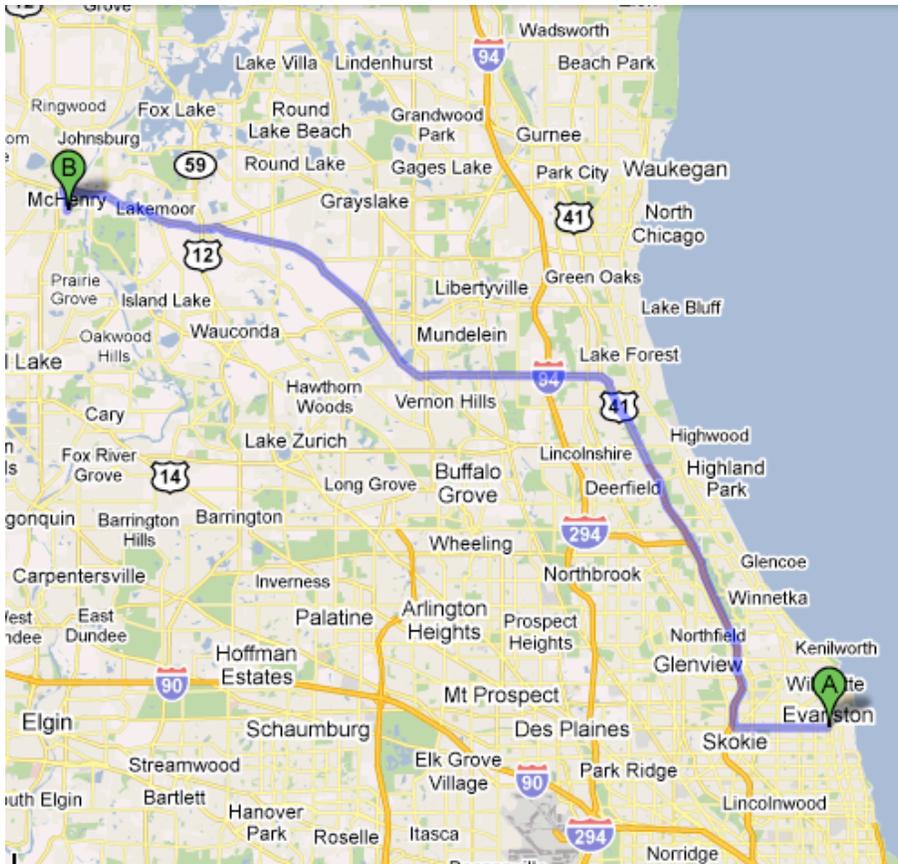
According to Google Maps, McHenry, IL is 43.5 miles from Evanston, IL:



Driving directions to McHenry, IL

Suggested routes

1. IL-60 W 43.5 mi	1 hour 16 mins
2. US-41 N/Skokie Hwy and IL-120 W 48.0 mi	1 hour 16 mins
3. US-41 N/Skokie Hwy 45.9 mi	1 hour 16 mins



[maps.google.com, accessed [4/06/11](#)]

Note: At the time of his move in 2010, only one of the children from Walsh's first marriage would still have been under the age of 18 and still considered a minor by the court.

Walsh: My Kids are My Life

In October 2011, responding to his ex-wife's allegations of unpaid child support, Walsh said, "My kids are my life. I'm going to fight these charges, and pretty soon we'll have a response that will paint the whole picture." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/02/11]

Ordered to Pay \$2,078.44 Per Month as Child Support

In accordance with Illinois statute, in March 2004 Walsh was ordered to pay 28 percent of his monthly net income to his ex-wife as child support. Based on his income in 2004, that equaled \$2,078.44. Walsh's child support payments were to be made directly from his employer pursuant to an order of withholding.

The obligation to pay child support was set to terminate on June 30, 2013, unless modified by the court. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

...Four Months Later Petitioned for Reduction in Child Support Due to New Employment

In July 2004, Walsh petitioned the court to reduce his child support payments to \$1135.75, a reduction of over 45 percent. Walsh claimed his employer was relocating to Phoenix, Arizona but he wished to remain close to his children. The court agreed to modify Walsh's child support payments. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Motion by William J. Walsh for Reduction in Child Support, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 6/24/04; Uniform Order for Support, filed 7/21/04]

Disputed Claims That He Owed \$117,000 in Child Support

In July 2011, Walsh's attorney, R. Steven Polachek, denied that Walsh owed \$117,000 to his ex-wife. He and his ex-wife had been married for 15 years. She filed for divorce in 2002. Walsh's attorney said, "I dispute that he owes the child support that she's claiming or anywhere near that amount. Joe Walsh hasn't been a big-time wage-earner politician until recently -- he's had no more problems with child support than any other average guy." [Chicago Tribune, [7/28/11](#)]

Said He Sees No Conflict between Political Statements, Personal Troubles

In July 2011, Walsh claimed that there was no conflict between his profligate personal spending and his anti-spending political screed. He said, "There is a pattern. Joe Walsh has never made a lot money and struggled. End of story."

Walsh claimed there is no link between his failure to pay \$117,000 in child support, his numerous liens, and his foreclosure and his public statements. He said, "A conflict? Not at all. Here's the deal with me. You're seeing a lot of people rise up from the muck we all live in. Especially the last five or six years ... When stuff on the foreclosure came out in the spring, many Republicans gave me a stiff arm. The average voter wanted to put their arms around me." He claimed that the "people of Illinois' 8th Congressional District voted for me not because I'm wealthy but because they wanted a fighter in Washington." [Daily Herald, [7/29/11](#)]

Criticized By Columnist for Being a "Deadbeat Dad"

Chicago Sun Times columnist, Mary Mitchell, wrote, "Somehow this man — like all of the other deadbeat dads out here — has been able to get away with not financially supporting his children, according to his wife.... That makes me think that Walsh, who came out of nowhere to defeat Melissa Bean, was running to serve himself a fat paycheck rather than to serve his constituents.... That makes me think that Walsh, who came out of nowhere to defeat Melissa Bean, was running to serve himself a fat paycheck rather than to serve his constituents." [Chicago Sun-Times, [8/02/11](#)]

Said Sun-Times Article about Child Support Was a False "Hit Piece"

In July 2011, Walsh said a report by the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) that he owes \$100,000 in child support was a "hit piece" deployed for political purposes. In a statement, he said, "It is not lost on me that a court case filed almost 8 months ago regarding a marriage that ended more than 8 years ago would be brought up today. I am the tip of the spear in this current debate, and I will be attacked. And as your Congressman I promise you that I am going to put my head down, get back to work and continue to fight for our freedoms and our children's future. I'm not going to let some hit piece in the media deter me from that." [Politico, [7/28/11](#)]

Democrats and Catholics Protested Failure to Pay Child Support

In July 2011, the Northern Illinois chapter of Progressive Democrats of America and Catholics United protested at Walsh's office in Fox Lake over his alleged failure to pay \$117,000 in child support to his ex-wife. Steve Williams, an attendee, said, "The purpose was to express our distaste with a deadbeat dad representing the 8th Congressional district." Walsh's staff locked the doors of the office, preventing the protestors from delivering a signed letter, but opened the office once the media arrived. [Grayslake Patch, [7/31/11](#)]

Blasted National Debt for Placing Burden on Children...But Failed To Pay \$100K Child Support

In July 2011, Walsh said, "I won't place one more dollar of debt upon the backs of my kids and grandkids unless we structurally reform the way this town spends money!" Walsh has allegedly failed to pay \$117,437 in child support to his ex-wife. [[Chicago Sun-Times, 7/27/11](#)]

Accused President of Lying, Having No Shame...But Failed To Pay \$100K Child Support

In July 2011, Walsh released a video in which he said, "President Obama, quit lying. Have you no shame, sir? In three short years, you've bankrupted this country." Walsh has allegedly failed to pay \$117,437 in child support to his ex-wife, though there is no indication he sees any shame in his failure to pay. [[Chicago Sun-Times, 7/27/11](#)]

Failed to Obtain Life Insurance as Required by Divorce

In May 2005, Walsh admitted to the court that he failed to obtain \$250,000 worth of life insurance as required by the Joint Parenting Agreement of March 29, 2004. In his answer, Walsh wrote, "No excuses, I simply forgot," and claimed to have purchased the insurance on April 12, 2005 once the issue was brought to his attention when his ex-wife filed a petition and notice to appear in court. [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04; Walsh Answer, filed 5/04/05]

Failed to Pay for (All of) Son's Auto Insurance as Required by Divorce

In May 2005, Walsh admitted to the court that he failed to pay for the costs of his son's, auto insurance. Walsh claimed:

I did purchase auto insurance for Joey for my car per the Judge's July order. In September, 2004, Joey purchased his own car without his parent's knowledge, when both the petitioner and I finally let him drive the car, we told him he was responsible for his own auto insurance. The car was inoperable for a few months, when he was able to drive it again in January, 2005, I was under the impression he was paying for his own insurance." [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Answer, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 5/04/05]

However the Joint Parenting Agreement of March 29, 2004, states, "Husband shall be solely responsible for the cost of [son's] automobile insurance, including insurance for [son's] car." [Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 3/29/04]

Judge Is Demanding Walsh Show Just Cause for Not Paying Child Support Payments

In September 2011, a Cook County Circuit judge issued a “rule to show cause,” a preliminary ruling that demands Walsh show why he should not be held in contempt for falling over \$100,000 behind in child support payments, against Walsh. [Chicago Sun Times, [9/14/11](#)]

Judge Also Appalled Walsh Did Not Appear in Person

The Circuit Judge also asked why Walsh’s ex-wife appeared in court but Walsh did not, to which Walsh’s attorney responded, “Mr. Walsh is a U.S. congressman,” and the judge replied, “Well, he’s no different than anyone else.” [Chicago Sun Times, [9/14/11](#)]

Refused to Discuss Charges of Owing Child Support

In January 2012 interview with Martin Bashir, Walsh refused to discuss charges that he owes \$117,000 in child support. Walsh pledged to fight the charges “legally and privately.” [Huffington Post, [01/24/12](#)]

Refused to Comment on Illinois Bill Forbidding Child Support Debtors from Running for Office

Walsh also refused to comment on an Illinois bill that would forbid people owing more than \$10,000 in child support from running for political office. [Huffington Post, [01/24/12](#)]

Note: A copy of the video is saved on the drive.

Resolved Child Support Lawsuit with Ex-Wife

In April 2012, Walsh announced that he and “his ex-wife Laura Walsh have reached a settlement on her claim that he owed her \$117,000 in back child support from years of paying nothing.”

Neither Walsh nor his ex-wife would comment on the terms of the settlement. Laura Walsh did however issue a statement she made jointly with the Congressman saying, in part: “We now agree that Joe is not and was not a ‘deadbeat dad’ and does not owe child support.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [4/19/12](#)]

Personal Finance

The following provides a brief overview of Walsh's personal finances.

Proud to Be Called the Poorest Member of Congress

In March 2011, Walsh was named the poorest member of Congress, according to calculations by the Center for Responsive Politics, with a net worth of -\$317,498.

Joe Walsh said he was proud to be the poorest member and commented, "It's sort of a badge of honor. I felt so strongly about why I wanted to run even though I may not have been in the best financial situation."

Walsh had told a reporter during his congressional campaign that he earned about \$40,000 per year working as a venture capitalist. [CNBC, [3/09/11](#)]

Just One Month Prior: Held a Fundraiser at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in DC

On February 10, 2011, just one month prior to his being named the poorest member of Congress, Walsh received guests at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in Washington, D.C. with a cost of \$2,500 to be named a Co-Sponsor and \$1,000 for PACs. [Political Party Time, [2/10/11](#)]

2009 Federal Personal Financial Disclosure

At Least \$70,000 in Earned Income

Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, Walsh reported earnings of \$57,000. Between January 1, 2010 and April 20, 2010 when he filed the financial disclosure statement, Walsh earned \$70,000.

The following table illustrates Walsh's earned income for 2010 and 2009:

Source of Income	2010 Amount of Income to Filing	2009 Amount of Income	Type of Income
United Republican Fund of Illinois	\$0	\$21,000	Salary
Target Foods, Inc.	\$70,000	\$36,000	Commissions
Interior Design – Helene Miller-Walsh	N/A	N/A	Spouse Earnings
TOTAL	\$70,000	\$57,000	

[Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

At Least \$4,000 in Assets

As of 2010, Walsh held stocks and other investments valued between \$4,006 and \$62,000. Walsh's investments earned between \$15,206 and \$51,800 in 2009.

The following table illustrates Walsh’s Assets and Unearned Income in 2010 and 2009:

Asset / Source of Income	Value of Asset	2010 Amount of Income to Filing	2009 Amount of Income	Type of Income	Ownership
Northern Trust Bank Chicago	\$1-\$1,000	\$1-\$200	\$1-\$200	Interest	Joint
Northern Trust Bank Chicago	\$1,001-\$15,000	\$1-\$200	\$1-\$200	Interest	Spouse
Charles Schwab 401(k)	\$1,001-\$15,000	\$1-\$200	\$1-\$200	Interest	---
SURS Pension	\$1,001-\$15,000	\$1-\$200	\$1-\$200	Interest	---
Everbury Partners	---	\$5,001-\$15,000	\$15,001-\$50,000	Economic Interest	Spouse
The Miller Group, Inc.	\$1-\$1,000	None	None	Dividends	Spouse
Hon Ind	\$1,001-\$15,000	\$1-\$200	\$201-\$1,000	Dividends	---
TOTAL	\$4,006-\$62,000	\$5,006-\$16,000	\$15,206-\$51,800		

[Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

Wife Made \$26,000 from Real Estate Interest in Everbury Partners

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), in 2009, Walsh’s wife made \$26,000 from Everbury Partners which is real estate in which she has a passive economic interest. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/21/10]

At least \$250,001 in Mortgage Liabilities

In 2010, Walsh had between \$250,001 and \$500,000 in mortgage liability on his condo in Evanston, IL.

The following table illustrates Walsh’s liabilities for 2010:

Creditor	Type of Liability	Amount
HSBC, Buffalo, N.Y.	MTG on 1415 Evanston, IL	\$250,001-\$500,000

[Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

Note: This property was foreclosed on after the financial disclosure statement was filed. Please see the Biography Section of this book for more information on Walsh’s foreclosure.

Served as Advisor to John & Kathleen Buck Family Foundation

In 2010, Walsh served as an advisor to the John & Kathleen Buck Family Foundation

The following table illustrates Walsh's positions for 2010:

Position	Organization
Advisor	John & Kathleen Buck Family Foundation

[Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

Compensation in Excess of \$5,000 Paid by One Source

In 2010, Walsh received compensation in excess of \$5,000 from two sources.

The following table illustrates Walsh's compensation for 2010:

Source	Description
Administaff Companies, Texas	Consulting on Fundraising
Fabretto Children's Foundation, Chicago	Fundraising Services

[Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

2009 Walsh IRS Form 1040

Released 2009 Tax Return to the Media, Wrote Off over \$20,000 as Loss on Foreclosed Condo

In May 2010, Walsh released his 2009 tax return to the Chicago Daily Herald which reported that he and his wife earned \$65,227 in 2009 but reported a loss of \$20,695 on the Evanston condominium lost to foreclosure. [Chicago Daily Herald, 5/21/10]

Posted Portion of Tax Return on Campaign Website

Walsh posted the first two pages of his 2009 federal tax return on his campaign website. The table below summarizes his return:

Form 1040 Tax Line	Amount
Taxable Interest	\$32
Business Income or Loss	\$39,195
Other Gains or Losses	(\$20,695)
Other Income	\$26,000 [Everbury Partners]
Total	\$44,532
Adjusted Gross Income	\$41,763 [\$44,532 – \$2,769 (one half of self-employment tax)]
Itemized Deductions	(\$11,400) [Standard Deduction for Filing Jointly]
After Deductions	\$30,363
Exemptions	(\$14,600)
After Exemptions	\$15,763

Tax	\$1,578
Self Employment Tax	\$5,538
Total Tax	\$7,116
Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credit	(\$800)
Earned Income Credit	(\$741)
Total Credits	(\$1,541)
Amount Owed	\$5,575

[2009 Walsh IRS Form 1040]

2006-2009: Average Income was nearly \$54,000

In an April 2010 press release, Walsh disclosed his adjusted gross income from 2006 to 2009 which showed his average annual adjusted gross income was \$53,981.

The table below shows Walsh's adjusted gross income:

Year	Amount
2009	\$41,763
2008	\$25,524
2007	\$60,553
2006	\$88,084

[Walsh for Congress Press Release via Walsh Campaign Email, 4/30/10]

Claimed to Never have been Wealthy

In March 2010, when news of his condo foreclosure became public, Walsh said, "I am not a wealthy man -- I never have been. We have lived the past couple of years on a salary that averages \$40K year, and which is more in line with the average family in the 8th." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 3/04/10]

In October 2010, Walsh said, "There is a pattern. Joe Walsh has never made a lot of money and struggled. End of story." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/19/10]

In May 2010, Walsh said, "I'm not a wealthy guy, I've never been one. In many ways deciding to run last fall was a real difficult decision...I knew I was leaving my house in a bit of a financial mess." [iCaucus Interview, 1:30, 5/07/10]

2003: Earned \$123,000

In 2003, Walsh earned a total of \$123,000 from the American Education Reform Counsel as well as the Fabretto Children's Foundation according to the disclosure statement filed in his divorce case. The table below shows what Walsh reported as his monthly income:

Income Source	Amount
Salary/wages/base pay	\$9,583
Other Income: Additional Employment	\$500

Total	\$10,083
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[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Walsh Disclosure Statement, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 1/31/04]

2005: Earned \$97,515

In 2005 Walsh earned a total of \$97,515. The table below shows the sources of his income:

Income Source	Amount
Advantage Futures	\$50,000
Velvet Steam Roller- Employment (Commencing August 15)	\$27,000
Velvet Steam Roller- Consulting (February and June)	\$20,515
Total	\$97,515

[Laura J Walsh v W Joseph Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Agreed Order, Case No 2002-D-230912, filed 11/18/05]

Criticized Government Debt...But Failed to Manage His Own Finances

In August 2011, several news outlets reported Walsh has mismanaged his personal finances and accrued tens of thousands of dollars in liens and back taxes.

He had recently told Concerned Women for America, "I am one of ... the Members of the House that have signed a pledge that says unless we cut spending and unless we cap spending and unless both Houses pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, we will not vote to raise the debt ceiling. It's a blood oath. It's a big deal. This is a financial issue, this is a moral issue. We are bankrupting our kids and our grandkids." [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Over \$20K in Tax Liens Owed to Federal Government from an Educational Trust Fund

Roll Call reported, "Walsh has had several tax liens placed against him, according to public records. The largest of the liens — \$21,566.40 owed to the federal government — was the result of an educational trust fund on which Walsh did not know he owed taxes; it has since been repaid." [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Repaid a Couple of Thousands of Dollars in State Tax Liens

Roll Call reported Walsh had previously repaid state liens that amounted to a couple of thousands of dollars. [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Repaid \$5,000 in Bills Owed to Condominium Association

Roll Call reported that Walsh had previously paid about \$5,000 that had been owed to the condominium association that manages the home Walsh lost to foreclosure. [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Repaid a \$4K Judgment to a Furnace Company

Roll Call reported that Walsh had repaid a \$4,250 judgment to a furnace company. [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

June 2011: Owed \$11,000 to Law Firm **Handling Campaign Worker's**

Roll Call reported that at the end of June, Walsh's campaign had owed about \$11,000 to the law firm involved with handling the case brought against Walsh concerning unpaid wages to his former campaign manager, Keith Liscio. [Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Staffer Claimed Walsh Would "Spend, Spend, Spend Uncontrollably"

During Walsh's Congressional campaign, one staffer claimed Walsh would "spend, spend, spend uncontrollably." Walsh bounced checks during the campaign, including to a Republican fundraiser. At the time, the Walsh campaign said it was a smear campaign by disgruntled workers and claimed Walsh had learned from his financial mistakes, such as his foreclosure. [Associated Press, [7/28/11](#)]

Badly Mismanaged Personal Funds

In 2009, Walsh foreclosed on his Evanston condo and also had state and federal liens. One lien, from June 1992, was for failure to pay \$2,239 in federal income taxes. A second, from June 1994, was for failure to pay \$21,556 in federal income taxes on his education trust fund as far back as 1985. He said, "I had no idea that (money) was taxable." Illinois placed a \$778 lien on his property in 1994 for failure to pay state income taxes. By 2001, all the liens were paid off. [Daily Herald, [7/29/11](#)]

Career

The following provides a brief overview of Walsh's professional career.

Professional Career Overview

Walsh's professional career has included time at conservative think tanks where his work focused on education issues, non-profit organizations, and investment banking.

According to the National Journal, the following table represents Walsh's professional career:

Year	Position	Organization
2009	Vice President Development	United Republican Fund
2007	Investment Adviser	Ravenswood Advisors
2006-Present	Development Director	Fabretto Children's Foundation
2005-2008	Vice President, New-Business Development	Advantage Futures
2002-2004	Development Director	American Education Reform Council
2001-2002	Executive Director	Legislative Education Action Drive
1997-2001	Executive Director	Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation
1994-1996	Development Associate	Heartland Institute
1992-1993	Manager	Youth Job Center

[National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

2009: Vice President Development, United Republican Fund

According to the National Journal, in 2009 Walsh worked as Vice President of Development for the United Republican Fund. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

The Chicago Daily Herald called the Fund "an independent GOP organization." [Chicago Daily Herald, 5/21/10]

The Fund's facebook page claims it was founded in 1934 and is "Illinois' oldest, independent, Republican organization." [facebook.com, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

Website Redirects to Conservative Blog

According to the United Republican Fund of Illinois' facebook page, its web address is <http://www.UnitedRepublican.com>, however as of April 2011, that site redirected to <http://www.illinoisreview.typepad.com>, a conservative Illinois blog. [UnitedRepublican.com, accessed [4/13/11](#); illinoisreview.typepad.com, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

Registered as a Political Committee with Illinois State Board of Elections

The United Republican Fund has been registered as a political committee with the Illinois State Board of Elections since October 1, 1974. Its reported purpose is:

To advance conservative principles, policies and people by equipping and electing to office men and women who endorse and promote the Republican values of individual freedom [s/c] and responsibility, limited and ethical government, the rule of law and free mark [elections.il.gov, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

Raised and Spent Over \$800,000 During the 2010 Cycle

According to the United Republican Fund’s Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections, it began the 2010 cycle with \$37,599.67 cash on hand, raised \$810,891.94 and spent \$834,198.93.

The table below summarizes the Fund’s semiannual financial reports:

Dates	Receipts Amount	Expenditures Amount
01/01/2009 - 06/30/2009	\$60,993.10	\$85,880.89
07/01/2009 - 12/31/2009	\$96,494.09	\$108,171.78
01/01/2010 - 06/30/2010	\$148,550.00	\$112,802.03
07/01/2010 - 12/31/2010	\$504,854.75	\$527,344.23
Total	\$810,891.94	\$834,198.93

[Illinois State Board of Elections, Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures, United Republican Fund of IL, filed [7/16/2009](#), filed [1/18/2010](#), filed [7/14/2010](#), filed [1/20/2011](#)]

Paid Walsh \$25,000

According to the United Republican Fund’s Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections, from March to August of 2009, it paid Walsh a total of \$25,000 for “Professional Services.”

The table below summarizes its payments to Walsh:

Date	Purpose	Amount
03/06/2009	Professional Services	\$5,000
04/06/2009	Professional Services	\$4,000
05/06/2009	Professional Services	\$4,000
06/15/2009	Professional Services	\$4,000
07/15/2009	Professional Services	\$4,000
08/05/2009	Professional Services	\$4,000
Total		\$25,000

[Illinois State Board of Elections, Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures, United Republican Fund of IL, filed [7/16/2009](#), filed [1/18/2010](#)]

Note: The payments stop in August 2009, the same month Walsh began his campaign for Congress.

Underreported Income from Fund on Federal Disclosure Form

On his 2010 Financial Disclosure Statement Walsh reported earning \$21,000 from the United Republican Fund. [Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

1990-2000: Registered as a Federal PAC

From 1990 to 2000, the United Republican Fund of Illinois was registered as a federal political action committee but has not been active since that time. [opensecrets.org, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

2007: Investment Adviser, Ravenswood Advisors

According to the National Journal, in 2007 Walsh worked as an investment advisor for Ravenswood Advisors. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

According to their website, Ravenswood Advisors “specialize in helping companies realize their full financial potential.” They especially stress the importance of higher profits if an owner is attempting to sell a company. [michiganavenueadvisors.com, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

2006-Present: Development Director, Fabretto Children’s Foundation

According to the National Journal, from 2006 to the time of writing, Walsh worked as a Development Director for the Fabretto Children’s Foundation. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

The Fabretto Children’s Foundation is a registered US 501(c) (3) non-profit established in 1993 based in Arlington, VA. Its goal is to increase awareness of the plight of impoverished Nicaraguan children and to raise financial support for Fabretto programs.

Together with La Familia Padre Fabretto in Nicaragua and Fundación Fabretto in Spain, Fabretto serves approximately 10,000 children and their families from six Fabretto centers and more than 50 public elementary schools. Their programs include promoting nutrition, health, education, community and character development. [fabretto.org, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

2005-2008: Vice President, New-Business Development, Advantage Futures

According to the National Journal, from 2005 to 2008, Walsh worked as a Vice President of New-Business Development for Advantage Futures. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

Advantage Futures is a futures brokerage company that provides clearing and execution services. From Bloomberg Businessweek:

It offers execution services, such as direct-to-floor/institutional and value-added sales execution, and global execution desk services; and clearing, risk management, server hosting, and technology support services. The company serves institutions, hedge funds, CTAs, proprietary trading groups, and professional traders. [investing.businessweek.com, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

Advantage Futures had over \$524 million in client funds on deposit in 2011 and has processed over 1.9 billion client contracts. [advantagefutures.com, accessed [4/13/11](#)]

2002-2004: Development Director, American Education Reform Council

According to the National Journal, from 2002 to 2004, Walsh worked as a Development Director for the American Education Reform Council. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

Council Advocated for School Choice...

The American Education Reform Council was a Milwaukee-based non-profit organization whose mission was “to provide accurate and credible information about school choice.” [Zelman v. Simmons-Harris, 536 U.S. 639, Brief of American Education Reform Council as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioners, filed [11/09/01](#)]

According to their 2003 990 tax form, the purpose of the American Education Reform Council was to “research and educate the public on school choice.” [IRS Tax Form 990, American Education Reform Council, tax year [2003](#)]

...and School Vouchers

The Council was also an advocate of school vouchers. In 2001 it filed an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court that claimed:

...rigorous empirical studies show that students who receive vouchers and attend private schools improve their academic performance. Just as important, empirical evidence shows that voucher programs, by stimulating competition, motivate underperforming public schools to improve. [Zelman v. Simmons-Harris, 536 U.S. 639, Brief of American Education Reform Council as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioners, filed [11/09/01](#)]

Received Funded from DeVos Foundation

Between 2001 and 2004, the American Education Reform Council received \$106,000 in grant money from the Dick and Betsy DeVos Foundation. [Media Transparency, accessed [1/20/11](#)]

1993-2002: CEO of Amway

Dick DeVos is the son of Amway co-founder Richard DeVos and served as CEO of the company from 1993-2002. [mediamattersaction.org, accessed [4/14/11](#)]

Invested \$200 Million in China, Laid Off Michigan Workers

During his tenure DeVos presided over deep cuts in Amway’s work force including 900 Michigan layoffs in 2000. He also invested more than \$200 million in China. [Detroit News, [7/27/06](#)]

2006: Unsuccessfully Ran for Governor of Michigan

In 2006, DeVos ran the most expensive gubernatorial campaign in Michigan history, spending \$41 million. He lost to Democrat Jennifer Granholm 56% to 42%. [cnn.com, Michigan Election Results, [2006](#)]

DeVos Supported Teaching Intelligent Design in Science Classes

While running to be the Governor of Michigan in 2006, Dick DeVos believed Michigan's science curriculum should include intelligent design. He said, "I would like to see the ideas of intelligent design that many scientists are now suggesting is a very viable alternative theory. That theory and others that would be considered credible would expose our students to more ideas, not less." [[Detroit News](#), 9/21/06]

Merged with Children First America, Renamed Alliance for School Choice

In 2004, the American Education Reform Council merged with Children First America and changed its name to the Alliance for School Choice. [Media Transparency, accessed [1/19/11](#)]

Children First America was founded by J. Patrick Rooney. In 1991, Rooney established the \$1.2 million Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust. The organization takes credit for "giving birth to the private voucher movement." The Trust paid half of the tuition of up to 500 students to attend the private school of their parent's choice. [Children First America, accessed [1/20/11](#)]

Alliance for School Choice Provided Grants to Conservative Groups and Individuals

The Alliance for School Choice called itself the "nation's vanguard organization for promoting, implementing, and enhancing K-12 educational choice." Their mission was to promote "sustainable public policy that empowers parents, particularly those in low-income families, to choose the education they determine is best for their children." [Alliance for School Choice, accessed [1/19/11](#)]

On their 2004 IRS Form 990, the Alliance for School Choice stated their purpose was "research and educate the public on school choice. They used their money to make "direct grants to nonprofit organizations within select states throughout the country. The Alliance provided grants to organizations as well as individuals involved in school choice. Individual recipients include Ken Starr and former Colorado Congressman Bob Schaeffer. [Foundation Center, 2004 IRS Tax Form 990, accessed [1/19/11](#)]

Alliance Provided Lawmakers with Sample School Choice Legislation

The Alliance provided lawmakers with sample legislation they could introduce to advance the cause of school choice. Bills include the "Parental Choice Scholarship Program Act" which would create a scholarship program that would allow children to attend a public or private school of their parent's choice. Other pieces of legislation would create scholarship programs for special needs children, children with autism, foster children, children in military families and pre-school aged children. The "Great Schools Tax Credit Program Act" would create a tax credit for companies

and individuals who donated to organizations that provided these scholarships. [Alliance for School Choice, accessed [1/19/11](#)]

2001-2002: Executive Director, Legislative Education Action Drive

According to the National Journal, from 2001 to 2002, Walsh worked as the Executive Director for the Legislative Education Action Drive. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

According to their website, the “Legislative Education Action Drive (LEAD ACTION) is a 501c4 dedicated to promoting alternative educational opportunities across the country. Since it’s [*s/c*] incorporation in 2001 LEAD Action has become a leading force in the alternative educational options movement.” [leadaction.org, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

1999/2001/2003: Instructor, Hebrew Theological Institute

Walsh claims to have taught American Government and American History at the “Hebrew Theological Institute.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 3/29/11; walsh.house.gov, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

According to the Chicago Daily Herald, Walsh did not remember the exact years he taught there but the chancellor of the “Hebrew Theological College” in Skokie, IL said records show he taught American government in 1999, 2001, and 2003. [Chicago Daily Herald, 6/17/11]

1997-2001: Executive Director, Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation

According to the National Journal, from 1997 to 2001, Walsh worked as the Executive Director for the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

The Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund was founded in 1898 by Jim Murphy, a successful options trader, and his brothers, Robert and Tom, in honor of their late father, who they said had to struggle to pay the tuition to send his sons to Loyola Academy in Wilmette. It provides “four-year high school scholarships and educational support to economically disadvantaged Chicago 8th grade students who demonstrate outstanding academic potential, leadership skills and strong character.” [dmsf.org, accessed [4/15/11](#); Chicago Sun-Times, 8/08/97]

Raised \$800,000 Per Year, Awarded \$2,500 Scholarships to Attend Private Schools

In 1997, Walsh said the Foundation operated on the belief that “any kid can succeed if they’re given a chance.” At the time it drew significant support from corporations to raise about \$800,000 a year and awarded 80 news scholarships worth \$2,500 each for Chicago students to attend private high schools.

The ratio of boys to girls among scholarship winners was 50-50. Among them, 55 percent were African American, 34 percent Hispanic, 6 percent Asian, and 5 percent white. Their families’ average income was \$15,000; 60 percent were from single-parent households. [Chicago Sun-Times, 8/08/97]

1994-1996: Development Associate, Heartland Institute

According to the National Journal, from 1994 to 1996, Walsh worked as a Development Associate for the Heartland Institute. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

The Heartland Institute is a nonprofit research and education organization based in Chicago. According to their website, their mission is to “discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems.” They “actively oppose junk science and the use of scare tactics in the areas of environmental protection and public health.” [heartland.org, Mission, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

Milton Friedman has called the Heartland Institute “a highly effective libertarian institute.” [heartland.org, About, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

Executive Director of Center for Rebuilding America’s Schools

While working at the Heartland Institute, Walsh was the Executive Director of the Center for Rebuilding America’s Schools, which was incorporated separately from the Institute in order to perform general public outreach and grassroots organizing on school reform issues.

Walsh said, “There has been no attempt in Illinois to develop a constituency.” He planned to use direct mail and statewide events to get 100,000 members signed up to support a school voucher program. “Then maybe the legislature will be more sympathetic to reforms,” Walsh said. [Chicago Tribune, 1/08/95]

Heartland Donors Included Charles Koch, Walton Family

The Heartland Institute no longer discloses their donor list. [heartland.org, [4/15/11](#)]

On previous disclosures, their donors include the Castle Rock Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, and the John M. Olin Foundation. [mediatransparency.org, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

Claimed “Global Warming Alarmists” Afraid to Lose Debate to “Climate Realists”

In response to criticism that their climate change conferences were nothing but publicity stunts, the Heartland Institute said:

We do not script the remarks of speakers at our conferences or even see their presentations before they deliver them. People with opposing views, including Al Gore and James Hansen, are routinely invited but they boycott our events, afraid to lose debates in front of their peers. (Global warming alarmists virtually always lose debates with climate realists.) [heartland.org, [4/15/11](#)]

Claimed the Risks of Cigarette Smoking were “Exaggerated”

The Heartland Institute believed the risks of cigarette smoking were “exaggerated by the public health community to justify their calls for more regulations on businesses and higher taxes on smokers, and that the risk of adverse health effects from second-hand smoke is dramatically less

than for active smoking.” They claim the left uses “junk science” to “demonize smokers.”
[heartland.org, [4/15/11](#)]

Founder was Director of Cato Institute, Other Conservative Organizations

The Heartland Institute was founded in Chicago in 1984 by David H. Padden. He served as Chairman of the Heartland Institute from 1984 to 1995 and is currently a Chairman Emeritus.

Padden has also served as a Director of the Cato Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy, the Acton Institute, the Foundation for Economic Education, and President of the Center for Libertarian Studies. [heartland.org, published [8/28/02](#)]

1994-1996/2002: Lecturer, Oakton Community College

Walsh was employed as a Lecturer of History and Political Science from August 1994 to May 1996 and again from January to December 2002 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois.

The table below summarizes the courses he taught and the salary earned:

Term	Course	Sections Taught	Salary
Fall 1994	PSC 101 American Government	2	\$2,610
Spring 1995	PSC 101 American Government	2	\$2,610
Summer 1995	HIS 112 United States History from 1877	1	\$1,350
Fall 1995	PSC 101 American Government	1	\$1,386
Spring 1996	PSC 101 American Government	1	\$1,386
Spring 2002	PSC 101 American Government	1	\$1,857
Summer 2002	PSC 101 American Government	1	\$1,857
Fall 2002	HIS 112 United States History since 1945	1	\$1,965
Total			\$15,021

[Oakton Community College, Notice for Records Inspection, 3/15/11]

Contributed Over \$1,200 to SURS Pension

While Walsh was teaching at Oakton Community College, he contributed \$1,238.50 to the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois. The table below summarizes his contributions:

Period	Amount
09/01/1994 - 08/31/1995	\$562.42
09/01/1995 - 08/31/1996	\$221.76
09/01/2001 - 08/31/2002	\$297.12
09/01/2002 - 08/31/2003	\$157.20
Total	\$1,238.50

[State Universities Retirement System of Illinois, Contribution and Interest Information, Accessed 3/15/11]

2009: Received Between \$1 and \$200 from Pension

According to his Personal Financial Disclosure, in 2009 Walsh received between \$1 and \$200 from the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois. [Walsh Personal Financial Disclosure, US House, 2010]

Ineligible for Benefits

According to Oakton Community College, Walsh was not in a benefited position and therefore ineligible for health insurance. [Oakton Community College, Notice for Records Inspection, 3/15/11]

1992-1993: Manager, Youth Job Center

According to the National Journal, from 1992 to 1993, Walsh worked as a Manager for the Youth Job Center. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

According to its website, the Youth Job Center provides employment-related services for disadvantaged and at-risk youth in Evanston and Chicago. It claims to have served more than 20,000 young people over its 29-year history by preparing youth ages 14 to 25 for success in the workplace by providing job-readiness, placement, and employment support. [youthjobcenter.org, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

Political Career

This section provides an overview of Walsh's political career, from 1996 to the first few months of 2012. **This section also includes Walsh's comments on President Obama, as well as Walsh's views on being a Congressman.**

Committee Assignments

For the 112th Congress, Walsh served on the following committees and subcommittees:

- Homeland Security
 - Counterterrorism & Intelligence
 - Emergency Preparedness, Response & Communications
 - Transportation Security
- Oversight & Government Reform
 - Health Care, District of Columbia, Census & the National Archives
 - TARP, Financial Services & Bailouts of Public and Private Programs
- Small Business
 - Economic Growth, Tax & Capital Access – Chairman
 - Healthcare & Technology
 - Investigations, Oversight & Regulations [CQ Member Profiles, Joe Walsh, [accessed 3/25/11](#)]

2011: Switched to 8th Congressional District After Announcing for the 14th

In December 2011, Walsh announced that he would run for reelection in the newly-redrawn 8th Congressional District rather than challenge fellow freshman incumbent Republican Randy Hultgren for the 14th. Walsh had previously promised to run in the district into which he was drawn which would have been the 14th. [[Associated Press](#), 12/09/11; [Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/04/11]

Promised \$3.5 Million in Fundraising Assistance

In December 2011, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Speaker John Boehner promised Walsh “\$3.5 million in general election fundraising help” if he ran in the newly drawn 8th district instead of challenging fellow Republican Randy Hultgren for the 14th.

Jack Roeser, an “influential Barrington Republican” and \$50,000 contributor to Boehner encouraged the Speaker to meet with Walsh and provide an “incentive” for him to switch districts. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), [12/08/11](#)]

Club for Growth Urged Walsh to Run in the 14th District

In July 2011, the Club for Growth encouraged Walsh to run in the 14th district saying it would “enthusiastically support” his campaign. [[Roll Call](#), 7/28/11]

Defended Herman Cain

In November 2011 during Cain's visit to the Hill, Walsh defended Cain in the wake of sexual harassment allegations, "Tell us what it is and then let's move on and talk about what you're doing for the country," Rep. Joe Walsh (R-Ill.) said of the charges against Cain. "Everybody's got stuff. Your profession's got to grow up. We as politicians need to grow up. The American people need to grow up." [Washington Post, [11/02/11](#)]

Called Tea Party Leader Arrested for Soliciting a Prostitute a "Good Friend"

In October 2011, Walsh called Stevan Stevlic, the Chicago Tea Party Director, "a good friend" after Stevlic was arrested for misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution. The charges were dropped when Stevlic agreed to participate in a rehab program. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/02/11]

Criticized Republican Leadership

At an October 2011 Tea Party convention, Walsh called Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor "good folks," but said, "The problem is they've been there too long and are afraid to fight for this country." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/02/11]

2011: Named Seventh Most Vulnerable Incumbent

In January 2011, Walsh was named by Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake of the [Washington Post](#) as the seventh most vulnerable incumbent for the 2012 election. They wrote:

Walsh was one of the more surprising winners in November. He makes this list both because Democrats will redraw his district and because a very capable politician, now-former Rep. Melissa Bean (D), may seek a rematch. Keep an eye on Bean, who would be an "A"-level recruit for Democrats. [Washingtonpost.com, 1/07/11]

Could Care Less About Being Reelected

At the 2011 CPAC conference, Walsh said, "I will govern these next two years perfectly willing to lose in two years. I could care less." [voices.washingtonpost.com, [2/12/11](#)]

Walsh: "I Don't Give a Damn About Getting Reelected"

In February 2011 Walsh said, "We'll legislate for the next two years and, honestly, I don't give a damn about getting re-elected." [[Northwest Herald](#), [2/26/11](#)]

Vowed to be the "Most Accessible Congressman on the Planet"

In February 2011, Walsh said he vows to be the "most accessible congressman on the planet." [Barrington Patch, [2/25/11](#)]

Complained It's Difficult to Get Things Done...with a 242 Member Majority

In February 2011, Walsh responded that he feels pressure to pass bills even though he's not afraid of reelection. He then complained that it is a challenge to move things in Washington, D.C. He said, "Not a lot of surprises, really, but there has been a realization for me about how hard it is to get anything done. There are a lot of idealists [among the 87 freshmen Republicans] who are on a mission. We have no interest in compromise. ... Right now, I am seeing how the machinery works. It's been eye-opening and discouraging. It's difficult to get things done. ... And that's with a Republican majority." [Northwest Herald, [2/27/11](#)]

Not "Bothered" by Congressional Inaction

In February 2012, at a town hall meeting, Walsh told the audience that Congressional inaction "doesn't bother me." He explained that he believed inaction was better than Obama's proposals. [YouTube, [2/28/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Mocked McCain's Age

In March 2012, Walsh mocked John McCain's age and told the West Suburban Patriots – a Tea Party group – that he would have understood if they had refrained from voting for McCain in 2008. Walsh said "Three years ago, if you told me you weren't going to vote for president because John McCain didn't do much for you, I would have absolutely understood, McCain was what, about 132 years old?" [Huffington Post, [3/13/12](#)]

Encouraged Town Hall Attendees to Vote Republican in Presidential Race No Matter the Nominee

At a January 2012 town hall meeting, Walsh spoke of the importance of voting Republican in the November presidential election, regardless of who is chosen to be the party's nominee. [Clarendon Hills Pioneer Local, [1/13/12](#)]

...Because Said Obama Is "Destroying" America

Walsh said, "My Republican establishment can't stand me, but the Republicans are the only game in town right now. I don't care who the Republican nominee is. Every day this guy (President Obama) is in the White House, he's destroying what makes this country great. We need to respectfully remove him from the White House. Stay strong, stay passionate, but stay in the fight." [Clarendon Hills Pioneer Local, [1/13/12](#)]

Questioned the President's Credibility and Capability

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said, "I don't ever remember a candidate for president that we knew so little about." He offered a history of the president's political career: "He was in the state senate for who knows how many years, he was a back bencher, really didn't do anything of much consequence, famously voted present 218 times. Then he was plucked out, gave a good speech, was voted in as president." [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Called the President a "Political Animal"

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said of the President, “He’s a political animal who is totally invested in his own reelection...It’s hard to take him seriously.” He accused the President of changing his mind on key issues for political purposes. [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Said Obama Was Elected Because He Is Black and “White Guilt”

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said Obama was elected because of his race. He also used racially sensitive language to describe Obama’s appeal: “He was black, he was historic... They were in love with him because they thought he was a good liberal guy and they were in love with him because he pushed that magical button: a black man who was articulate, liberal, the whole white guilt, all of that.” [Slate, [5/26/11](#)]

Said Obama Elected Because Country “Lost Its Reason”

In March 2012, Walsh told a town hall that Obama was elected because the country “lost its reason.” Walsh said “We elected this man because of who he was: a historic figure, our first black president... the country just got caught up in it and we lost our reason a little bit. It made us feel good about ourselves as a country. If we can’t be honest enough about ourselves to say it we haven’t learned anything.” [YouTube, [3/05/12](#)]

Apologized for Calling the President “Idiotic”

In September 2011, after announcing that he would boycott President Obama’s jobs speech to a joint session of Congress, Walsh both called the President “idiotic” and within 24 hours apologized for his comment.

Walsh said, “I sincerely apologize for what I said last night. That’s not what I meant to say, but that’s what I said.” The comments originally ran in a story in the Northwest Herald.

Walsh also called his comments “over the line and out of bounds.” [Northwest Herald, [9/02/11](#)]

Argued Media Will Protect President Obama from Backlash Because He is Black

In a September 2011 with right-wing Media Research Center, Walsh said the media will protect President Obama from being portrayed negatively because the President is African American.

Walsh said: “Reagan was beautiful because Reagan simplified everything, so let’s simplify it. This guy pushed every one of the media’s buttons. He was liberal, he was different, he was new, he was black. Oh my God, it was the potpourri of everything. They are so vested in our first black president not being a failure that it’s going to be amazing to watch the lengths they go to protect him. They [the media], I believe, will spout this racist line if some of their colleagues up here aren’t doing it aggressively enough. There is going to be a real desperation.”

Walsh also claimed, “there’s nothing racist about this...It is what it is.”

Said Americans Voted for Obama “To Make Us Feel Good About Ourselves”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party meeting, Walsh said Americans voted for Obama “based on who he was: a historical figure - our first black president. Made the country feel good about ourselves.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Said Country Has “Arrived Racially When We Can Criticize our First Black President”

He went on to say that “This country that we love has arrived racially when we can criticize our first black president just like we can criticize our white presidents, any presidents. If we can’t criticize this president because of his race, shame on us.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive

Walsh’s Failure to Attend Obama’s Jobs Speech

In September 2011, instead of attending the President’s jobs proposal, Walsh hosted a town hall with business leaders in Schaumburg, Illinois with the intent of delivering to the president the recommendations that came from his Town Hall. [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Town Hall Was “Feisty”

NBC Chicago noted that Walsh “opened the meeting with a feisty tone and at times raised his voice as he spoke to the approximately 50 attendees.”

He asked the attendees, "Why in God's name is your congressman here now?" And he explained that he did not want to be a "prop in this political theater." [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Tried Drawing a Difference between President’s Address and the SOTU

Walsh tried explaining that he believed the president’s jobs speech and the annual state of the union address were different because he believed Joint Sessions of Congress should be reserved for Heads of State, not for a president to "deliver his third job plan in two and a half years." [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Did Not Watch the Speech But Claimed He Read a Transcript

Walsh said that he did not watch the speech but instead read a transcript. [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Claimed He Did Not Attend due to Policy, Not Politics

Walsh claimed that he did not attend the speech because of policy, not politics. [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

...Then Gave Partisan Excuse

After saying it was not politics that kept him from attending the president’s jobs speech, Walsh said, "This country is not working. We are not working." [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Called Governor Quinn a “Tool” and Illinois an “Embarrassment”

At January 2012 town hall meeting, Walsh said, “This governor, Gov. Quinn, is a tool. This state is an embarrassment. People are leaving in droves because of taxes and regulations. One man runs this state, and it’s not Gov. Quinn; it’s (House Speaker) Mike Madigan.” [Clarendon Hills Pioneer Local, [1/13/12](#)]

Called Being a Congressman a “Pain in the Rear-End”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party meeting, Joe Walsh said “This job is a pain in the rear-end. I can see why a lot of people don’t want to do it. And I spent a year and a half doing my best to make enemies on both sides. My Republican establishment and the Democrats. And I’ve done a good job because they’re both unhappy with me.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Note: The entire video is saved to the drive.

Said Jim Jordan Was a Mentor, Advisor and Friend

In a September 2011 interview with Chicago Mag, Walsh said, “Oh, a number of different guys. There’s a gentleman named Jim Jordan [Republican of Ohio] who’s the head of the RSC, that’s the Republican Study Committee, of which I’m a very active member. Jim has been a great mentor and a great adviser to me, a good friend. The RSC is the conservative wing of the Republican caucus.” [Chicago Mag, [9/08/11](#)]

2010 General: Won Congressional Race by 290 Votes, “Biggest Surprise of the 2010 Election”

In the 2010 general election, Walsh defeated incumbent Democrat Melissa Bean by 290 votes in what experts called “the biggest surprise of the 2010 election.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 11/18/10]

The election was not decided until November 17 when Bean conceded. [Associated Press, 11/17/10]

The table below summarizes the 2010 general election vote:

2010 General Election		
IL 8 th Congressional District		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Joe Walsh (R)	98,115	48.47%
Melissa Bean (D)	97,825	48.32%
Bill Scheurer (G)	6,495	3.21%

[[elections.il.gov](#), accessed 1/25/10]

Not Invited to Participate in NRCC’s “Young Gun” Program

In 2010, the National Republican Congressional Committee did not invite Walsh to participate in the “Young Gun” program. [Associated Press, 11/17/10]

Tea First, Republican Second

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh referred to himself as a tea partier first and a Republican second. [Chicago Daily Herald, 10/31/10]

Claimed “Revolution” was Underway

According to the Chicago Daily Herald, Walsh rarely finished “a speech without referring to this as a time of ‘revolution.’” [Chicago Daily Herald, 10/31/10]

He said, “There is a revolution going on and it’s a glorious, wonderful site to behold.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 10/21/10]

Compared Race to a War

In February 2010, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh “took the vitriol further at that forum by saying the race against Bean would be a war and that she will be overrun.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 2/04/10]

Ran Campaign Based on Fear and Anger

According to the Chicago Daily Herald, Walsh ran “a campaign that played off Americans’ fears and anger over the state of the country.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 2/03/10]

Claimed Tea Party was Non Partisan

In April 2010, Walsh claimed the Tea Party was nonpartisan. He said, “They are not going to support Republicans, if Republicans don’t limit what government is doing. To me, the movement is absolutely nonpartisan.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 4/19/10]

Encouraged Tea Party to “Stay Angry”

In July 2010, speaking to a crowd of 500 people at Lake County’s first tea party rally, Walsh said, “Stay angry and stay fired up.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 7/06/10]

Joined Tea Party Caucus

In February 2010, Walsh was announced as a member of the House Tea Party Caucus by the office of Michele Bachmann. [MinnPost, [2/28/11](#)]

Came to Washington “Ready to Go to War” and Will Not Compromise

In March 2011, Walsh said that he did not go to Washington to make friends but, rather, “came here ready to go to war.” He said, “The political powers will always try to get you to compromise your beliefs for the good of the team. The people didn’t send me here to compromise.” [Time Blog, [3/03/11](#)]

Looked forward to Butting Heads with Other Republicans

In March 2011, Walsh said he looks forward to rumbles within the freshman GOP ranks saying, “This will be a tension throughout the next two years among Republicans. I think it’s healthy. This city ain’t never seen something like this freshman class.” [Time Blog, [3/03/11](#)]

Promised to Challenge Republican Leadership

In March 2011, Walsh spoke of the power behind the number of freshmen Republicans and said that, "If we stick together on everything, our leadership is screwed." [Time Blog, [3/03/11](#)]

Received a 100% Score from the Americans for Prosperity for 2011 Voting Record

In January 2012, Americans for Prosperity announced Walsh had received a perfect 100% rating. He was one of 39 legislators to receive the perfect score for having voted for the following bills (in addition to others): HR 2, the Energy Tax Prevention Act, Paul Ryan's Path to Prosperity, the REINS Act and Cut, Cap and Balance. [NBC Chicago, [1/11/12](#)]

Pushing for Tea Party Involvement in State Politics to Unseat Mike Madigan

In April 2011, Walsh said he was encouraging those on the state level to get more involved in the principles of the Tea Party.

He also said there should be a target on the back of Illinois's Speaker of the House, Michael Madigan. He said, "My hope is the tea party movement will set their sites next year on (state Democratic Party Chairman and Illinois House Speaker) Michael Madigan. He's a king, he's a tyrant, he runs this state. You've got to educate the tea party movement to that fact." [Daily Herald, [4/26/11](#)]

Urged to Run in Hultgren's IL-14 by Club for Growth

In July 2011, the Club for Growth said it will "enthusiastically support" Walsh's re-election campaign—in the 14th Congressional District rather than Walsh's current 8th District. If he moved, Walsh would face Rep. Hultgren in an intra-party challenge. [Roll Call, [7/28/11](#)]

Claimed Boehner Had "Lost Touch" With Anger of the American People

In August 2011, Walsh claimed the Speaker had "lost touch" with the American people, but generally supported the Speaker. Walsh said, "He's got one of the toughest jobs on the planet. I think in general, he's doing a pretty good job." [The Hill, [8/05/11](#)]

Disagreed with Constituent Who Criticized No Compromise Stance

In August 2011, Walsh held a town hall meeting where one constituent said, "I don't understand why you can't compromise at all for anything. We need jobs, we don't want this stubborn stuff, we want to fix things."

Walsh responded, "There always is compromise. But this president and Joe Walsh have two very different ideas on how we bring jobs to the economy. [President Barack Obama] believes we need to borrow money and big government needs to stimulate the economy. My belief is simple. Get government the heck out of the way because right now, if we all got up and left this room and asked any small business in the area 'why aren't you hiring?' they'll say the same thing. 'They're regulating me and they're spending money.' Business owners are scared to death at what Washington is doing." [Northwest Herald, [8/05/11](#)]

Claimed Boehner “Gets Mad” at Him

In July 2011, Walsh said, “Boehner, my speaker, gets mad at me a lot because I don’t vote with him a lot.” [Bloomberg, [7/25/11](#)]

Said Leadership Was Beginning to Understand Freshmen’s Views

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said he and others were not satisfied with the budget deal to avoid a shutdown. He said, “A number of us were disappointed with our leadership and again, they did the best they could. But we kept quiet and just voted against.” He said the leadership was more receptive with the debt ceiling negotiations: “The fact that we’re now out publically saying this is what we need, I’ve seen, we’re beginning to see leadership, I think, understand.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Relationship with Gutierrez Fine after Gutierrez Compared the Tea Party to Arsonists

In a September 2011 interview with Chicago Mag, when asked about his relationship with fellow Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez after Gutierrez compared Tea Partiers to arsonists, Walsh said, “I don’t take it personally. I bump into Luie a lot in the House gym, and he and I laugh together and chat together. Look, he shouldn’t say things like that. But I think as a country, we all gotta toughen up a little bit. We get a little too wimpy when it comes to name-calling. Luie laughs at some of this stuff.” [Chicago Mag, [9/08/11](#)]

Plans to Engage Tea Party Individuals in Campaign

In his primary battle against Walsh, Hultgren said it was about staking claim on the conservative base, which he admitted is going to be difficult because he and Walsh aren’t far apart on the issues. He said, “Our hope is we’ll get people engaged and get groups engaged, finding the pieces, going through committeemen, conservative groups, business groups, neighborhood groups and tea party groups.” [Daily Herald, [9/05/11](#)]

Walsh Defended Palin’s Crosshairs Map and Said “No Reason” to be Worried about Vitriol in Politics

In January 2011, Walsh said that the state of political discourse in America did not have a connection to the shooting in Tucson and added that Sarah Palin had been wrongly impugned as a result of her placing crosshairs on targeted districts. He said, “That discussion about her site should have been had eight or nine months ago. Unless we find out that nutbag (was motivated by her site), there's no reason to be having this conversation right now.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [1/16/11](#)]

Called Bachmann’s Tea Party Response to the SOTU a “Distraction”

In February 2011, Walsh, a member of the Tea Party Caucus himself, criticized Rep. Michele Bachmann’s response to the President’s 2011 State of the Union as “a distraction” from the official response given by Rep. Paul Ryan.

He said, “We’re all Republicans. I think it was a distraction that she did it, and it was just fodder for the media ... to try to create this separation within the party.” He added, “I mean there is no more tea party freshman on the planet than myself, but I’ll be the first to say, respectfully, Michele had no business making that speech last night.” [[Roll Call](#), 2/03/11]

Sun-Times Questioned for Whom Walsh Wanted to “Take the Country Back”

In April 2011, the Chicago Sun-Times criticized Walsh for repeatedly using the line, “We’re still losing this country and we have to get it back.” From the Chicago Sun-Times:

Again and again with that phrase -”taking the country back.” We’ve heard that a lot over the last couple of years.

But what does it mean? Whom are we taking the country back from? Obama? Liberals? Big government?

I didn’t know anybody had taken the country, and I’m worried about people who say they’re going to “take it back,” because I’m not entirely convinced they want to share it with the rest of us. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 4/21/11]

Chicago Daily Herald Endorsed Opponent, Called Walsh “a Rigid Conservative”

In October 2010, the Chicago Daily Herald endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Melissa Bean, writing that “the main problem with Congress is that it operates on a bitter partisanship controlled by special interests” and called Walsh “a rigid conservative.” The paper asked Walsh if Republicans took control of Congress, if they might seek a better spirit of bipartisanship. He replied it would “not be the time right now to extend your hand across the aisle.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/17/10]

Chicago Tribune Endorsed Opponent, Cited Walsh Flip-Flops and Personal Finances

In October 2010, the Chicago Tribune endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Melissa Bean, noting that Walsh had lived outside of the district until after the primary election, his failure to disclose the foreclosure on his Evanston condominium, and his transformation from a pro-choice moderate in the 1990s to the pro-life tea-partier in 2010. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 10/07/10]

Chicago Sun Times Endorsed Opponent, Noted Bean’s Financial Services Expertise

In October 2010, the Chicago Sun Times endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Melissa Bean, writing, “Melissa Bean is a different kind of Democrat by Illinois standards, more opposed to taxes, more a defender of big banks and more fiscally conservative in general.” [[Chicago Sun Times](#), 10/05/10]

Documentary Planned About Walsh’s Campaign

According to the Chicago Daily Herald, a documentary is planned about Walsh’s 2010 campaign for Congress. It will focus on how more than a thousand volunteers from the tea party, gun advocates, and abortion opponent groups assisted Walsh. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/31/10]

Hired Body Guard During Campaign

In January 2011, Walsh told the [Chicago Tribune](#) that he had hired a bodyguard during the campaign because “there were things said that made me want to be as careful as we could be.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 1/11/11]

Opposed Increased Protection for Members of Congress After Shooting

After the shooting of Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords, Walsh said calls for increased security and penalties for making threats to members of Congress were examples of “over-legislation.” He said, “We should not. And I should not support legislation that would cut off openness members have with their constituents, or infringe upon the First Amendment rights to say anything about me.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/16/11]

Did Not Air TV Ad Until Two Weeks Before the Election

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh did not air a television advertisement until less than two weeks before election day because he lacked the financial ability. When he began advertising, his spot featured Walsh meeting residents on his childhood football field saying, “I was born and raised in the 8th District. I moved back home to run for Congress because we’re losing what’s made this country so great.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/23/10]

Criticized Opponent for Avoiding Debates

Throughout the 2010 campaign, Walsh repeatedly criticized his opponent, Melissa Bean, for avoiding debates and forums claiming that she showed the same lack of responsiveness to her constituents that she accused her predecessor, Phil Crane, of just before defeating him in 2004. Walsh said, “She was the challenger back then, but she made it clear Phil Crane didn’t want to debate her because he knew he was out of line with the district.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/25/10]

Supporters Forced Pledge of Allegiance before Debate

In October 2010, at the debate between Walsh and Melissa Bean, a Walsh supporter, Joseph Ptak, requested from the audience that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited since the event was being held in a high school and had student participation. When the moderator Kathy Tate-Bradish of the League of Women Voters denied the request, Walsh’s supporters in the audience collectively stood and began to recite the Pledge.

Walsh’s campaign manager, Nick Provenzano, claimed it was spontaneous and not orchestrated by Walsh’s campaign. Tate-Bradish said she was attempting to run the debate in the format established by Grayslake High students and agreed to by all three candidates, none of whom asked for the pledge in advance. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/23/10]

Event Was Broadcast on Glenn Beck’s Fox News Show

While the debate was not intended to be televised, a Walsh supporter had a cell phone camera and recorded the Pledge incident. The footage was aired on Glenn Beck's Fox News Show.

Beck portrayed the moderator as an impartial Obama supporter funded by George Soros. [Glenn Beck Show via Youtube.com, posted [10/21/10](#); [Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/06/11]

League of Women Voters Officials Received Death Threats After Debate

After the debate, moderator Kathy Tate-Bradish and League of Women Voters Illinois Executive Director Jan Czarnik received internet death threats. According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), "Czarnik triggered criticism after saying the pledge request was "phony patriotism" from a candidate's supporters." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/29/10]

Had High Staff Turn Over

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh had a high turnover in his staff.

In December of 2009 his first campaign manager, Keith Liscio, quit. In May 2010, Liscio filed suit against Walsh for \$20,000 in unpaid salary/fees. At the time of writing this litigation was still on-going. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/23/10; 5/27/10; ; Patrickson Hirsch v Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Order, Case No 2010-M2-000115, filed 5/26/10]

Liscio was replaced with campaign managers Jim Thacker and Sheila Morgan. Walsh claimed neither were fired but had instead been hired specifically for the primary election which was February 2, 2010. Following the primary both Thacker and Morgan left the campaign. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 2/23/10]

Rick Cape, a primary campaign field worker began "running the day-to-day campaign operations" after the primary. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 2/23/10]

In May 2010, Cape and Ted Livengood, another campaign staffer, quit and attempted to close Walsh's office in Grayslake, IL. They claimed 200 volunteers were leaving the campaign with them. Cape and Livengood wrote a letter that said, "We had been lied to and deceived enough by Joe. We came to this conclusion after doing some intense investigations into the lies that Joe had told us since October... If we would have known who the true Joe Walsh was, we never would have supported him." [[Chicago Sun Times](#), 5/04/10]

Claimed to Not Have Campaign Manager Until April 2010

In May 2010, Walsh claimed to not have a campaign manager until April 2010. He said, "I really never had a campaign manager...My two field guys stayed on with me but I pretty much realized by late March, early April I was going to kill myself if I didn't have a campaign manager." [iCaucus Interview, 26:00, 5/07/10]

2010 Primary: Won with 34 Percent of Vote in Six Way Race

In the 2010 primary election, Walsh defeated five other Republican candidates to win with 34.16 percent of the vote. The table below summarizes the 2010 primary vote:

2010 Republican Primary Election		
IL 8 th Congressional District		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Joe Walsh	16,162	34.16%
Dirk W. Beveridge	11,708	24.75%
Maria Rodriguez	9,803	20.72%
Christopher Geissler	4,267	9.02%
John Dawson	3,921	8.29%
Gregory S. Jacobs	1,445	3.05%

[elections.il.gov, accessed 1/25/10]

Failed to Disclose Home Foreclosure During Primary Campaign

A month after winning the Republican primary election, it was revealed that Walsh's Evanston condo had been foreclosed upon in October 2009.

Gene Dawson, the GOP's state central committeeman for the 8th District, said he wished he knew about Walsh's foreclosure before the primary. "I feel very strongly that any candidate for any elected position should disclose anything and everything that could be detrimental so they can go forward with a clear conscience. I do not know what prevented Joe from disclosing the issue." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/03/10]

GOP Considered Asking Walsh to Step Aside

After Walsh's foreclosure became public, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) asked Gene Dawson, the local GOP state central committeeman if party leaders should ask Walsh to resign from the race. Dawson said, "It's a matter that has to be taken under advisement." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/03/10]

Three months later, after two of Walsh's top staff members resigned and publicly rose questions about his qualifications and history, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported, "Walsh's issues have led to speculation that party officials might ask him to step aside with state Sen. Matt Murphy's name being floated as a replacement." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/06/10]

Claimed Foreclosure Helped Relate to Voters

In a March 2010 email to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) which was published unedited, Walsh criticized Congress for becoming a "millionaires' club" and claimed his experience of a foreclosure helped him better relate to the voters. He wrote:

I know all too well what 8th district families are going through to make ends meet because I've experienced some of the same difficult and humbling financial challenges. Like so many others in Illinois in recent years, and 1 in 9 Americans nationally, I know what it's like to lose a home to foreclosure. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 3/04/10]

Note: For a complete copy of Walsh's email to the Chicago Daily Herald please see the Appendix II–Letters to the Editor section of this book.

NRCC Wrote Off Race After Walsh Won Primary

After Walsh won the Republican primary in March 2010, the National Republican Congressional Committee publicly dismissed the race. NRCC spokesman Tom Erickson said “We’re really focused on the seats where we see the clearest paths to victory” and even named Dirk Beveridge or Maria Rodriguez, whom Walsh defeated, as their preferred candidates. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/05/10]

Chicago Daily Herald Endorsed Opponent in Primary, Questioned Walsh’s Residency

In January 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) endorsed one of Walsh’s opponents, business owner and philanthropist Dirk Beveridge, in the Republican primary writing that they were “less impressed” with Walsh’s candidacy. The paper also noted that Walsh “could have run for an open seat in the 10th District but inexplicably chose to pursue a race in a district miles from his home instead.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/24/10]

Chicago Sun Times Endorsed Opponent in Primary, Citing Past Electoral Victories

In January 2010, the [Chicago Sun Times](#) endorsed one of Walsh’s opponents, Maria Rodriguez, the village president of Long Grove, writing that she was the only contestant who had won an election and had the support of several GOP state lawmakers and local leaders. [[Chicago Sun Times](#), 1/19/10]

1998: Lost Illinois State House Race by 24 Percentage Points

In 1998, Walsh lost a “largely Democratic” Illinois State House race by 24 percentage points to four term incumbent Democrat Jeffrey Schoenberg. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/13/98]

The table below summarizes the 1998 general election vote:

1998 General Election		
IL 58 th State House District		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Jeffrey M. Schoenberg (D)	23,340	61.97%
Joe Walsh (R)	14,324	38.03%

[Illinois State Board of Elections, General Election Results, 11/05/96, via Public Records Request]

Note: No Republican, including Walsh, ran for the nomination during the primary. In order to run in the general election, the county Republican Chairs within the district would have caucused and appointed Walsh as their nominee.

Campaign Focused on School Funding Reform Vote

During his 1998 campaign for the Illinois State House, Walsh drove a yellow school bus around Evanston and Wilmette to highlight his opponent’s vote on a school-funding reform bill supported by then

Governor Jim Edgar. The bill would have raised state income taxes by 25 percent while reducing property taxes in an effort to equalize funding for education across school districts with varying property values.

Walsh charged that an equalization of spending would lead to mediocre schools on the North Shore by siphoning away funds. He said, “It’s an issue of local control. I don’t want to sound hard-hearted about schools...and we want to make sure that every school has some sort of basic minimum, but you can’t take from a district like ours.”

While the equalization plan failed, a compromise school bill passed that raised taxes on cigarettes, telephones and riverboat casinos. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/13/98, 10/06/98]

Chicago Sun-Times Endorsed Opponent, Called Walsh “Well-Regarded”

In October 1998, the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Jeffrey M. Schoenberg noting that both were “fine candidates “ with “similar positions on many issues” While endorsing Schoenberg the paper called Walsh a “well-regarded Republican” and praised his campaign’s focus on education funding. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/30/98]

Chicago Tribune Endorsed Opponent, Did Not Mention Walsh

In October 1998, the [Chicago Tribune](#) endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Jeffrey Schoenberg calling him “a statewide leader in support of gun control and abortion rights.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 10/14/98]

1996: Lost First Congressional Race by 26 Percentage Points

In 1996, Walsh was defeated by 23-term incumbent Democrat Sidney Yates by 26 percentage points. [[The Hill](#), 10/16/96]

The table below summarizes the 1996 general election vote:

1996 General Election		
IL 9 th Congressional District		
Candidate	Votes	Percent
Sidney Yates (D)	124,319	63.40%
Joseph Walsh (R)	71,765	36.59%

[Illinois State Board of Elections, IL-09 Election Results via Public Records Request]

Walsh had no competition for the Republican nomination. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 3/21/96]

Republicans Ignored Race

In September 1996, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that Walsh acknowledged the Republican Party “all but ignored his efforts, making his fundraising more difficult.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Criticized Opponent’s 87-Year-Old Age

During the 1996 campaign, Walsh sought to make age an issue when running against the Sidney Yates who was 87 years old at the time. Yates was the oldest and longest-serving Congressman who was first elected to Congress in 1948. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, “Yates quipped that he wouldn’t make an issue of Walsh’s youth and inexperience.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 11/06/96]

Threw Mock Birthday Party for Yates

On the day that Yates turned 87, Walsh threw a mock-birthday party and fundraiser with an \$87 suggested donation to highlight Yates’ age. At least three press releases were sent announcing the celebration and reporters were sent printed invitation in the mail. Walsh said, “We mean no disrespect nor do we make any attempt to play the age card, whatever that is.” [The Hill, 10/16/96; Chicago Tribune, 9/01/96]

Used Bicycle to Travel the District Campaigning

During the campaign, Walsh rode his 10-speed bicycle on a tour of the Congressional District when campaigning door-to-door. The Chicago Tribune said it was “designed to emphasize one of the key issues of the 34-year-old challenger’s campaign: Yates’ age.” [Chicago Tribune, 10/28/96]

Offered \$1,000 to First Person to Report Seeing Yates in the District, Awarded to Yates’ Doorman

To highlight the infrequency of Yates’ visits to the district, Walsh offered \$1,000 reward to the first person who reported seeing Yates in the District. The prize was won by the doorman at Yates’ apartment building. Walsh said, “It killed us, but we had to give the reward to doorman (James Hardy).” [Chicago Sun-Times, 10/26/96]

Offered \$1,000 to Charity for a Debate with Yates, Constituents Contributed \$40,000

In an effort to entice Yates into a debate, Walsh offered to donate \$1,000 to a charity of Yates’ choice if he would agree to a debate. Walsh supporters also contributed an additional \$40,000 for Yates to direct to charity if a debate took place. Yates declined to debate Walsh; however, Walsh did contribute \$1,000 to the Evanston School Children’s Clothing Association. [Chicago Sun-Times, 10/26/96, 11/04/96]

Chicago Tribune Endorsed Walsh, Criticized Opponent’s Failure to Visit and Walsh’s Moderation

In October 1996, the Chicago Tribune endorsed Walsh criticizing his opponent, Sidney Yates, for failing to travel often from Washington, DC back to the district. The paper also praised Walsh’s “moderate political perspective.” [Chicago Tribune, 10/14/96]

Sun-Times Endorsed Opponent, Cited Walsh’s Lack of Legislative Experience

In October 1996, the Chicago Sun-Times endorsed Walsh’s opponent, Sidney Yates, writing that While Walsh had youth, he lacked elective or legislative experience. In contrast, Yates was the second ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee and had served the needs of his district. [Chicago Sun-Times, 10/23/96]

Chicago Jewish Star Endorsed Walsh...because Yates' Refused to Retire

In November 1996, the Chicago Jewish Star endorsed Walsh writing that Yates was “a congressman who is seen rarely and does little for his constituents.” The paper concluded that since potential Democratic challengers to Yates were waiting for him to retire, voters had no other choice but to consider “Walsh -- an unknown, inexperienced candidate -- a viable alternative.” [Chicago Jewish Star, 11/07/96]

Crain's Chicago Business Endorsed Opponent, Noted Yates' Role on Appropriations Committee

In October 1996, Crain's Chicago Business endorsed Walsh's opponent writing that Yates' “often-dated liberal views” were offset by being the only remaining Illinois Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. [Crain's Chicago Business, 10/28/96]

Sued By Campaign Manager

In January 2010, Walsh's first campaign manager filed suit against Walsh seeking \$20,000 in unpaid salary/consulting fees. This section summarizes the case which has yet to be decided.

Campaign Manager Sued Walsh for \$20,000 in Unpaid Fees

In January 2010, Walsh's former campaign manager, Keith Liscio, filed suit against Walsh for \$20,000 in unpaid consulting fees. Walsh said he was "saddened" by the timing of the lawsuit which was filed days before the Republican primary election. "It's one thing to file a suit, it's quite another to file a suit and then try the lawsuit in the media," Walsh said. "I won't stand for it." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/23/10; 5/27/10; Patrickson Hirsch v Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Docket, Case No 2010-M2-000115, [accessed 4/12/11](#)]

Note: Liscio's consulting firm, Patrickson-Hirsch Associates, actually brought the case against Walsh.

May 2010: Original Suit Dismissed Citing Technical Issues

In May 2010, Liscio's suit against Walsh was dismissed. The judge cited issues with the original complaint such as failing to specify what services Liscio was required to perform and whether the contract was written or oral.

The judge gave Liscio 28 days to file an amended complaint. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 5/27/10; Patrickson Hirsch v Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Order, Case No 2010-M2-000115, filed 5/26/10]

June 2010: Suit Refilled with More Specifics

In June 2010, Liscio refilled his suit against Walsh specifying their agreement was oral, not written and noted that his duties included driving Walsh to campaign events because his driver's license was temporarily suspended for driving without insurance. Liscio also claimed that his advice influenced Walsh's decisions to run in the 8th District rather than the 10th where he then lived. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 6/24/10]

According to the amended complaint, Liscio was reasonable for a number of responsibilities on Walsh's campaign from chauffeuring the candidate to paying bills and strategy. The following are some examples of Liscio's duties and influences on Walsh:

- **Driving.** "Chauffeured and accompanied William Joseph Walsh to campaign events and appearances, insofar as Mr. Walsh's driving license was suspended for multiple traffic stops and tickets for driving without insurance."
- **Moving Districts.** "Provided strategies analysis and recommendations to Joe Walsh by studying the voting patterns and primary opponents in both the 8th and 10th Congressional Districts, insofar as the parties decided to run in the 8th and not the 10th which was Mr. Walsh's Home district but was unwinnable."

- **Paying Bills...When there was Money.** “Monitored the campaign’s bank account balance, paid bills and oversaw the checkbook, including refusing the requests of Me. Walsh to issue checks that would have been returned for insufficient funds.”
- **Crisis Management on Flip-Flops.** “Provided crisis management advice and counsel, as for example when news of Mr. Walsh’s flip-flop on abortion rights and gun rights surfaced and jeopardized a key pro-life endorsement.”
- **Convinced Walsh to Flip-Flop.** “Developed and refined in cooperation with Mr. Walsh, his position on the issues of gay marriage and illegal immigration which had originally been insufficiently nuanced to be acceptable to 8th District voters.”
- **Target the Tea Party.** “Recommended that Joseph Walsh target Tea Party activists, and consulted Mr. Walsh in his re-branding efforts as a Tea Party candidate.” [Patrickson Hirsch v Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Amended Verified Complaint for Breach of Oral Contract, Case No 2010-M2-000115, filed 6/22/10]

Liscio Met Walsh in 1995

According to Liscio, he met Walsh in 1995 when he signed Walsh’s petition to run for Congress in the 9th District. Liscio worked on that campaign and has been a friend and informal adviser to Walsh since. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 6/24/10]

Paid \$10,000 Per Month to Manage Campaign

Liscio worked for Walsh’s campaign from August 15, 2009 to December 4, 2009. Liscio claimed Walsh agreed to pay \$5,000 on the first and fifteenth day of each month for his services but only paid three of the seven times he was supposed to before Liscio resigned. [Patrickson Hirsch v Joe Walsh, Cook County Circuit Court, Amended Verified Complaint for Breach of Oral Contract, Case No 2010-M2-000115, filed 6/22/10]

Resigned to Help Campaign’s Cash Problems

In June 2010, Liscio said his resignation was not based on animosity, but to help Walsh’s cash flow problems. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 6/24/10]

Case Settlement was not Disclosed

In August 2011, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported Liscio’s suit “was recently settled, with the terms not made public.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/17/11]

Potential Problems with Right-Wing

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Called Bachmann's Response to the State of the Union "a Distraction"*
- ✓ *Walsh: "I'm Not Some Right-Wing Conservative"*
- ✓ *1996: Opposed Prayer in Public Schools*
- ✓ *1996: Claimed to be Most "Gay-Friendly Republican Around"*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Funding the National Endowment for the Arts*

Walsh's policy positions from his 1996 Congressional campaign give the right fringe plenty to be concerned about. Then he supported education for children of illegal immigrants, opposed prayer in public schools, and even supported funding the National Endowment for the Arts, a frequent target of extreme Republicans. While he has successfully explained away some of his liberal positions in an effort to become the TEA Party candidate, Walsh is not completely subservient to their views. For instance, he called Michele Bachmann's "Tea Party" rebuttal to President Obama's State of the Union a "distraction."

Called Rep. Bachmann's "Tea Party" Response to the State of the Union "a Distraction"

In February 2011, when Representative Michele Bachmann gave a "Tea Party" rebuttal, in addition to Rep. Paul Ryan's Republican rebuttal to President Obama's State of the Union, Walsh said:

We're all Republicans. I think it was a distraction that she did it, and it was just fodder for the media...to try to create this separation within the party...I mean there is no more tea party freshman on the planet than myself, but I'll be the first to say, respectfully, Michele had no business making that speech last night. [Roll Call, [2/03/11](#)]

Opposed a Border Fence

In May 2010, Walsh opposed the construction of a border fence while supporting other measures to secure the United State's southern border. He said, "We need to secure our borders. I'm not a fence guy but we need to secure our borders. If we need troops down there, we need troops down there. We should be using drones. We should be using whatever technology we've got available to us to secure our borders." [iCaucus Interview, 11:40, 5/07/10]

Walsh: “I’m Not Some Right-Wing Conservative”; Attempted to Distance Himself from Gingrich

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, Walsh attempted to distance himself from then House Speaker Newt Gingrich. He said, “I’m sure Newt Gingrich and I would agree on a lot of issues. But we’d also disagree on a lot of strong issues. I think I’m the kind of Republican who can win because I’m open and tolerant. I’m not some right-wing conservative.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Blamed Bush for Ending Reagan-Era Small Government

In August 2010, Walsh blamed said the nation needed to get back to the small government, pro-business philosophy of the Reagan era. He believed that model of government had been chipped away at since the early ‘90s and said, “George (W.) Bush started us this path a little bit. Obama is running full speed down the path.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/25/10]

1996: Opposed Prayer in Public Schools

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) reported that Walsh was “against prayer in public schools.” [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/26/96]

1996: Supported Education for Children of Illegal Immigrants

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that while Walsh supported immigration reforms, he opposed a ban on education for the children of illegal immigrants. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

1996: Claimed to be Most “Gay-Friendly Republican Around”

In October 1996, the [Windy City Times](#) reported that on gay issues, “Walsh insisted he’s not only liberal, but out front.” Walsh said, “If there’s a more gay-friendly Republican around, I’d like to meet them.” [[Windy City Times](#), 10/24/96]

Supported ENDA, Repealing Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and Domestic Partner Benefits

In October 1996, the [Windy City Times](#) reported that “Walsh said he would support the Employee Non-Discrimination Act, vote to eliminate the military ban on gay and lesbian service personnel, enact domestic partnership benefits for same-sex couples and assume a leadership role in advocating for gay issues.” [[Windy City Times](#), 10/24/96]

1996: Supported Funding the National Endowment for the Arts

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that Walsh saw “merit in Yates’ [his opponent’s] view that government has a role in the arts.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Yates was “One of the Best Friends the Arts Community Ever Had”

In 2000, the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) described Congressman Sidney Yates as “without a doubt one of the best friends the arts community ever had.” The paper described Yates’ regular efforts over his

nearly 50 years in Congress to protect the National Endowment for the Arts. According to the Sun-Times, “Without Yates’ support, government funding for theater, music, dance and visual arts might have vanished.” [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/10/00]

1996: Supported Federal “Safety Net”

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the Chicago Tribune reported that Walsh said he would have voted for the welfare reform bill but saw a lack of a federal “safety net” as a problem. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Rejected Any Social Safety Net

In a January 2011 interview on MSNBC, Walsh said there should be no social safety net. He said, “No. It’s not in the Constitution.” [[Slate](#), [5/26/11](#)]

Ethical Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Hired Former Lobbyist as Chief of Staff*
- ✓ *Failed to Submit Required Personal Financial Disclosure, Paid Fine*
- ✓ *Promised Weekly Town Hall Meetings*
- ✓ *Planned to Sleep in Washington Office; Sleeps in Washington Office*
- ✓ *Pledged to Serve No More than Six Years*

During his campaign for Congress, Walsh made many promises such as a three term limit to his service in Congress and sleeping in his D.C. office in an effort to appear ethical. However he failed to follow one of the most basic disclosure requirements, filing a personal financial. Even more telling, Walsh hired a former insurance lobbyist to be his Chief of Staff.

Hired Former Lobbyist as Chief of Staff

In March 2011, the Center for Responsive Politics released a database showing that Walsh had hired Justin Roth to be his Chief of Staff. According to the database, Roth had previously lobbied for the Independent Insurance Agents of America and the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [3/08/11](#)]

“Getting to Know” Lobbyists

In February 2011, Walsh’s spokesman admitted Walsh’s campaign to Congress had not attracted much attention but, after Walsh won, “a lot of folks weren’t following that race in the 8th district. But now that members of the lobbying world are getting to know Joe, and understanding that he has a pro-business, small government focus, those who share his agenda are recognizing he’s someone they should support.” [Daily Herald, 2/09/11]

Voted Against Prohibiting Insider Trading by Members of Congress

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which would have directed the SEC to prohibit insider trading by members and employees of Congress.

The motion would have required that the SEC develop rules to prohibit members of Congress and their employees from using nonpublic information gained through their job to benefit themselves in the trading of commodities, securities or swaps or futures. [CQ Floor Vote, 12/13/11]

The motion failed 183-244. [HR 3630, [Vote #922](#), 12/13/11]

Announced Campaign Facebook Account at Official Town Hall

At the end of a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh encouraged people to visit his official website and campaign facebook page. He said, “If you want to learn anymore go to walsh.house.gov. Walsh.house.gov, that’s our website...oh ya go on facebook, what’s the facebook? Joe Walsh for...” and a staff member said, “Congress.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 1:21:35, [3/24/11](#)]

Promised Weekly Town Hall Meetings

In January 2011, Walsh said he planned to “host open town hall meetings once a week across the 8th Congressional District...” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/13/11]

Failed to Submit Required Personal Financial Disclosure, Paid Fine

In April 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh failed to file the federal financial disclosure form required by candidates and incumbents which details sources of income such as employment and investments. A spokeswoman for Walsh said “It was an oversight by the campaign, pure and simple” and claimed that Walsh thought the form had a November deadline. The spokeswoman said Walsh would pay a \$200 late fee, the standard penalty for anyone who files more than 30 days late. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 4/28/10]

Proposed Indexing Congressional Salaries to Median Household Incomes

In April 2010, Walsh proposed indexing Congressional salaries to the United State’s median household income. At the time, rank-and-file members of Congress made \$174,000 annually and the median household income was \$50,233. Walsh said:

I am not a wealthy individual. Like most folks, I’ve had financial struggles in my life. Although the congressional salary and benefits are attractive, I believe they are grossly unfair to ‘average Joes’ like me trying to get by while paying the bills for a government that doesn’t serve them. It’s time to re-align the interests of members of Congress with those of the citizens who elected them. My proposal on salaries and benefits will go a long way to doing exactly that. [Walsh for Congress Press Release via Walsh Campaign Email, 4/26/10]

Claimed Representation Should be a Financial Sacrifice

In May 2010, Walsh said, “I think our founders meant service in DC, representation, to be a financial sacrifice. I think too many people go there to enrich themselves.” [iCaucus Interview, 29:55, 5/07/10]

Planned to Sleep in Washington Office

Walsh did not intend to rent an apartment or buy a house in Washington, DC. Instead he planned to sleep in his office to save money and spend more time in his district. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

In January 2011 when he first saw the couch in his office, Walsh said, "The couch doesn't look comfortable. I'm going to go out with my wife - we're going to buy sheets and a pillow. We're going to jump into it." [[Washington Post](#), 1/06/11]

CREW Questioned Ethics of Sleeping in Office

In February 2011, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington asked the Office of Congressional Ethics to investigate whether members of Congress who sleep in their offices were violating House rules and tax law. The group suggested that living in a Congressional office may violate the prohibition on using taxpayer resources "for anything other than the performance of official duties." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 2/11/11; CREW Press Release via States News Service, 2/10/11]

Walsh: Glad to Pay Taxes to Sleep in Office

In a February 2011 interview on MSNBC, Walsh said he would gladly pay taxes in order to continue living in his Washington, DC office. Below is a transcript of the interview:

CONTESSA BREWER: You know CREW, the group that Kelly mentioned in her story there, left leaning group, says that you have to pay taxes on the parking space that you receive so why wouldn't you have to pay taxes on the sleeping arrangements that you make in your office? It's a fringe benefit.

JOE WALSH: Contessa, again, that may be for someone else to decide and if that's the case then fine, I'll gladly pay taxes. [[MSNBC](#), 2/16/11]

In Gesture of Contempt for DC, Walsh Is Sleeping in His Office

In February 2011, Walsh said that while sleeping in the Cannon House Office Building at night, he has a bedtime ritual of milk and spicy peanuts and, on occasion, scotch.

He said, "I live in McHenry, Illinois. I do not live in Washington, D.C." [[Washington Post](#), 2/15/11]

Called Washington, D.C. "Seductive"

In February 2011, Walsh said, "This city is seductive. Many of the freshmen will probably turn. But I won't. I came here to be a model of this kind of representation." [[Washington Post](#), 2/15/11]

Used \$400 Worth of Taxpayers Dollars to Subsidize Living in Office

In the first quarter of 2011, Walsh was reimbursed \$413.86 for habitation expenses, food and beverages, and office supplies. He sleeps in his office. [Q1 Statement of Disbursements, [Jan.-March 2011](#)]

Promised to Never Vote “Present”

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh promised to always express his view when voting on legislation. He said, “I would never vote present. I would never vote present.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 28:45, [3/24/11](#)]

Voted “Present” in September 2011

In 2011, Walsh voted “present” on whether or not to increase the debt ceiling by \$500 billion.

The bill was a disapproval of the \$500 billion increase in the debt ceiling which was authorized under the debt ceiling agreement which passed on August 1st, 2011. In order for the increase to not go into effect the disapproval bill would have to pass both the House and the Senate and be signed into law. According to Congressional Quarterly Weekly “164 House Republicans – plus two Democrats – voted to disapprove a debt ceiling increase after having vote Aug. 1 to permit it. [...] this was just a paramount example of the political game that lawmakers play when they want things both ways.” [CQ Floor Votes, 9/14/11; [Congressional Quarterly Weekly](#), 9/17/11]

The bill passed 232-186-2. [HJ Res 77, [Vote #706](#), 9/14/11]

2010: Pledged to Serve No More than Six Years

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh pledged, “I will not serve more than 3 terms in the House (6 years), if so privileged.” [walshforcongress.com, accessed [1/13/11](#)]

1996: Supported Term Limits

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, Walsh supported term limits and promised to only serve three terms had he been elected. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/01/96]

Voted Against Requiring Disclosure of Foreign Countries, Companies Donating to Presidential Campaigns

In 2011, Walsh voted against requiring the disclosure of certain foreign entities donating to presidential campaigns, as well as donors spending over \$100,000 on those contests.

The motion to recommit would have required, more specifically, the disclosure of foreign countries, companies or individuals donating to presidential campaigns. [CQ Weekly, [1/31/11](#)]

The motion failed, 173-229. [H. Res. 359, [Vote #24](#), 1/26/11]

Voted to Terminate Public Funding of Presidential Campaigns, “Pander” to Corporate Money

In 2011, Walsh voted to terminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which provided public funding during presidential elections. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the move would reduce mandatory spending by \$617 million over 10 years.

The fund was established in the wake of the Watergate scandal and provided matching funds for presidential primary candidates and grants for general election candidates who comply with spending and contribution limits. The fund was financed through check-offs on income tax returns. An amendment, offered by Rep. Gary Peters, added language specifying that funds returned to the Treasury could only be used for reducing the benefits. [CQ Today, 1/26/11]

In an editorial in the New York Times, the paper noted that House Republicans were “pandering to the new corporate money trough legitimized by the Supreme Court” by cutting off the funding.

“The public subsidy remains popular in the public polls. Opponents may invoke budget savings – an estimated \$52 million a year – but there is no mistaking their aim is to destroy what has been a bulwark against the buying and selling of the presidency.” [New York Times, Editorial, [2/26/11](#)]

The bill passed, 239-160. [HR 359, [Vote #25](#), 1/26/11]

Six Point Pledge

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh posted the following six-point pledge to his constituents on his website:

I make the following six-point pledge to the voters of the Illinois 8th District. As your congressman

1. I will not serve more than 3 terms in the House (6 years), if so privileged.
2. I will not receive any health plans or retirement benefits that only congressmen get and that aren't available to all Americans.
3. I will not vote for any legislation which increases the size of government or isn't supported by the Constitution.
4. I will never add an earmark to any bill.
5. I will always speak my mind and tell my constituents the truth.
6. I will always be accessible to my constituents and hold town halls on a regular basis, in good times or bad [walshforcongress.com, accessed [1/13/11](#)]

Voted to Throw Out Votes of Members Not Properly Sworn-In

In 2011, Walsh voted for a resolution that struck six votes cast by Reps. Michael Fitzpatrick and Pete Sessions as they were both in another part of the Capitol when the Speaker was administering the oath of office to House members in the chamber. The two members conducted official – including voting and making submissions to the Congressional Record – despite having missed the swearing-in ceremony.

In addition to deleting the six votes, the resolution ratified Sessions' election to a standing committee and his participation in its proceedings. [CQ Today, 1/07/11]

It was subsequently reported that Fitzpatrick and Sessions were absent because they were attending a fundraiser on the Capitol grounds, an apparent violation of ethics rules.

The Philadelphia Inquirer editorialized that “by effectively launching his reelection bid even before taking the oath of office, Fitzpatrick comes off as cynical or clueless... Whatever the case, Fitzpatrick subjected himself to national embarrassment by missing the House opening last week to attend a reception attended by more than 500 supporters at the Capitol Visitor Center.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, Editorial, 1/14/11]

The resolution passed, 257-159. [H Res 27, [Vote #11](#), 1/07/11]

Puff Piece’s Lede Caught Walsh in Little White Lie

In March 2011, a piece in the Chicago Daily Herald wrote of Walsh’s deliberate avoidance of underground tunnels, trains, Congressmen-only elevators and separate entrances between the House office buildings and the Capitol Building. [Daily Herald, [3/29/11](#)]

Posted Photos to Facebook on Three Separate Occasions Documenting His Use of the Tunnels

On three separate occasions from February to March 2011, Walsh posted photos on his Facebook page documenting his use of the tunnel system and underground train between the federal buildings. [Facebook, [2/17/11](#), [3/01/11](#), [3/17/11](#)]

Named to CREW’S Most Corrupt Members of Congress List

In September 2011, Walsh was named one of the thirteen of the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)’s Most Corrupt list.

The report says that the freshman Tea Party-affiliated Congressman's ethics issues "stem from his failure to pay child support and accurately disclose income and liabilities on his personal financial disclosure forms, and his campaign committee's inaccurate reporting of interest payment on his loans to his campaigns." These issues, according to the report, represent Walsh "act[ing] in a manner that does not reflect creditably on the House."

A spokesman for the congressman said, “Joe Walsh has not done a single thing that's corrupt and will continue to be a strong voice on conservative issues.” [Huffington Post, [9/22/11](#)]

Abortion and Family Planning Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *2010: Pro-Life with No Exceptions*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Abortion Rights*
- ✓ *Voted to Defund Planned Parenthood*
- ✓ *Voted to Limit Doctors' Education on Providing Abortions*

Today Walsh calls himself “pro-life with no exceptions” and has promised to “support any measure making legal abortions as restrictive as possible.” He has even voted to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding. However, in 1996 Walsh supported abortion rights.

2010: Pro-Life with No Exceptions

According to the [Associated Press](#), Walsh called himself “pro-life with no exceptions.” [[Associated Press](#), 11/17/10]

In January 2010, Walsh said, “I believe that life begins at conception and it is never permissible to purposefully take an innocent life,” he said. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/13/10]

In a September 2011 interview with Chicago Mag, Walsh said, “About five, six, seven years of long arduous thought, prayer, research. In about 2003, I became pro-life without exception. I’ve never looked back. Rape, incest and health of the mother...No, there are no exceptions.” [[Chicago Mag](#), [9/08/11](#)]

Promised to Restrict Abortions

In September 2010, Walsh the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh promised to “support any measure making legal abortions as restrictive as possible.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/21/10]

Voted to Prohibit Any Government Funding for Planned Parenthood

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would bar all funding for Planned Parenthood Federation of America or its affiliates.

Conservatives had long targeted Planned Parenthood as a major abortion provider but the amendment would bar all federal funding. Planned Parenthood received some \$75 million received to provide family planning assistance, contraception, HIV counseling, cancer screenings and other medical services.

According to Susan Cohen, director of governmental affairs at the Guttmacher Institute research organization, for every dollar spent on contraception for low-income women, the government saves four dollars in medical costs within the next year by averting unwanted pregnancies. [[New York Times](#), 2/17/11]

A [New York Times](#) editorial pointed out that Republicans' assault on women's health would deny millions of women access to affordable contraception and life-saving cancer screening, as well as cut nutritional support for millions of newborn babies. [[New York Times](#), Editorial, 2/25/11]

The amendment passed, 240-185. [HR 1, Pence amendment #11, [Vote #93](#), 2/18/11]

Voted to Defund Planned Parenthood

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which would insert a section in the FY11 Continuing Resolution which would prohibit Planned Parenthood and its affiliates from receiving federal funding.

The resolution would order the Clerk of the House to change H.R. 1473, the FY11 Continuing Resolution, to bar the use of the federal funds to go to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any affiliate. [[The Hill](#), [4/12/11](#)]

The bill passed 241-185. [H Con Res 36, [Vote #271](#), 4/14/11]

Voted to Undermine a Woman's Right to Choose

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which undermined and harmed women's health by limiting access and funding for abortions.

The bill dramatically changed the laws regarding abortion access and funding. The legislation made the annually-passed Hyde Amendment (barring the use of federal funds for abortion) permanent, prohibited federal medical facilities from providing abortion services, and kept individuals from "deducting abortion as a medical expense unless it was the result of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother".

The section on deducting abortion expenses led many to worry about "abortion audits" where the IRS would be charged with determining if a woman who became pregnant and used tax-exempt funds (health savings accounts or deducted the costs) to terminate the pregnancy met the specifications of the pregnancy being the result of rape or incest or if pregnancy risked the life of the mother. [[The American Independent](#), [5/04/11](#); [The Hill](#), [5/04/11](#); [Mother Jones](#), [3/18/11](#)]

The bill passed 251-175. [HR 3, [Vote #292](#), 5/04/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which specified that nothing in the bill allowed the federal government to access medical records of rape and incest victims.

The motion failed 192-235. [HR 3, [Vote #291](#), 5/04/11]

Voted to Restrict the District of Columbia from Using Funds to Pay for Abortions

In 2011, Walsh voted to restrict the District of Columbia from using their funds to pay for abortions.

The bill also contained a policy rider which would have restricted the District of Columbia from using funds appropriated by the bill or its own tax dollars to pay for abortions with exceptions for the life of the mother and if the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest. When the Senate amended the bill it struck most of the language and made it a simple Continuing Resolution which funded all government agencies through April 15th, 2011 with some reductions to FY10 funding levels. [CQ Weekly Report, [4/11/11](#)]

The bill underlying bill would have provided funds for the Department of Defense through the end of Fiscal Year 2011 and all other government agencies through April 15th, 2011, while cutting an additional \$12 billion.

The bill passed 247-181. [HR 1363, [Vote #247](#), 4/07/11]

Voted Against Prohibiting the District of Columbia from Using Funds for Abortions

In 2011, Walsh voted against a bill containing a policy rider which barred the District of Columbia from using federal or local fund to fund abortions.

The policy rider barred the District of Columbia from using federal or local funds to fund abortions with exclusions for the life of the mother, rape and incest. This is possible because the federal government ultimately controls the DC budget. The underlying bill was the final continuing resolution passed to fund the federal government for the rest of Fiscal Year 2011. [CQ BillAnalysis, [7/14/11](#); CQ Floor Votes, [4/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 260-167. [HR 1473, [Vote #268](#), 4/14/11]

NOTE: This bill was passed as a compromise between the White House, Senate and House of Representatives to avoid a government shutdown and provided funding for government agencies for the remainder of FY11.

Voted to Limit Doctors' Education on Providing Abortions

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment which cut funding for educating doctors in how to provide abortions, which are sometimes necessary to protect the life and health of the mother.

The amendment banned the use of funds authorized by the underlying bill to teach medical students how to provide abortions. The amendment also banned the distribution of funds to educational health facilities which discriminate against entities that refuse to provide or pay for abortions.

According to the [Associated Press](#): “The proposal was presented as an amendment to the latest of several GOP bills to restrict funding for the health care act that was enacted last year. This bill gives Congress control over spending for a program to encourage health centers to provide training to medical residents. The amendment applies to funding in that grant program.” [[Associated Press](#), 5/25/11; [The Hill](#), [5/24/11](#)]

The amendment passed 234-182. [HR 1216, [Vote #338](#), 5/25/11]

Voted to Restrict Women's Reproductive Health Care

In 2011, Walsh voted to allow hospitals to deny lifesaving health care to women and restrict a woman's ability to use her own private insurance for health care.

The bill barred insurance plans that receive federal subsidies, or if any of its customers receive federal subsidies under the new healthcare law, from covering abortion. The bill also increased conscience protections for health care providers who are anti-abortion.

According to the Huffington Post, the bill "would allow federally-funded hospitals that oppose abortions to refuse to perform the procedure, even in cases where a woman would die without it." [[The Virginian-Pilot](#), 10/14/11; [Orlando Sentinel](#), 10/14/11; Huffington Post, [10/11/11](#)]

The bill passed 251-172. [HR 358, [Vote #789](#), 10/13/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion specifying that, under the underlying bill, health care providers were still required to provide care to prevent the death of pregnant women with emergency medical conditions. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/13/11]

The motion failed 173-249. [HR 358, [Vote #788](#), 10/13/11]

1996: Supported Abortion Rights

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, Walsh supported abortion rights. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/15/96]

Changed Opinion after "Spiritual Journey"

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), Walsh changed his position on abortion rights "in 2003 after spending several years on a spiritual journey." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/14/10]

Planned Parenthood Targeted Walsh in Radio Ad Buy

In March 2011, after voting in favor of the Pence Amendment to cut federal funding to Planned Parenthood, the organization released a one-week radio ad buy targeting Walsh. [Politico, [2/18/11](#)]

Not Concerned that Planned Parenthood Targeted Him on His Vote to Cut Its Budget

At a February 2011 town hall meeting, Walsh said he did not mind that Planned Parenthood released a radio campaign against his vote for the Pence Amendment to the continuing resolution because, "I voted as I thought I should vote. We shouldn't allow any public funding for abortions. It's interesting they're complaining about funding and then they're spending a decent amount of money to go after us." [Barrington Patch, [2/25/11](#)]

Called Contraception Compromise "Another Political Move by the President."

In a February 2012 statement posted to his legislative website, Walsh called Obama's contraception compromise "another political move by the President." According to Walsh, "[a]t the end of the day, religious institutions still have to provide healthcare plans with free contraceptive services. It will still force religious institutions to violate their core beliefs." [Representative Walsh Release, [2/10/12](#)]

Said Contraceptive Mandate is another "Scary Look inside the Belly of the Beast."

Walsh said that the "contraceptive mandate continues our scary look inside the belly of the beast. If big government can force Americans to violate their consciences here, what else will it try to do?" Walsh noted that the mandate served as another reminder "that the true intent of Obamacare is to increase the power of government over our lives –even our first amendment [sic] freedoms." [Representative Walsh Release, [2/10/12](#)]

Said Contraception is "Not About Women"

In February 2012, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing to discuss President Obama's contraception mandate and compromise. The panel testifying before the Committee consisted solely of men. Walsh said "This is not about women. This is not about contraceptives. This is about religious freedom." [NBC Chicago, [2/17/12](#)]

Called Contraception Mandate an "Absolute Trampling of Religious Liberties"

In a February 2012 interview with the group "Accuracy in Media," Walsh called the contraception mandate "an absolute trampling of religious liberties in this country." [YouTube, [2/13/12](#)]

...and Said that if he were Speaker He Would Repeal the Health Care Act Every Month

Walsh said "[i]f I was the Speaker, starting last year, every month we would have voted to repeal Obamacare. I would have pulled Obamacare up on the floor of the House yesterday." [YouTube, [2/13/12](#)]

Said Access to Contraception Not the "Crucial Issue"

In March 2012, Walsh said the contraception mandate was not about "women and contraception." Instead, Walsh said the "crucial issue ... is 'you can't step on my religious freedom to provide contraception.'" [WIND, [3/08/12](#)]

Said Rush Limbaugh's Comments "Ke[pt] This Whole Notion Alive"

Walsh said Limbaugh's comments about Sandra Fluke served to "keep this whole notion alive that this is about women and contraception." [WIND, [3/08/12](#)]

Budget Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted for Ryan Budget...Said it Did Not Go Far Enough*
- ✓ *Opposed Budget that Cut \$38 Billion...Because it Did Not Cut Enough*
- ✓ *Supported Shutdown of Federal Government*
- ✓ *Voted for Cut, Cap and Balance Plan to Hold Debt Limit Hostage*
- ✓ *Sponsored Balanced Budget Amendment*
- ✓ *Voted to Maintain Funding for the “Bridge to Nowhere” After Promising to Oppose Earmarks*

Walsh’s budget votes place him in the extreme wing of the Republican Party. Not only did he support Paul Ryan’s budget, he said by avoiding Social Security and those over the age of 55 that it did not go cut enough. During the FY 2011 budget negotiations, Walsh called for a shutdown of the federal government multiple times and voted against continuing resolutions that cut billions from the budget because “they were simply not bold or serious enough.” One of the few issues where Walsh’s policy positions have not changed since 1996 is on a Balanced Budget Amendment which he has introduced. However, he also promised to oppose earmarks but voted to keep funding for the Alaska “bridge to nowhere.”

Voted for Ryan Budget

In April 2011, Walsh voted for Representative Paul Ryan’s budget for Fiscal Year 2012 saying, “I fully support the Path to Prosperity budget.” He claimed Ryan’s budget “reduces spending and eliminates barriers to economic growth, which will create one million jobs in the first year. It puts in place policies that create an environment that fosters long term economic growth, resulting in getting more Americans back to work.” [Walsh Press Release via States News Service, 4/15/11]

Said Ryan Did Not Go Far Enough

In April 2011, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh said Ryan’s “Path to Prosperity” did not go far enough. He believed that Social Security should have been addressed in addition to the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid detailed in the plan. He also supported cuts for those over 55 years

of age, which Ryan's plan avoided, in order to balance the budget more quickly.
[blogs.dailyherald.com, [4/26/11](#)]

Supported Republican Study Committee Budget

In addition to the Ryan budget, Walsh voted in support of the Republican Study Committee's budget proposal which he claimed "would balance the budget over the next 10 years." [Walsh Press Release via States News Service, 4/15/11]

Voted for an Extreme Tea Party Budget

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which would have enacted the Fiscal Year 2012 Republican Study Committee Budget.

The budget would have called for the repeal of the 2010 health care bill, increased the retirement age for Social Security eligibility and Medicare eligibility, would have fundamentally changed both the Medicare and Medicaid programs and would have cut mandatory spending by \$1.9 trillion over 10 years.

According to the New York Times, "This plan goes even further than Mr. Ryan's approach, proposing \$1.7 trillion of tax cuts over the next five years and reducing agency budgets by about 30 percent — more than the 15 percent offered by Mr. Ryan's plan. Additionally, the federal workforce, under the committee's vision, would be greatly reduced and the Medicaid and Medicare programs would be overhauled." [NYTimes.com-The Caucus Blog, [4/15/11](#)]

The bill failed 119-136. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #275](#), 4/15/11]

NOTE: 172 Democrats voted present to force Republican supporters to vote against the bill.

Opposed Three Week Continuing Resolution that Cut \$6 Billion

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a three week continuing resolution to fund the federal government that included \$6 billion in cuts claiming the measure did not go far enough. He said, "The American people want bigger and bolder than what Congress put forth today." [Walsh Press Release via States News Service, 3/15/11]

Voted Against Budget Reductions in the FY11 Continuing Resolution

In 2011, Walsh voted against a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011. This bill was passed as a compromise between the White House, Senate and House of Representatives to avoid a government shutdown and provided funding for government agencies for the remainder of FY11.

Walsh voted against a compromise bill which funded the federal government through the end of FY11 (September 30th, 2011). This bill is based on FY10 funding levels with a number of program reductions, eliminations and reclamation of already appropriated funds. The bill sets discretionary spending levels for FY11 at \$1.055 trillion. [CQ BillAnalysis, [7/14/11](#); CQ Floor Votes, [4/14/11](#)]

According to Politico: “As it is, six months into the fiscal year, the 451-page bill puts Cabinet departments and agencies on permanent footing, but at a spending level nearly \$38 billion below what it was when the new Congress began in January. Nondefense spending is hardest hit, with a reduction closer to \$42 billion, and the new appropriations target — just shy of \$1.0498 trillion — is \$78.5 billion less than President Barack Obama’s initial 2011 budget requests from a year ago.” [Politico, [4/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 260-167. [HR 1473, [Vote #268](#), 4/14/11]

Opposed Budget that Cut \$38 Billion...Because it Did Not Cut Enough

In April 2011, Walsh opposed a budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 that included \$38.5 billion in cuts saying, “While these cuts are clearly a step in the right direction, they were simply not bold or serious enough.” [Walsh Press Release via States News Service, 4/15/11]

Supported Shutdown of Federal Government

During a March 2011 interview with CBS, a correspondent said, “You’ve gone on record saying maybe what this country needs is a shutdown, how’s that the responsible thing?” Walsh responded, “Well, maybe it is...this is the most serious financial situation I think we’ve had, the American people get that. So, if we need a jolt, if we need the government to shut down for a few days for us to really get serious, I think the American people are with that.” [CBS News, [3/29/11](#)]

Previously Called for a Shutdown

In March 2011 Walsh said he would oppose temporary funding measures that did not include budget reductions. He said, “I will say no and I will shut down government.” [Time, [4/03/11](#)]

Voted to Shut Down Government

In 2011, Walsh voted against a federal funding measure that was designed to avert a government shutdown.

The bill not only included nine outstanding appropriations bills, but extended unemployment insurance and a payroll tax break for 160 million working Americans through February 2012.

At issue was how to fund the spending plan. Democrats were hoping to impose a surtax on people earning \$1 million or more per year, while Republicans mainly wanted to cover the \$120 billion cost by reducing unemployment benefits and freezing federal workers’ pay. With the two parties locked in a stalemate, the bill was struck as a compromise and a means to prevent the government from shuttering. [ABC News, [12/13/11](#); [LA Times](#), [12/15/11](#); ABC News, [12/16/11](#); Bloomberg, [12/20/11](#); CQ Bill Analysis, [2/02/12](#)]

The bill passed 296-121. [HR 2055, [Vote #941](#), 12/16/11]

Voted Against a Clean Debt Ceiling Raise

In 2011, Walsh voted against raising the statutory debt limit, sometimes referred to the debt ceiling to \$16.7 trillion dollars.

The bill was brought under suspension of the rules, requiring a two-thirds vote, to ensure its failure. The debt limit had to be raised prior to August 2, 2011, when the United States would default according to Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner. According to the Republican House Ways and Means Chairman, Dave Camp, said the vote was to prove that “the American people” want Congress to tackle the debt crisis before they raise the debt limit. Additional debt ceiling increases were proposed, and eventually passed later, but as part of a larger bill including budget cuts instead of just a bill which deals solely with the debt ceiling. [[Boston Globe](#), 5/31/11; [USA Today](#), 6/01/11; [Washington Post](#), 6/01/11]

The bill failed 97-318. [HR 1954, [Vote #379](#), 5/31/11]

Voted Against Cutting Oil and Gas Subsidies Instead of Education to Balance the Budget

In 2011, Walsh voted against prioritizing subsidies for major oil and gas companies and corporate jets as spending cuts before cutting education spending to help balance the budget.

The motion would have amended the underlying bill “to make sure it raised taxes on corporate jets and oil companies before cutting funding for education.” [[Buffalo News](#), 7/30/11; CQ Floor Votes, 7/29/11]

The motion failed 183-244. [S. 627, [Vote #676](#), 7/29/11]

Voted for Cut, Cap and Balance Plan to Hold Debt Limit Hostage

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which only raised the debt limit if there were cuts to the federal budget, caps on federal spending and Congress passed a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

The bill would have cut \$111 billion from the federal budget, except for Medicare, Social Security and defense programs, in Fiscal Year 2012. The bill would have also capped federal spending at “21.7 percent of GDP for 2013, 20.8 for 2014, 20.2 for 2015, 20.1 for 2016, 19.9 for 2017, 19.7 for 2018, and 19.9 percent for 2019 through 2021”. Lastly the bill would have required the passage of a balanced budget amendment before the debt limit would be raised. [[Washington Post](#), 7/19/11; [New York Times](#), 7/19/11; [The Hill](#), 7/15/11]

The bill passed 234-190. [HR 2560, [Vote #606](#), 7/19/11]

Voted to Circumvent the Constitution to Dramatically Cut Federal Funding

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which deemed HR 1 (2011), the Republican FY2011 Continuing Resolution, as law and would have prevented lawmakers and the president from receiving pay if the government was shut down for more than 24 hours.

The legislation would have enacted HR 1 into law if the Senate had not passed a bill to fund the government through the rest of Fiscal Year 2011 by April 6th, 2011.

According to the Los Angeles Times, “Another section tried to revive a House spending plan that was killed by the Senate last month. Under the resolution passed Friday, the dead bill would come back to life and become law, without the president’s signature, if the Senate does not pass a bill funding the

government for the rest of the 2011. The Senate would need to act by Wednesday.” [[Los Angeles Times, 4/1/11](#)]

According to Republican Congressman Louie Gohmert from Texas during a floor speech on this bill, “[...] for a bill to say provisions that pass the House are hereby enacted into law violates my conscience and the Constitution.” [Congressional Record, [p. H2245](#), 4/01/11]

The bill passed 221-202. [HR 1255, [Vote #224](#), 4/01/11]

Voted Against \$8.1 Billion in Emergency Disaster Relief Funding for Fiscal Year 2012

In 2011, Walsh voted against providing \$8.1 billion in emergency disaster relief funding for fiscal year 2012.

The bill provided \$8.1 billion in emergency funding for FY2012 disaster relief, of which \$6.4 billion would go to the Federal Emergency management Agency Disaster Relief Fund and \$1.7 billion to the Army Civil Corps of Engineers. [CQ Floor Vote, 12/16/11]

The bill passed 351-67. [HR 3672, [Vote #943](#), 12/16/11]

Opposed Creation of “Super Committee”

In a November 2011 press release Walsh said, “The entire concept of a Super Committee has proven to be a disaster and complete waste of time. I, along with twenty-one other Republicans, voted against every single attempt to form the now failed Super Committee.” [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 11/21/11]

Voted for \$61 Billion in Draconian Cuts for Rest of 2011 Fiscal Year

In 2011, Walsh voted for \$61 billion in draconian cuts for a continuing resolution to finish fiscal year 2011.

The cuts slashed the maximum Pell Grant by \$845; would drop 218,000 children from the Head Start program; would cut 55,000 teachers and teacher assistants from schools; could result in 5,500 fewer researchers compared to FY 2010 funding and 20,000 fewer researchers compared to the FY 2011 request; cut \$1.6 billion from the National Institutes of Health; cut \$250 million border security technology funding; and would result in a total loss of 700,000 jobs. [Democratic Leader press [release](#)]

An analysis by the investment bank Goldman Sachs predicted that the Republican spending cuts would cause great damage to the economy, slowing growth by as much as two percentage points in the second and third quarters of 2011. [[Washington Post, 3/13/11](#)]

The measure passed, 235-189. [HR 1, [Vote #147](#), 2/19/11]

Voted to Make Cuts to the Pell Grant Program

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which, according to data from the Department of Education, would cut 1.4 million students from being eligible for Pell Grants.

According to the House Committee on Education and Labor:

[U]nder the Republican budget, the maximum Pell Grant award would be cut by more than \$2,500 for the 2012-2013 school year, bringing the maximum award to \$3,040, the lowest it's been since 1998. New data from the Department of Education shows that the Republican budget would result in almost 1.4 million students losing eligibility for Pell grants, and all students receiving significantly reduced awards. For students, this could make college far less affordable." [House Committee on Education and Labor, [4/14/11](#) *citing* Estimates from the US Department of Education]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Voted for Additional \$22 Billion in Cuts

In 2011, Walsh voted for an additional \$22 billion in cuts, pushed by conservative freshmen and the Republican Study Committee. The amendment would have reduced funding for the legislative branch by 11 percent and all other continuing resolution funding by 5.5 percent, with exemptions for the Department of Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs and for aid to Israel.

Out of 87 freshmen Republicans, 58 – or about two-thirds – voted in favor of the amendment.

The cuts were so extreme that Republican Study Committee member Jo Bonner said he worried that the amendment “would take a more indiscriminate, hatchet approach” to the budget. Dan Lungren, a former RSC chairman, said, “Across-the-board cuts are lazy members’ way to achieve something.” Lungren also warned colleagues that the amendment would “paralyze” the U.S. Capitol Police [CQ Today, 2/18/11; [Washington Post](#), [2/18/11](#)]

The amendment was rejected, 147-281. [HR 1, Blackburn amendment #104, [Vote #103](#), 2/18/11]

Opposed Ethanol Subsidies

In April 2011, the [New York Times](#) wrote that Walsh “has been an anti-spending, anti-subsidy diehard, opposing even the Midwest’s cherished ethanol subsidies.” [[New York Times](#), [4/14/11](#)]

Sponsored Balanced Budget Amendment

In April 2011, Walsh sponsored an amendment to the United States’ Constitution “to require the President to submit and Congress to pass a balanced budget that limits outlays to 18 percent of GDP.” His language was identical to S.J. Res. 10 which all 47 Senate Republicans cosponsored.

The resolution would require a super-majority in both the House and Senate to approve tax increases and a 3/5 majority to increase the debt limit. It also had override provisions to cover the costs of military conflicts.

Walsh wrote that “American families have been working through a recession for the past three years by spending less and saving more, yet the federal government continues to spend money it simply does not have.” [Dear Colleague Letter, Joe Walsh, 4/05/11]

1996: Supported Balanced Budget Amendment

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, Walsh supported a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 10/15/96]

Voted for a Balanced Budget Amendment

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

The resolution would have amended the Constitution to require the balancing of the federal budget by, whichever happens second, fiscal year 2018 or the second fiscal year after ratification by the states. The amendment would require three-fifths of the house to approve debt ceiling increases and deficit spending and a majority to waive the requirement during times of war or serious military threat. [CQ Floor Votes, 11/18/11]

Critics of the amendment noted that it would require severe cuts that Congress had previously refused to pass and would limit the government’s ability to respond to economic turmoil. [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), 11/18/11]

The resolution failed to reach the required two-thirds majority, 261-165. [H J Res 2, [Vote #858](#), 11/18/11]

Believed Debt Limit Increase Would Have to Be Coupled with Spending Cuts

In April 2011, Walsh said the debt ceiling would not be raised by a Republican House unless it was coupled with spending cuts. He said, “If you’re going to ask this Congress to raise the debt ceiling, there’s got to be something structural on the spending side” [CNN, [4/17/11](#)]

Walsh: Failure to Raise Limit “is Being Overstated”

In April 2011, Walsh said, the impact of not raising the limit “is being overstated.” He reiterated his stance on coupling the increase with spending cuts saying, “There is no way we should raise the debt ceiling unless this city is serious about cutting up the credit cards.” [[Washington Post](#), 4/25/11]

Voted to Set Spending Caps Without Disclosing Dollar Amounts

In 2011, Walsh voted to adopt a resolution setting a spending cap reducing non-security discretionary spending to fiscal 2008 levels.

The resolution did not provide specifics, such as a dollar amount or definition of non-security spending. Democrats criticized the resolution as a “public relations exercise” timed by Republicans in advance of that evening’s State of the Union address by President Obama. [CQ Today, 1/25/11]

“You have no idea what you are voting on,” Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said of the resolution without numbers. Rep. Jim McGovern challenged each Republican speaker, “What’s the number, what’s the cut?” [Politico, [1/25/11](#)]

The resolution passed, 256-165. [H Res 38, [Vote #20](#), 1/25/11]

Claimed Federal Workers Fired because of RSC Budget would Find Work in Private Sector

In a January 2011 interview on MSNBC, Walsh defended the Republican Study Committee’s budget proposal that included \$2.5 billion in cuts and a 15 percent reduction in the civil service workforce. When asked where the federal workers who would lose their jobs would work, Walsh claimed the private sector would hire them.

From MSNBC:

MSNBC: What would you do for thousands and thousands of government employees that will lose their jobs if you get your way?

WALSH: They will embark in the private sector and because of Republican policies it will be a booming, growing private sector, which is where we all want the jobs to be, and that’s where they’ll find employment. [MSNBC, 1/24/11]

Voted Against Increased Funding for Economic Development Assistance

In 2011, Walsh voted against increased funding for economic development assistance programs in the Economic Development Administration of the Commerce Department by \$80 million. Equal funding would be taken from funds for the periodic census at the Census Bureau.

According to Michaud, from 2004 to 2008, the EDA-funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs nationwide. [Michaud press release, 2/16/11]

The amendment was adopted, 305-127. [HR 1, Michaud amendment #153, [Vote #50](#), 2/16/11]

Voted to Allow Defense Department to Spend Millions on NASCAR Sponsorships

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment that would bar the Department of Defense to sponsor NASCAR race cars.

The Army spent approximately \$7 million on NASCAR endorsements, down from \$11.6 million in 2009, and another \$5 million on drag racing. The Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard had all dropped their sponsorships of NASCAR in 2006. [[National Journal](#), 2/15/11]

The amendment was rejected, 148-281. [HR 1, McCollum amendment #50, [Vote #90](#), 2/18/11]

Called Vote a “Mistake”

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh was asked about his vote in support of funding NASCAR sponsorships. He said, “It was a bad vote” and blamed it on the volume of amendments being considered at the time. Walsh said:

Good question, for better or worse, you’re going to hear nothing but honesty from me. That process, a month or so ago, when we had open amendment process on the floor and everybody could propose, anybody could propose an amendment, there was a flurry of bills. I think we voted on 200 things and there’s discussion, you’ve got four or five minutes to vote, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom and nobody else may admit this but I made a couple mistakes. The NASCAR thing, didn’t realize what I was doing, mistake. [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 26:15, [3/24/11](#)]

Promised to Read and Understand Bills Before Voting

In May 2010, Walsh answered “yes” when asked, “Would you commit to not vote for any bill that you did not have sufficient time to read and understand?” [iCaucus Interview, 31:40, 5/07/10]

Promised to Oppose Any Budget Containing an Earmark

In May 2010, Walsh said he would oppose any budget that contained an earmark and promised never to request one. An interviewer asked Walsh, “do you commit to personally not vote for any budget or appropriations bill that has those kinds of earmarks put in?” Walsh answered, “Yes, and in fact the sixth and final pledge I’ve got is I will never submit or take an earmark.” [iCaucus Interview, 32:00, 5/07/10]

Voted to Maintain Funding for the “Bridge to Nowhere”

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have prevented funding for the notorious Alaskan “Bridge to Nowhere.” The motion to recommit would have rescinded \$183 million in funding for planning, design and construction of the Gravina Island and Knik Arm bridges in Alaska.

The motion specifically rescinded all unobligated balances provided for the planning or construction of the both bridges. Rep. Jared Polis, who introduced the measure, noted that a CBO study estimated that the motion would reduce the deficit by \$160 million. [CQ Today, 3/02/11]

The motion failed, 181-246. [HR 662, [Vote #159](#), 3/02/11]

Promised to Oppose Spending Increases Until the Budget is Balanced

In May 2010, Walsh agreed to “vote against any budget that would propose an increase in the overall spending if there was a deficit the previous year?” [iCaucus Interview, 31:20, 5/07/10]

Named Reducing Spending as One of Top Three Priorities in Congress

In January 2010, Walsh said reducing spending would be one of his top three priorities in Congress. From the [Chicago Daily Herald](#):

The most urgent priority for our nation today is halting and reversing the unprecedented explosion in government spending. I will fight to cut spending, reduce taxes and return to a balanced budget. Residents of the 8th Congressional District will benefit most from my efforts to lower taxes and eliminate the crushing debt that is being passed onto our kids and grandkids. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/15/10]

Note: For the complete list of Walsh's top three priorities please see the Appendix II – Letters to the Editor section on this book

Ran to Reduce Government Spending and Growth

In October 2009, Walsh announced his candidacy for Congress saying, “Like people all over the 8th Congressional District, I am ticked off at how much money our government is spending and how quickly government is growing. I want to stand up to what Washington is trying to do to our community, our state and our country.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/22/09]

Blamed Bush for Ending Reagan-Era Small Government

In August 2010, Walsh blamed said the nation needed to get back to the small government, pro-business philosophy of the Reagan era. He believed that model of government had been chipped away at since the early ‘90s and said, “George (W.) Bush started us this path a little bit. Obama is running full speed down the path.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/25/10]

Politifact: Walsh Falsely Claimed Tax Cuts Lead to Revenue Increase

In April 2011, Walsh claimed, “Every time we cut taxes, revenues have gone up, the economy has grown.” Politifact called the statement “not accurate.” [[Politifact](#), [4/17/11](#)]

Walsh after HR 1: “Keep Cutting, Baby”

After voting for HR 1, Walsh told ABC, “Keep cutting, baby.” [[Slate](#), [5/26/11](#)]

Said He Wants to Cut Spending as Outlined in the Pledge to America

In January 2011 while speaking on the House floor, Walsh reiterated his campaign pledge to cut spending and reduce the deficit. He said, “We were elected this past fall to do what we said we were going to do: To lead by example when it comes to spending and tightening our own belts. Following through on this key pledge that we made in the Pledge to America I think is vital.” [[House Floor statements](#), 1/06/11]

Walsh: “Put your seatbelts on” Because We’re Taking Hits on “some of the neediest of the needy”

At a February 2011 town hall meeting, Walsh said the \$61 billion dollars in cuts House Republicans made were not easy, but a big first step. He said, “Put your seatbelts on. We (America) need shock therapy. We whacked a lot of good, interesting programs. Unfortunately, a lot of people taking hits are some of the neediest of the needy.” [[Barrington Patch](#), [2/25/11](#)]

Said He Was Unsure the Stopgap Budget Would Be Sufficient

In February 2011, Walsh expressed his concern with the short-term proposal to fund the government for only a few weeks. He said he was not sure he would support the bill. He said, “It doesn’t contain many of the cuts that these freshmen feel very strongly about. It might be OK to swallow for two weeks, but there are things we want to do that extend beyond this.” [Bloomberg News, [3/01/11](#)]

Said He Has No Problems with Shutting Down Government

In a March 2011 [Time](#) featured piece, Walsh said, “I will say no and I will shut down government.” [Time Blog, [3/03/11](#)]

Said Government Shutdown Will Help the Country

In March 2011, Walsh said a government shutdown could occur and added that it may help the country as a whole to wake up to its problems. [Daily Herald, [3/19/11](#)]

Voted against Three Week Stopgap Spending Bill Because Did Not Cut Enough

In March 2011, Walsh voted against the second stopgap spending measure after having voted in favor of passing the first stopgap measure. He said, the earlier vote was “a very, very tough decision.”

The second three week budget though, he said “doesn’t come close to doing what the American people want Congress doing. We were sent to Washington to dramatically cut spending, defund Obamacare, and stop the rise in government regulations. The American people want bigger and bolder than what Congress put forth today.” [Daily Herald, [3/16/11](#)]

Walsh Called for Shutdown of Federal Government

During a March 2011 interview with CBS, a CBS correspondent’s question asking, “You’ve gone on record saying maybe what this country needs is a shutdown, how’s that the responsible thing?” Walsh’s responded, “Well, maybe it is...this is the most serious financial situation I think we’ve had, the American people get that. So, if we need a jolt, if we need the government to shut down for a few days for us to really get serious, I think the American people are with that.” [CBS News, [3/29/11](#)]

Walsh Voted against the Republicans’ Continuing Resolution

On March 15, Walsh voted against the Republican’s continuing resolution to keep the federal government funded for an additional three weeks because the measure “did not go far enough.” Walsh called for a budget that cuts spending, defunds health care reform, and stops the rise in government regulations. [Rep. Joe Walsh Press Release, [3/15/11](#)]

Said the President Taking Credit for Helping Cut \$38 Billion Was a Joke

Just two days before the scheduled vote to cut \$38 billion from the FY2011 budget, Walsh said he was “torn” and probably would not make a decision on his vote until the day of the vote and called any work President Obama had made on the budget “kind of a joke.”

He said, “I’m mixed. When I look at this thing, when I look at it as straight negotiations, the Republicans won, the people who want to cut government spending won. For President Obama to share in any of the credit for it is kind of a joke. But in the broader scheme of things, it’s not nearly enough.” [[Northwest Herald, 4/13/11](#)]

First Piece of Legislation Was a Balanced Budget Amendment

In 2011, Walsh’s first piece of legislation was a balanced-budget amendment designed to serve as a companion to the piece to one introduced in the Senate. [[Chicago Daily Herald, 4/08/11](#)]

Sent Dear Colleague Letter Asking for Support of Balanced Budget Amendment Bill

In April 2011, Walsh sent a Dear Colleague letter asking fellow congressman to support his balanced budget amendment bill. He wrote that the bill would require a super-majority in both Houses for any tax increase.

In addition, it would require a 3/5 majority in both Houses for any increase to the debt limit. [Rep. Joe Walsh e-Dear Colleague, 4/05/11]

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Business and Consumer Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Terminate Program Helping Home Owners*
- ✓ *Voted to Remove Protections on Food, Toys and Drinking Water*
- ✓ *Voted to Keep Vital Consumer Product Information from Consumers*
- ✓ *Opposed “Too Big to Fail”*

Walsh is no friend of consumers. He voted against funds to launch a consumer product safety database that President Bush signed into law and to end the Home Affordable Modification Program. He even opposed protections on food, toys and drinking water.

Voted to Terminate Program Helping Home Owners

In 2011, Walsh voted to terminate the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). HAMP provided funds to mortgage servicers to help reduce mortgage holders' monthly payments.

The bill terminated the Treasury Department's authority to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). HAMP provided financial incentives to mortgage servicers that are intended to reduce borrowers' monthly payments to no more than 31 percent of monthly income. The Treasury Department allocated \$30 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program funds for HAMP. [CQ House Action Reports, [3/28/11](#)]

The bill passed 252-170. [HR 839, [Vote #198](#), 3/29/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which would have allowed the HAMP to continue for active duty servicemen, their spouses or parents, or Gold Star eligible families. The motion failed 185-238. [HR 839, [Vote #197](#), 3/29/11]

Voted to Undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

In 2011, Walsh voted to limit the effectiveness of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The legislation would limit the effectiveness of the CFPB, a bureau created by the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory bill, which “has the authority to regulate financial markets in ways meant to improve consumer protection”. The CFPB, which had a single director, would instead have a five-member board. This

legislation would also change the two-thirds majority vote by the Financial Stability Oversight Council to override a CFPB decision to just a simple majority. [[The Hill](#), [7/21/11](#)]

The bill passed 241-173. [HR 1315, [Vote #621](#), 7/21/11]

Voted Against Banning Airlines from Gouging their Customers

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bill which would require airlines to provide better information relating to baggage fees and to refund baggage fees if the luggage was lost, damaged or delayed.

The amendment, offered by Rep. Capuano, would have required airlines to refund any luggage fees charged for bags checked within 60 days of the flight and if the baggage was lost, delayed, or damaged. It would also require airlines and ticket vendors to disclose the cost associated with checking luggage when the price of the ticket was first quoted. [Congressional Record, [3/31/11](#)]

The amendment failed 187-235. [HR 658, [Vote #211](#), 3/31/11]

Voted to Keep Vital Consumer Product Information from Consumers

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would bar funds related to launching the consumer product safety information database established under the Consumer Product Safety Act and signed into law by President George Bush.

According to the [Wichita Eagle](#), the amendment offered by Rep. Mike Pompeo, would delay the site to make changes that Pompeo and the business community would prefer. One of Pompeo's changes would be to make it harder for consumer groups and lawyers to submit product complaints. [[Wichita Eagle](#), 3/07/11]

The amendment was adopted, 234-187. [HR 1, Pompeo amendment #545, [Vote #137](#), 2/19/11]

Voted to Remove Protections on Food, Toys and Drinking Water

In February 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have required Congressional committees to place a high priority on tracking, reviewing and preserving the standards that ensure the safety of the food and drinking water supply, and the safety of children's toys.

"This is and should be an essential function of our nation's government," said motion sponsor Rep. Russ Carnahan, D-Mo. [CQ Today, 2/11/11]

The motion failed, 178-242. [HR 72, [Vote #32](#), 2/11/11]

Voted for Massive Cuts to the Department of Agriculture

In 2011, Walsh voted to cut the budget of the Department of Agriculture and programs funded through the USDA including food safety and nutrition programs.

The bill cut more than \$2.7 billion out of the discretionary budget of the Department of Agriculture, including \$832 million from the Women, Infants & Children Nutrition (WIC) Program. The FDA's food safety program was cut by \$87 million compared to what it was receiving in Fiscal Year 2011 or \$205 million less than the President's request. In addition, another \$35 million was cut from the USDA's food safety and inspection service.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which is supposed to stabilize commodity prices by regulating commodity speculation, was also cut by \$30 million. [[The Hill](#), [6/16/11](#); [Washington Post](#), 6/17/11]

The bill passed 217-203. [HR 2112, [Vote #459](#), 6/16/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion to increase funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with that funding going to regulate excessive speculation.

The motion failed 185-233. [HR 2112, [Vote #458](#), 6/16/11]

Voted Against Protecting Consumers from Predatory Lending, Financial Fraud

In 2011, Walsh voted against banning individuals convicted of financial fraud from advertising or soliciting non-publicly traded securities.

The motion would have continued to ban advertising or general solicitation for non-publicly traded securities from individuals if they had been "convicted of fraud in connection with a financial transaction including predatory lending to a veteran." [CQ Floor Votes, 11/03/11; Congressional Record, 11/03/11]

The motion failed 190-236. [HR 2940, [Vote #827](#), 11/03/11]

Voted to Require Agencies to Choose the Least Costly Option

In 2011, Walsh voted to require agencies to choose the least costly regulation when writing new regulations.

The bill required agencies to choose the least costly regulations when writing new regulations for businesses unless they could explain the reason for choosing a more expensive rule was "in the interest of public health and welfare." [CQ Today, 12/02/11]

The bill passed 253-167. [HR 3010, [Vote #888](#), 12/02/11]

Before passage of the final bill, Walsh voted against a motion which would have kept the bill from interfering with rules created by the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs to negotiate lower prescription drug prices. [CQ Floor Votes, 12/02/11]

The motion failed 186-233. [HR 3010, [Vote #887](#), 12/02/11]

Voted to Increase Bureaucratic Inefficiency in Agency Rule-Making

In 2011, Walsh voted to increase bureaucratic inefficiency by requiring Congressional approval of major agency rules.

The bill would require the United States Congress to approve agency rules if they would have an annual impact of more the \$100 million dollars or “would cause a major increase in costs or prices, or would have a significant adverse effect on competition employment, investment, productivity, innovation or U.S. economic competitiveness.” [CQ Floor Votes, 12/07/11]

The bill passed 241-184. [HR 10, [Vote #901](#), 12/07/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion exempting country of origin labeling rules from the bill. [CQ Floor Votes, 12/07/11]

The motion failed 183-235. [HR 10, [Vote #900](#), 12/07/11]

Promised to Hold Businesses Accountable for Undocumented Workers

In December 2010, Walsh said his main goals for immigration were securing the border and holding businesses accountable for employing undocumented immigrants. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

Opposed “Too Big to Fail”

In May 2010, Walsh said, “When we decide that entities are too big to fail, we set askew what the market forces should be in this country. No company should be too big to fail. No company should automatically depend upon a bailout.” [iCaucus Interview, 3:45, 5/07/10]

Campaign and Re-Election Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Is not Concerned with Getting Re-Elected*
- ✓ *Criticized Rep. Hultgren for “Copying” Him*

Voted to End Public Financing of Presidential Campaigns

In 2011, Walsh voted to end public financing to eligible presidential campaigns and to eliminate the Election Assistance Commission.

The bill terminated the public financing of presidential campaigns, which was funded by taxpayers voluntarily donating \$3 to the presidential primaries and general elections fund on their tax forms. The bill also terminated the Election Assistance Commission which was developed to help states modernize their voting equipment. [CQ Floor Votes 12/01/11; [Boston Globe](#), 12/02/11]

The bill passed 235-190. [HR 3463, [Vote #873](#), 12/01/11]

Missed Own Congressional Announcement Deadline

In December 2011, Walsh said he would make an announcement on Monday December 5 as to where he was to run in the 2012 election. Walsh did not announce that day. [Chicago Tribune, [12/03/11](#)]

Said Voters Will Vote Him out If They Do Not Like His Policies

In July 2011, Walsh asked voters, "If most in this district doesn't like what I've done, what will they do to me in 18 months?" He continued, "Boom, they're going to send me right back home." [Bloomberg, [7/25/11](#)]

Politico: "Joe Walsh, Cable Catnip"

After five cable news appearances last week and an additional five just this week, including a verbal brawl with Chris Matthews on MSNBC, Walsh has become one of the "preeminent voice(s) defending the GOP's plan for a balanced budget amendment—whether he leadership likes it or not."

Shortly after his tussle with Matthews on air, Walsh sent a fundraising email asking for help "to stand up to the liberal media and Democrats."

Walsh has yet to announce what district he will be running in 2012. [Politico, [7/22/11](#)]

Said He Came to Congress to Scream

In July 2011, Walsh claimed it was important to get media attention. He said, "I came here figuratively to scream from the mountaintop." [Chicago Sun-Times, [7/22/11](#)]

Said He Was Elected to Stop the President

In July 2011, Walsh said, "We believe we were elected to stop what [Obama] is doing." [Chicago Sun-Times, [7/22/11](#)]

Claimed He Was Not Worried About Reelection

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, "I'm not at all worried about my reelection." [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Said He Could Care Less about Being Reelected

At the 2011 CPAC conference, Walsh said, "I will govern these next two years perfectly willing to lose in two years. I could care less." [Washington Post, [The Fix Blog](#), 2/12/11]

Vowed to a Three Term Limit

In March 2011, Walsh promised he would serve no more than three terms. [Time, [3/03/11](#)]

Introduced Term Limit Amendment

In July 2011, Walsh introduced a constitutional amendment to limit members of the House to three terms and members of the Senate to two terms. He introduced the legislation along with Schweikert and Duncan. To be ratified, it would require a two-thirds majority vote in both Houses as well as ratification by three-fourths of the states. [Decatur Tribune, [7/07/11](#)]

Focused on “Doing Right and Getting Reelected”

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said, “I am 190 percent focused on doing right and getting reelected... I like not knowing what district I'm running in, or knowing the lay of the land. I am doing right, and I'm hoping that doing right will get me re-elected.” [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Vowed to Run for Re-Election...Did Not Mention Where He Would Run

In June 2011, Walsh said he would run for re-election regardless of the results of re-districting. He said, “I am entirely focused on the 8th district” and that the re-districting did not distract him. He promised, “I am 100 percent committed to running for re-election to continue the work that you sent me here to do.” He did not say in which district he would run. [Northwest Herald, [6/3/11](#)]

Walsh Said Hultgren Was Copying Him

In a September 2011 Daily Herald article, Walsh pointed to Hultgren's voting record against the party and called it a copycat move meant to show staunch McHenry County Republicans that he is just as conservative as Walsh. [Daily Herald, [9/05/11](#)]

Accused Hultgren of Buddying with Party Leadership

In October 2011, Walsh accused Hultgren of voting too often with Republican leadership in an attempt to be the favorite of the two primary opponents. Walsh said, “As a freshman you pick your poison,” Mr. Walsh said, “and maybe leadership is going to help him raise money or open some doors for him and in exchange for that he's going to give them his vote.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

Said Walsh “Does Not Lead by Example”

In October 2011, Hultgren said of Walsh, “Using a leadership style that emulates Rod Blagojevich or Barack Obama, Joe likes to govern ineffectively through press releases, sound bites, political grandstanding, and name calling. He certainly does not lead by example.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

Walsh: Devoting All His Energy to a “Fair” Illinois Map

In a September 2011 interview with Chicago Mag, Walsh said, “According to the new Democratic map, I live in what would be the new 14th, and the new 14th is about half of my current district and about half of Congressman Hultgren's. It's a district we both have a real claim to, and it's a darn shame that they've put us together. I'm devoting all of my energies to hopefully try to overturn this map and see if we can have a more fair map option.” [Chicago Mag, [9/08/11](#)]

Roskam, Biggert Endorsed Ruscitti over Walsh in Eighth District Primary Race

In December 2011, Reps. Pete Roskam and Judy Biggert announced they would continue to back DuPage County Regional School Superintendent Darlene Ruscitti in her eighth district congressional run over incumbent Representative Joe Walsh. [Des Plaines Journal, [12/15/11](#)]

Defended Herman Cain

In November 2011 during Cain's visit to the Hill, Walsh defended Cain in the wake of sexual harassment allegations, "Tell us what it is and then let's move on and talk about what you're doing for the country," Rep. Joe Walsh (R-Ill.) said of the charges against Cain. "Everybody's got stuff. Your profession's got to grow up. We as politicians need to grow up. The American people need to grow up." [Washington Post, [11/02/11](#)]

Vowed to be the "Most Accessible Congressman on the Planet"

In February 2011, Walsh said he vows to be the "most accessible congressman on the planet." [Barrington Patch, [2/25/11](#)]

Crime & Public Safety Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Cut COPS Funding by \$600 Million*
- ✓ *Voted Against Funding Firefighter, First Responder Assistance*
- ✓ *Voted to Cut Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services by \$98 Million*

Walsh's positions on crime and safety leave Illinois at risk. He voted to cut the Community Oriented Policing Services program by \$600 million and opposed increased funding for firefighters and first responders.

Voted to Cut COPS Funding by \$600 Million

In 2011, Walsh voted against restoring funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program at the Justice Department by \$298 million. The funds came from decreasing the same amount from cross-agency support at NASA.

Cuts under the Republicans' original continuing resolution plan totaled some \$600 million.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Anthony Weiner acknowledged he was "taking from one place to give to another. But I do believe it's in the interest of all of us to try to set these priorities straight." [[Politico](#), 2/16/11]

The amendment passed, 228-203. [HR 1, Weiner amendment #125 as modified, Vote #53, [2/16/11](#)]

Voted Against Funding Firefighter, First Responder Assistance

In 2011, Walsh voted against increased funding for FEMA firefighter assistance grants by \$510 million. The amendment specified that \$390 million be available for firefighter assistance grants and \$420 million be available for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants.

The amendment passed, 318-113. [HR 1, Pascrell amendment #223, Vote #60, [2/16/11](#)]

Voted to Cut Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services by \$98 Million

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would increase funding for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP) by \$50 million. The amendment would reduce funding for substance abuse and mental health services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration by \$98 million.

The amendment was rejected, 104-322. [HR 1, Bass amendment #565, [Vote #71](#), 2/17/11]

Voted to Defund the National Drug Intelligence Center

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment which defunded the National Drug Intelligence Center.

The amendment defunded the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, PA. The National Drug Intelligence Center is run and funded by the Department of Justice. [[The Tribune-Democrat](#), 3/26/11]

The amendment passed 246-172. [HR 1540, [Vote #355](#), 5/26/11]

Voted Against Funding for AMBER Alerts in Public Broadcasting

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a measure to ensure that National Public Radio would still be able to receive federal funding to broadcast or disseminate emergency AMBER Alerts regarding abducted children.

According to the DOJ's AMBER Alert website, there have been 532 successful recoveries with 120 total Amber Alert plans nationwide. In calendar year 2009, 207 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands involving 263 children. Of those 207 cases, 166 resulted in a recovery, 45 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued. [Department of Justice, AMBER Alert statistics; 2009 AMBER Alert report]

Rep. Button Sutton, who introduced the motion, said in her floor remarks that National Public Radio, which the Republicans sought to defund, was a disseminator of the alerts via an arrangement with the Department of Justice. [Rep. Sutton Floor Remarks, 3/17/11]

The motion failed, 184-235. [HR 1076, [Vote #191](#), 3/17/11]

Walsh then voted to prohibit federal money from being used to fund or purchase content from National Public Radio. [HR 1076, [Vote #192](#), 3/17/11]

Voted to Cut Drug Intelligence Money, Fire Hundreds

In 2011, Walsh voted to zero-out funding for the National Drug Intelligence Center by striking \$34 million in funding.

The NDIC, which employed hundreds in Johnstown, PA, was established by the late Rep. John Murtha, but criticized for being a "pet project."

Rep. Mark Critz countered that there was a "misperception" that the NDIC duplicated work by other agencies. He said there was a "basic misunderstanding regarding the types of drug intelligence." The Center's document and media exploitation service supported federal prosecutors in drug cases. [[Tribune-Democrat](#), 2/16/11]

The amendment passed, 262-169. [HR 1, Flake amendment #368, [Vote #51](#), 2/16/11]

Voted to Cut Legal Services Funding for Poor

In 2011, Walsh voted to strike all funding, or an additional \$324.4 million, for the Legal Services Corporation. The program provides funding for essential legal services to almost \$60 million Americans living below 125 percent of the poverty level.

Republicans had earlier proposed an 18 percent cut for the program, or some \$75 million in the \$420 million annual budget of the LSC. Gene Nichol, professor of law at UNC-Chapel Hill, noted that studies had shown how for decades millions of poor and near poor Americans had been “effectively priced out of the civil justice system.” [[Charlotte News & Observer](#), Nichol op-ed, 2/28/11]

The amendment failed, 171-259. [HR 1, Duncan amendment #110, Vote #54, [2/16/11](#)]

Voted Against Prioritizing Drug-Trafficking Crime Prevention

In 2011, Walsh voted against directing the heads of each intelligence agency to prioritize countering transnational drug-trafficking and drug-related crime and violence. [CQ Floor Votes, 9/09/11]

The motion failed 145-257. [HR 1892, [Vote #697](#), 9/09/11]

Voted to Allow Violent or Sexual Criminals to be State Employees with Federal Funding

In 2011, Walsh voted against keeping individuals convicted of violent crimes, sexual crimes or murder against children from being employed by state entities that receive federal grants.

The motion would have required that state entities receiving federal grants perform criminal background checks for school employees and refuse employment to people convicted of certain crimes such as violent or sexual crimes against children. [CQ Floor Votes, 9/13/11]

The motion failed 189-231. [HR 2218, [Vote #704](#), 9/13/11]

Voted to Allow Military Contracting with Convicted Felons

In 2011, Walsh voted against prohibiting Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers contracting with convicted felons charged with contract fraud, waste or abuse violations.

The motion prohibited Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineer contracts from being awarded to persons convicted of fraud, embezzlement, theft, tax evasion or bribery for 10 years, with the availability of waivers in cases of national security. [CQ Floor Votes, 11/15/11; Congressional Record, 11/15/11; [Whidbey News-Times](#), 11/15/11]

The bill failed 189-235. [HR 2838, [Vote #841](#), 11/15/11]

Voted Against Protecting Government’s Authority to Issue Recalls of Contaminated Foods

In 2011, Walsh voted against protecting the government's authority to issue mandatory recalls of suspected contaminated foods.

The amendment would have stipulated that nothing in the bill would have hindered the Food and Drug Administration's authority to issue mandatory recalls of suspected contaminated foods. [CQ Floor Votes, 12/01/11]

The amendment failed 188-233. [HR 527, [Vote #878](#), 12/01/11]

Called for Resignation of Attorney General Holder

In November 2011, Walsh called for the resignation of Attorney General Eric Holder over Operation Fast and Furious. In a press release Walsh said, "Attorney General Eric Holder is supposed to enforce the laws of this nation, not try to break them. Its time he goes." [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 11/17/11]

Civil Liberties Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Allow for Library Activity Surveillance*
- ✓ *Voted Against Requiring PATRIOT Act Provisions Comply with Constitution*
- ✓ *Supported Profiling*

Walsh voted to extend the PATRIOT Act claiming it was a tool to “to defeat the enemy.” However, he voted against requiring the Act to comply with the United States’ Constitution with regards to accessing records and voted to allow the continued surveillance of library records. He even supported criminal profiling.

Voted Against Requiring PATRIOT Act Provisions Comply with Constitution

In 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have added language to the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 that would ensure complete compliance with the U.S. Constitution relating to access to business records, individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers and roving wiretaps.

In addition, it would require expedited review of federal civil proceedings for any allegations of violations of such rights.

The measure failed, 186-234. [HR 514, [Vote #35](#), 2/14/11]

Claimed PATRIOT Act Provided the Tools Necessary to Defeat the Enemy

In a February 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked, “Why did you vote ‘yes’ on extending the PATRIOT Act?” He replied:

We are at war and this is a scary war. It’s a war we’re not use to seeing. When we’re at war we want our government to be able to defeat the enemy. I want my government to have every tool at their disposal to defeat the enemy...but understand, this is a temporary extension of three aspects of the Patriot Act. There will be a full engaged debate on these extensions and every other piece of the Patriot Act sometime over the course of the next year. [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [2/17/11](#)]

Voted to Allow for Library Activity Surveillance

In 2011, Walsh against prohibiting funds in the Republicans' continuing resolution to be used under a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) order requiring the production of library circulation records, library patron lists, book sales or book customer lists.

The amendment was rejected, 196-231. [HR 1, Nadler amendment #524, Vote #95, [2/18/11](#)]

Supported Profiling

In December 2010, Walsh said, "Oftentimes, smart law enforcement is profiling," then asked the town hall audience, "Do you want your law enforcement profiling?" According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), "most responded with a resounding, 'Yes.'" [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Voted Against Prohibiting the Transfer of Detainees Held at Guantanamo Bay Cuba to the United States for Trials

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill containing a policy rider which prohibited the use of funds to transfer or release Guantanamo detainees in the U.S.

The policy rider prohibited the use of funds for the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees to the United States. The underlying bill was the final continuing resolution passed to fund the federal government for the rest of Fiscal Year 2011. [CQ BillAnalysis, [7/14/11](#); CQ Floor Votes, [4/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 260-167. [HR 1473, [Vote #268](#), 4/14/11]

NOTE: This bill was passed as a compromise between the White House, Senate and House of Representatives to avoid a government shutdown and provided funding for government agencies for the remainder of FY11.

Previously Opposed Transferring Guantanamo Bay Detainees to Illinois Prison

In March 2011, Walsh joined other members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation in signing a letter to President Obama that urged him to not transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Thomson Correction Center in northwest Illinois. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/11/11; Senator Mark Kirk Press Release via States News Service, 3/10/11]

Debt Ceiling

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Opposed Raising the Debt Ceiling*
- ✓ *Criticized Republican Leadership's Response to Debt Ceiling Negotiations*
- ✓ *Argued that Claims of Default were Exaggerated*

Voted Against Raising the Debt Limit

In 2011, Walsh voted against raising the debt ceiling.

The bill, which was brought up under suspension of the rules and would have required a two-thirds vote to pass, would have raised the debt ceiling by \$1.2 trillion, \$784 billion of which could be stopped by a resolution of disapproval. An additional \$1.2 trillion would be available for the debt ceiling increase but would be subject to a resolution of disapproval. The bill would also set spending caps for FY2012-2021 to reduce spending by about \$840 billion. A bipartisan, bicameral committee would also be created to suggest ways to reduce the deficit to 3 percent of GDP. [CQ Floor Votes, 7/30/11]

The bill failed 173-246. [HR 2693, [Vote #682](#), 7/30/11]

Circulated Letter Urging Republican Leadership Not to Allow Vote on McConnell Plan

In July 2011, Walsh circulated a letter among House Republicans urging the Reps. Boehner and Cantor not to allow the McConnell debt ceiling proposal to the floor. Walsh aimed to get 100 signatures in just a few days but received 86.

The letter read, in part, "On behalf of the millions of Americans we represent, we strongly urge you to both publicly oppose Senator McConnell's plan to raise the debt ceiling and ensure it never comes to the House floor for a vote. The McConnell Plan punts on our duty as Members of the United States Congress. The plan, at its core, would allow the President to raise the debt ceiling on his own in exchange for insufficient spending cuts and a congressional 'expression of disapproval.' McConnell's plan supersedes the rights of the American people." [[Wall Street Journal](#), 7/19/11; Rep. Walsh McConnell Letter to GOP Leadership, [7/21/11](#)]

Challenged Republican Leadership over Debt Ceiling

In July 2011, Walsh questioned whether the Republican leadership was sincere in its commitment to "Cut, Cap, and Balance," or if it was "just a bone being thrown to House Republican rank and file" while pursuing the McConnell plan.

He said, “There is a strong contingent in the House that believes this country needs to have a fight over this immoral debt we’re placing on the backs of our kids and grandkids. We avoided that fight over the CR. The feeling now is, ‘Let’s have that showdown now, this is good for us.’” [National Review, [7/18/11](#)]

Claimed Too Much Compromise Would Lead to Problems in 2012

In July 2011, Walsh said, “The CR debate left a real sour taste in the mouths of a lot of us, and we do not want to go down that road again. If we blink and compromise a little too much and cave, I believe it’s going to have huge ramifications for Republicans in 2012.” [National Review, [7/18/11](#)]

Said Compromise on Debt Ceiling Is Wrong

In July 2011, Walsh said he views compromising on the debt ceiling as wrong, even as he conceded that the government cannot run indefinitely if there is a default. Sen. Durbin said, “There are lots of options” to compromise on the debt ceiling, but Walsh supported none of those options. [Chicago Sun-Times, [7/22/11](#)]

Constituents Vocally Disagreed with Debt Ceiling Position at Town Hall

In July 2011, Walsh told a town hall meeting that President Obama had mishandled the economy and exaggerated the repercussions of a potential default. Tom Weber, a constituent and supporter, said, “I disagree with you. I think not only the president doesn’t understand, I think Congress doesn’t understand.” The audience responded with applause. [Bloomberg, [7/25/11](#)]

Claimed Not to Want Default

In July 2011, Walsh said, “I’m a crazy Tea Party freshman and I don’t want the country to default. None of us do.” [Bloomberg, [7/25/11](#)]

Said He’d Prefer to Go beyond the Aug. 2 Deadline and Pass a Republican Plan

In July 2011, Walsh said he would be willing to pass the August 2 deadline as long as Republicans can pass their plan. He said, “I don’t know why we’re talking to this president. The bolder Republicans are these 16 months, the better off we’ll be politically.” [Bloomberg, [7/25/11](#)]

Member of the Fictional “Hell No” Caucus

Walsh, who got elected with strong Tea Party backing, is a leading member of what’s been dubbed the “Hell, No caucus” — the Republican lawmakers who refuse to raise the debt ceiling. [WBUR, [7/14/11](#)]

Walsh: Plenty of Money after Aug. 2 to Make Debt and Social Security Payments and Told Obama to “Quit Lying”

In a July 2011 video posted from his congressionally-associated Youtube account, Walsh sharply criticized President Obama’s warning that Social Security checks might be delayed or stopped if a vote to raise the debt limit before August 2 does not happen. Walsh said,

“President Obama quit lying. You know darn well that if August 2nd comes and goes, there’s plenty of money to pay off our debt and cover all of our Social Security obligations. And you also know that you and only you have the discretion to make those payments. What’s next, sir? You are going to try to scare students and families and say that unless we raise the debt limit, we won’t be able to make student debt payments? How about military families? Time to steer them and claim we won’t have the money to pay their benefits? ... We will not raise your debt ceiling unless we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. You see President Obama, the American people don’t trust politicians, yourself included, unless we force politicians to balance their books every year, they won’t. The only way to force them to do this is through a constitutional amendment. Quit playing politics with the debt ceiling vote and quit lying to the American people... The American people understand and support the balanced budget amendment, virtually all Republicans do... You don’t like ultimatums? Tough. Here’s my ultimatum: I won’t place one more dollar of debt upon the backs of my kids and grandkids unless we structurally reform the way this town spends money.” [RepJoeWalsh official YouTube page, [7/13/11](#)]

Claimed U.S. is Headed Towards Greece-Like Crisis

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, “Turn your TV on, and look at what’s been happening in Greece. We are at the cusp of that.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Claimed He Was Protecting Children from Indentured Servitude

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, “I’m on a mission here to stop my kids, your kids, our grandkids from becoming indentured servants.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Warned of Unknown Consequences If Republicans Do Not Deliver

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, “This movement of Americans that’s concerned, they’re ticked off, they’re frightened has put their faith in the Republican Party one last time. And if we don’t deliver, if Republicans don’t deliver these two years, watch the barn door. I don’t know what’s coming.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Said Debt Would Enslave Future Generations

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, “You said this is a moral issue. This is a huge moral issue. How dare we enslave future generations? How dare we do that? And this is being led by you all, which is just wonderful.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Said Debt Talks, Freshman Class Represent a “Revolution”

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said, “It’s a revolution. Say that with a smile. That’s a joyous thing.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Campaigned on Opposition to Debt Limit

In a June 2011 email, Walsh told supporters, “I will insist my party not back down when it comes to entitlement reform and raising the debt ceiling. I will be uncompromising when it comes to rescuing small businesses and will continue to be an outspoken voice for limited government and pro growth policies. Help me stop this president.” [Walsh Campaign Email, 6/29/11]

Praised Cantor for Leaving Debt Talks, Then Walked Back Remarks

In a June 2011 interview with the Family Research Council, Walsh said it was “stunning” that Cantor walked out on debt ceiling talks with the Democrats. He said, “I said ‘wonderful’ today. I probably shouldn’t have said ‘a wonderful development,’ but not a surprising development. I think he saw that that group was not where the American people are. They’re not going to put out anything bold enough.” [FRC Action Interview with Joe Walsh, [6/23/11](#)]

Did Not Want Entitlement Reform Tied to a Debt Ceiling Vote

In May 2011, Walsh said he wanted an entirely separate debate on Medicare from the vote on the debt limit.

He said, “We’re talking about two different things. I would not at all advocate it. And I think a lot of the conservatives in the House don’t want any entitlement reform tied to a raise in the debt ceiling, because entitlement reform is so extremely important that it needs to stand on its own.” [Politico, [5/10/11](#)]

Claimed There Were Plenty of August Revenues to Service the Debt

In July 2011, Walsh said he had considered voting for the Boehner debt ceiling plan, but during the first round of vote-gathering, Walsh said, “Right now, I can’t.” He also said, “We’ve got plenty of revenues in August to service our debt.” [Forbes, [7/28/11](#)]

Said Repercussions of Not Raising the Debt Limit Are Being “Overstated”

In April 2011, Walsh appeared on CBS’s “Face the Nation and said that claims that it is dangerous to not raise the debt ceiling are “overstated.”

He said that three or four times in the last two decades, Congress has failed to raise the debt ceiling and, “Armageddon didn’t hit.” He noted that in those instances, eventually, Congress did raise it. [Politico, [4/24/11](#)]

Said There Is Enough Revenue to “Service All of Our Debt” in a Debt Ceiling Crisis

In April 2011, while discussing his potential vote against raising the debt limit, Walsh said, “we’ve got enough government revenues to certainly pay, to service all of our debt. And the administration knows that... So we’ve got time here to deal with this ... problem, and the administration’s got to get serious and recognize that we’re not just going to give them a vote to raise the debt ceiling unless they fundamentally change the way this city works.” [Politico, [4/24/11](#)]

Was Unconcerned with Market Response to a Failure to Raise the Debt Limit

In May 2011, Walsh said he was unconcerned with how the market would react to a failure to raise the debt ceiling.

He said of the risk that the market's response to Congress's failure to act on the debt limit could be swift and harsh: "Who knows? -- we don't really know. Why take the gamble? Because unless we shake things up, we will not get this town, both parties, to get serious about this fiscal crisis. I don't know how else you're going to change the direction of things unless you really think outside the box." [Bloomberg News, [5/02/11](#)]

Said Republican Problem Was That They Took Their Eyes off the Debt Crisis and Instead Focused on Deadline

In August 2011, Walsh said that Republicans erred in the debt ceiling debate in that they focused too much on the deadline aspect rather than making structural reforms to governmental spending. He said, "I know the whole Washington (mindset) is that something's gotta be cobbled together... But we've all botched this in a way because we took our eyes off the debt crisis. This whole thing became August 2, August 2, August 2." [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/02/11](#)]

Said Republican Vote Gathering Machine Was Intensely at Work during Debt Ceiling Vote

In August 2011, Walsh said that the Republican whip team was "active" and that those in leadership "worked over each one of us." He said that while he himself did not speak with Boehner or Cantor, "they put other guys in front of me who I always look up to and respect," including fellow Illinois Republican Representative Pete Roskam. [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/02/11](#)]

Objected to Debt Deal Because of Weak Balanced Budget Amendment Provisions

In July 2011, Walsh voted against the debt deal because the deal did not require Congress to pass a balanced-budget amendment to raise the debt ceiling in the future. The deal only requires a vote, not passage, of a balanced-budget amendment. [Chicago Tribune, [8/02/11](#)]

Said Debt Ceiling Bill Almost Went Far Enough

In August 2011, Walsh said the debt ceiling bill that passed almost went far enough, but he claimed that while spending might be cut by as much as two trillion dollars, the government would still incur another seven to nine trillion dollars in debt. [Northwest Herald, [8/05/11](#)]

Ripped into Chamber of Commerce

In a June 2011 appearance on Fox's Neal Cavuto Show, Walsh said of the Chamber of Commerce's urging Congress to raise the nation's debt ceiling, "I found Tom Donahue's comments outrageous. Tone deaf. Totally establishment. And [he] doesn't understand at all where we're at right now. I gotta tell you ... If he was joking, Neal, he was joking just as much as the President was joking yesterday when he said maybe the shovel-ready projects weren't really 'shovel-ready.' I'm tired of these little jokes. If Tom Donahue is more comfortable having Nancy Pelosi as speaker next year because he wants to get rid of all of us Tea Party, fiscally-conservative freshmen who came here on a mission to save our kids from the

debt we're placing on their backs, then fine, he can have Nancy Pelosi as his speaker. I found his comments outrageous." [YouTube, [6/16/11](#)]

Accused President of Childish of Temper Tantrum over Debt Deal

In July, Walsh accused Obama of a throwing a temper tantrum over the debt limit negotiations. Walsh tweeted of the President, "Like children often do, he stomped his feet and he pointed his finger." [Fox Nation, [7/26/11](#)]

Attended President's Holiday Party

In December 2011, Walsh attended a holiday party for members of Congress at the White House, as guests of the President despite having previously told Obama to "stop lying" and refusing to attend the President's address to a joint session of Congress. [The Hill, [12/07/11](#)]

Defense Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Claimed to Support Defense Department Funding*
- ✓ *Voted Against Increasing Combat Pay for Troops*
- ✓ *Voted to Save \$35 Billion and Cut Alternate Engine for Strike Fighter*
- ✓ *Voted to Allow Defense Department to Spend Millions on NASCAR Sponsorships...Called Vote a "Mistake"*

When it comes to funding the Defense Department during war time, Walsh said "money isn't a factor" but he opposed increasing combat pay for the troops. Instead he voted to allow Defense Department to spend millions on NASCAR sponsorships but called the vote a "mistake" one month later. Walsh blamed the "bad vote" on the volume of amendments being considered at the time. However, during the campaign he promised to not vote for any bill he did not have sufficient time to read and understand.

Claimed to Support Defense Department Funding

In December 2010, Walsh justified Defense Department spending saying when "our boys and girls" are engaged abroad, "money isn't a factor."

When asked how long US forces would be engaged abroad he replied, "This is not a debate right now. ... When they are engaged abroad, we do whatever we have to do to win those engagements." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Voted for an Increase in Defense Spending

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill increasing defense spending by \$17 billion dollars.

The legislation funded the Department of Defense at \$17 billion dollars more than Fiscal Year 2010 levels, the only department that "will see a double-digit increase in its budget beginning Oct. 1." [Fox News, [7/08/11](#)]

The bill passed 336-87. [HR 2219, [Vote #532](#), 7/08/11]

Voted Against Increasing Combat Pay for Troops

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which would increase combat pay for troops.

The motion increased the maximum amount of bonus pay troops receive while in combat to \$325 per month effective October 1, 2011. [CQ Floor Votes, [5/26/11](#)]

The motion failed 185-233. [HR 1540, [Vote #374](#), 5/26/11]

Voted against a Motion to Recommit that would have Provided Pay to Service Members during a Government Shutdown

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recommit which would have ensured that Service Members would have gotten paid in the event of a government shutdown.

The motion would have added a new section to the bill providing that the salaries of the members of the armed forces would not be interrupted in the event of a government shutdown.

The motion failed 191-236. [HR 1363, [Vote #246](#), 4/07/11]

Voted against Prohibiting Airlines from Charging Baggage Fees to Military Personnel on Orders

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recommit which prohibited airlines from charging baggage fees to military personnel who are on orders.

The motion prohibited airlines from charging baggage fees for four or fewer bags for members of the military travelling on orders or being deployed or returning from overseas operations.

The motion failed 187-233. [HR 2553, [Vote #610](#), 7/20/11]

Voted to Cut \$19 Million from Defense Department Operations

In 2011, Walsh voted to reduce funding for Defense Department operations and maintenance by \$18.75 million.

“If we cannot do this on defense...where can we do it?” asked Rep. Jeff Flake, the Arizona Republican who sponsored the amendment to cut \$19 million for commissions. [[Wall Street Journal](#), 2/16/11]

The amendment failed, 207-223. [HR 1, Flake amendment #370, [Vote #41](#), 2/15/11]

Voted to Cut Defense Department Research on Alternative Energies

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would reduce funding for Defense Department procurement, research and innovation programs by \$115.5 million. The aim of reduced funding was for alternative energy research.

The amendment failed, 109-320. [HR 1, Pompeo amendment #86, [Vote #44](#), 2/15/11]

Voted to Save \$35 Billion and Cut Alternate Engine for Strike Fighter

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would cancel funding for an alternate engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, cutting an additional \$450 million and saving up to \$3 billion over several years. The Joint Strike Fighter was the nation's most expensive weapons program.

The Bush and Obama administrations had tried to kill the alternate engine for over five years and many Tea Party-affiliated Republicans broke ranks with Speaker John Boehner who supported the program. Work on the engine provided more than 1,000 jobs near his district. [[New York Times](#), 2/16/11]

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said the F136 cost about \$28 million a month to continue and urged its termination. [CQ Today, 2/16/11]

The amendment was adopted, 233-198. [HR 1, Rooney amendment #2, [Vote #46](#), 2/16/11]

Voted to Allow the Reopening of the Second Engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

In 2011, Walsh voted to ban funds for the improvement of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter engines unless the Department of Defense makes money available for purchasing the F-35 alternative engine.

The FY2012 Defense Authorization bill contained a number of policy riders including one which states that no government money would go to the alternative engine but that the group could continue to work on the engine at their own cost. Also, the rider "would require the Pentagon to create competition for the F-35 engine contract should certain enhancements be made to the main engine." [[The Hill](#), [5/25/11](#); [Marine Corps Times](#), 5/23/11; CQ BillAnalysis HR 1540, 7/4/11]

The bill passed 322-96. [HR 1540, [Vote #375](#), 5/26/11]

Voted Against Funding to Defend Against Attacks on Electricity Delivery and Reliability Systems

In 2011, Walsh voted against increasing funding to defend against attacks on the nation's electricity delivery and reliability systems.

The motion would have increased funding for "Energy Department expenses related to electricity delivery and energy reliability by \$5 million and funding for Defense-related Energy Department activities by \$2 million, offset by a decrease of \$7 million in funding for Energy Department administration." [CQ Floor Votes, 7/15/11]

The motion failed 182-232. [HR 2354, [Vote #599](#), 7/15/11]

Voted to Allow Defense Department to Spend Millions on NASCAR Sponsorships

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment that would bar the Department of Defense to sponsor NASCAR race cars.

The Army spent approximately \$7 million on NASCAR endorsements, down from \$11.6 million in 2009, and another \$5 million on drag racing. The Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard had all dropped their sponsorships of NASCAR in 2006. [[National Journal](#), 2/15/11]

The amendment was rejected, 148-281. [HR 1, McCollum amendment #50, [Vote #90](#), 2/18/11]

Called Vote a “Mistake”

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh was asked about his vote in support of funding NASCAR sponsorships. He said, “It was a bad vote” and blamed it on the volume of amendments being considered at the time. Walsh said:

Good question, for better or worse, you’re going to hear nothing but honesty from me. That process, a month or so ago, when we had open amendment process on the floor and everybody could propose, anybody could propose an amendment, there was a flurry of bills. I think we voted on 200 things and there’s discussion, you’ve got four or five minutes to vote, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom and nobody else may admit this but I made a couple mistakes. The NASCAR thing, didn’t realize what I was doing, mistake. [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 26:15, [3/24/11](#)]

Promised to Read and Understand Bills Before Voting

In May 2010, Walsh answered “yes” when asked, “Would you commit to not vote for any bill that you did not have sufficient time to read and understand?” [iCaucus Interview, 31:40, 5/07/10]

Voted Against Increased Funding for the Yellow Ribbon Program by \$200 million

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which increased funding for the Yellow Ribbon Program by \$200 million.

The motion increased funding for the Yellow Ribbon Program by \$200 million dollars. “The Yellow Ribbon Program is a Department of Defense-wide effort to support National Guard and Reserve service member families with information on benefits and referrals before, during, and after deployments.” [Yellow Ribbon Program, Accessed [9/29/11](#)]

The motion failed 188-234. [HR 2219, [Vote #531](#), 7/08/11]

Accused DOJ of Hiding Information on Botched Gun Trafficking Operation

In a June 2011 radio interview, Walsh said he suspects the administration is concealing information relating to Operation Fast and Furious. Walsh promised the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee would hold hearings and said, “We are going to continue to hold hearings on this to find out how high up in the chain of command this went and to try to get the information that it appears that DOJ is shielding from Congress.” [WLS, [6/21/11](#)]

Shirked Duties as Member of Homeland Security Committee

In March 2011, while the Chicago Daily Herald was following Walsh for a feature piece, Walsh arrived late to a homeland security committee meeting and left early as well. [Daily Herald, [3/29/11](#)]

Wanted to Make Cuts to Funding for Afghanistan

In April 2011, Walsh doubted the war in Afghanistan and believed there should be a significant cut in defense.

“Do we really need to be in Afghanistan anymore? There’s a lot we can cut out of the defense,” he said. [Northwest Herald, [4/30/11](#)]

Said He Was Unsure War in Afghanistan Is Helping the Fight against Terror

In May 2011, Walsh revealed that he was unsure about the actual results from the war in Afghanistan and whether it is helping the war on global terror.

“I come from a swing district,” Walsh said, “a lot of blue-collar folks, and these are the most patriotic Americans in the world, and they’re wondering what we’re doing. There is a shift.” [Politico, [5/13/11](#)]

Claimed USA Will Suffer an Attack That Makes 9-11 Look like “Child’s Play”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party, Walsh said “Folks, I am telling you, when I get in front of high school classes – I love saying this to them – and I say to them it’s not a matter of ‘if’ it’s a matter of ‘when’. This country gets hit with something like 911 with a much more powerful weapon that will make 911 look like child’s play.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Accused Obama Administration of “Not Taking This War on Terrorism Seriously”

In March 2012, Walsh accused the Obama administration of not taking the war on terrorism seriously. “They’re not taking this war on terrorism seriously,” said Walsh.

Walsh made this accusation after a lawyer with a history of defending terrorist suspects was appointed to the Department of Justice. [Free Beacon, [3/13/12](#)]

Economic and Financial Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Repeal of Dodd-Frank Financial Reform*
- ✓ *Walsh Meltdown: “Don’t Blame the Banks!”*
- ✓ *Opposed Extending Unemployment Benefits*
- ✓ *Called Stimulus an “Absolute Failure” but Took Making Work Pay Tax Credit*
- ✓ *Voted to Shut Down Emergency Mortgage Relief Program*
- ✓ *Called Occupy Protestors Anti-American*

Walsh’s positions on financial issues pander to Wall Street by supporting the repeal of the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill but his opposition to extending unemployment benefits do nothing for working Americans. Walsh called the stimulus bill an “absolute failure” but his tax returns show he took the \$800 Making Work Pay tax credit included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Supported Repeal of Dodd-Frank Financial Reform

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked, “Congresswomen Bachmann has led the charge to repeal Dodd-Frank... Do you support her in this effort?” He replied, “I’d love to repeal Dodd-Frank tomorrow...Dodd-Frank is every bit as serious and I would say disastrous to this country [as ObamaCare].” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/14/11](#)]

The Dodd-Frank bill aimed to strengthen the government’s ability to prevent future bailouts by giving the government strong new powers to restrain or dissolve large firms whose failure could threaten the economy.

The overhaul measure would create new regulatory mechanisms to deal with the risks posed by very large financial firms, create a new federal agency to oversee consumer financial products, and force banks and other financial institutions to hold more capital to protect against future financial upheaval.

The bill would bring the \$600 trillion derivatives market under federal regulation for the first time and give company shareholders and regulators greater say on executive pay packages. [CQ Today, 6/30/10]

Walsh Meltdown: “Don’t Blame the Banks!”

During a November 2011 “Cup of Joe with Joe” session, in response to questions about the lack of bank regulation and the presence of lobbyists in Washington Walsh ranted at his constituents:

It’s not the private marketplace that created this mess. What created the mess is your government, which has demanded for years that everybody be in a home... Don’t blame banks, and don’t blame the marketplace for the mess we’re in right now. I am tired of hearing that crap. ... This pisses me off. Too many people don’t listen. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/16/11; [Chicago Tribune](#), 11/10/11; YouTube, [11/09/11](#)]

Voted to Weaken the American Financial System’s Stability

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which would repeal a provision of law allowing the FDIC to take control of and dismantle financial firms that threaten America’s financial system’s stability.

The Republican budget expressly stated that it would remove a key provision from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform bill which allowed the FDIC to take control of and dismantle financial firms which could do systemic damage to the American economy.

The budget also cut non-defense discretionary funding to 2008 levels, including for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC, from \$308 million to \$112 million, a \$196 million difference) and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC, from \$1.258 billion to \$906 million, a \$352 million difference), which some said was to impede these agencies from being able to comply with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform bill. [The Path to Prosperity, p. 34, accessed [10/6/11](#); [Wall Street Journal](#) – Washington Wire Blog, [4/5/11](#); [The Hill](#) – On the Money Blog, [4/7/11](#)]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Opposed Extending Unemployment Benefits

In November 2010, Walsh opposed extending unemployment benefits. The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that he preferred “to fix the 8th District’s 11 percent unemployment rate by eliminating tax uncertainty for small business owners.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/18/10]

Called Stimulus an “Absolute Failure”

In October 2010, Walsh called the federal stimulus package an “absolute failure.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

Personally Took Making Work Pay Tax Credit

Walsh posted the first two pages of his 2009 federal tax return on his campaign website. His return shows that Walsh and his wife took the \$800 Making Work Pay tax credit. [2009 Walsh IRS Form 1040]

Making Work Pay Tax Credit was Part of Stimulus Bill

The conference report of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included a refundable income tax credit for two years, beginning in 2009 and 2010. The credit was to be the lesser of 6.2 percent on an individual's earned income or \$400, \$800 in the case of a joint return. [CQ Bill Analysis HR1; CQ House Action Reports, 2/13/09]

Making Work Pay Tax Credit Cut Taxes for 98% of Working Texas Families

In April 2010, Citizens for Tax Justice reported that the Making Work Pay tax credit cut taxes for "98% of working families in Illinois" by about \$ 492. [Citizens for Tax Justice, [4/13/10](#)]

Opposed Assisting States in Financial Crisis

In December 2010, Walsh said he would oppose bailing out states with significant debt including Illinois, California and New York. "There are a number of states right now that are teetering," Walsh said, "but I think the worst thing that government can do is bail out these states." [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/15/10]

Supports Auditing the Federal Reserve

In a February 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked, "Would you vote to audit the Federal Reserve?" He replied, "Absolutely, that's just step one but absolutely. Look, we've got to take a long broad look at a number of principles in this country but right now look the first step this Congress can take is taking a look to audit the Fed." [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh's Channel, [2/17/11](#)]

Voted to Shut Down Mortgage Aid Program

In 2011, Walsh voted to shut down a federal program established to help homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth refinance their loans.

The bill rescinded all unobligated funds allocated for the program under the 2008 financial industry bailout. The House adopted an amendment to direct those funds to be used to pay down the national debt.

Republicans argued that since only \$50 million of the \$8 billion obligated had been used, the program was ineffective. Others protested that the program was poorly advertised and had not had a chance to reach needy homeowners. [Las Vegas Sun, 3/09/11]

The bill passed, 256-171. [HR 830, [Vote #171](#), 3/10/11]

Voted Against Protecting Senior Homeowners from Being Served Foreclosure Notices

In March 2011, before considering the mortgage aid program, Walsh voted against a measure that would have required the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to determine the amount necessary – and appropriate that amount – to provide assistance under the FHA Refinance Program to senior homeowners.

The motion failed, 185-243. [HR 830, [Vote #170](#), 3/10/11]

Voted to Shut Down Emergency Mortgage Relief Program

In 2011, Walsh voted to shut down a program that provided emergency loans to unemployed homeowners facing foreclosure. The legislation would end the Emergency Homeowner Loan Program and rescind the unobligated funds.

The White House said it would veto the bill, saying that the program was needed to spur a housing recovery. The White House argued that that the loan assistance could help as many as 30,000 distressed homeowners. The CBO estimated that the program would cost \$840 million over 10 years. [CQ Today, 3/11/11]

The bill passed, 242-177. [HR 836, [Vote #174](#), 3/11/11]

Voted Against Even Protecting Veterans and Active Service Members

Before considering terminating the emergency relief program, Walsh voted against a measure that would have protected veterans and active service members from foreclosures.

The measure required the Secretary of HUD in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs, to determine the amount necessary to provide assistance under the Emergency Housing Act of 1975 to homeowners who are veterans or members of the Armed Forces on active duty. It would also authorize Congress to appropriate this amount of assistance to veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty under the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program.

The motion failed, 182-238. [HR 836, [Vote #173](#), 3/11/11]

Voted to Terminate Redevelopment Assistance for Communities with High Foreclosure Rates

In 2011, Walsh voted to terminate redevelopment assistance for communities with high foreclosure rates.

The bill rescinded the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and ended the program run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. According to [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), the Neighborhood Stabilization Program was “designed to acquire foreclosed homes in at-risk neighborhoods, rehab them, and sell them to qualified buyers.” [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 3/12/11; CQ Floor Votes, 3/16/11]

The bill passed 242-182. [HR 861, [Vote #188](#), 3/16/11]

Voted Against Providing Foreclosure Aid Relief for Rural Homeowners

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have required states give priority emphasis and consideration to rural areas when distributing Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds that were allocated by HUD and appropriated under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

The motion failed, 153-272. [HR 861, [Vote #187](#), 2/16/11]

Hosted Jobs Fair

In December 2011, Walsh hosted a jobs fair in Gurnee, IL featuring employers such as Northrop Grumman, Catalent, and Nosco. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/11]

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), the jobs fair “brought in 500 applicants hoping to net positions from 40 area companies.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/16/11]

Walsh on OWS: Spoiled, Pampered, Unfocused, Clueless

In November 2011 Walsh called Occupy Wall Street protesters, “generally spoiled, pampered, unfocused, clueless young people and a smattering of other people who don’t understand this country and are advocating anti-American solutions.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/25/11]

Called Veterans Anti-American

At a November 2011 town hall in Gurnee, an attendee asked Walsh if he believed veterans of foreign wars who were OWS protesters were anti-American, to which Walsh said yes, they were. He said, “Anyone who would advocate socialist solutions to certain problems in this country, they don't understand this country.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), [11/22/11](#)]

Avoided Group of Occupy Chicago Protestors, Including Two of His Constituents

In December 2011, Occupy Chicago protestors, including two of Walsh’s own constituents, travelled to D.C. The protestors dropped by Walsh’s office where according to the Huffington Post, a staffer told the group that Walsh could meet with them around 3 p.m. Around 3:20 p.m. however, Walsh fled his office without saying a word. [[The Huffington Post](#), [12/6/11](#)]

...Then Insulted the Group on Twitter

Afterward Walsh tweeted “My office was invaded by the Occupy Protestors today & all I saw were \$1000 laptops and vomit on the carpet. Thank God for #febreze.” [[Chicagoist.com](#), [12/7/11](#)]

Note: A video of Walsh refusing to speak to the group is saved on the drive

Failed to Provide One Example of How He’s Brought Jobs to His District

In February 2012, Walsh responded to a question at a town hall meeting where he was asked to provide an example of how he has brought jobs to his district. Walsh spoke for four and a half minutes, and was unable to come up with a single specific example. [[YouTube](#), [2/28/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Will Only Work on Jobs after Reducing Size of Government

At a February 2011 town hall meeting, Walsh responded to a question about when he would start creating jobs saying, “We get jobs when we get government out of the way.” The crowd applauded. [Barrington Patch, [2/25/11](#)]

Education Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Privatization of Education, Vouchers, and Charter Schools*
- ✓ *Opposed Teacher Bonuses*
- ✓ *Supports Abolishing the Department of Education*
- ✓ *Called Teachers' Unions an "Impediment Against Our Schools"*
- ✓ *Employed for at Least 12 Years in Conservative "Education Reform"*

Walsh has been active in right-wings efforts to cripple public education since 1994 when he worked at the Heartland Institute attempting to build grassroots support for a school voucher program. In 1995 he said that "privatization" would bring change to the Chicago school system, an opinion he still held in 2010. He supports abolishing the Department of Education and has called teachers' unions "the single greatest impediment against our schools." He even opposed a local school district's effort to provide \$1,100 bonuses to its teachers.

Supported Private and Religious Alternatives to Public Schools

In October 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh supported competition from private, religious, and home schools as a way to pressure public schools to improve. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

1995: Supported Privatization of Education, Vouchers, and Charter Schools

In 1995, Walsh told the [Chicago Tribune](#) that real changes in the Chicago public school system "will happen if they were to allow competition-vouchers, charter schools and privatization. We consider these to be concepts that will bring about the most dramatic change." [[Chicago Tribune](#), 1/21/95]

Violated Republican Spending Rules to Support School Vouchers

In 2011, Walsh voted to reauthorize and modify the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program which grants school vouchers to low-income D.C. students without offsetting the cost of the program through spending cuts.

The legislation would authorize, from Fiscal Year 2012 through 2016, \$20 million annually to reinstitute a school voucher program in the District and would also authorize an additional \$40 million annually to

assist District public and charter schools from fiscal 2012 to 2016. This funding was not offset by cutting spending elsewhere in the budget and would have violated the CutGo rule put in place by Republicans; they waved the rule for this bill. [CQ Today Online News, [3/30/11](#); [Associated Press](#), [3/31/11](#)]

The bill passed 225-195. [HR 471, [Vote #204](#), 3/30/11]

Voted Against Providing Funding for DC Public and Charter Schools, Special Education Services

In 2011, Walsh voted against cutting the DC School Vouchers Program and directing the funding instead to DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools and DC Special Education Services.

The motion would have struck the underlying bill which provided for the D.C. School Voucher Program and instead authorize \$30 million per fiscal year from fiscal year 2012-2016 for conditional funding for DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools and DC Special Education Services. [CQ Floor Votes, 3/30/11]

The motion failed, 185-238. [HR 471, [Vote #203](#), 3/30/11]

Opposed Teacher Bonuses

In December 2010, Walsh objected to Grayslake Elementary District 46 schools using \$435,000 from the federal Education Jobs Fund initiative to provide a \$1,100 bonus to 345 teachers. Walsh said, "It certainly is not money that is going to go in the classroom."

Critics of the bonuses claimed the money was meant as a federal stimulus program to save education jobs. Superintendent Ellen Correll countered that it was important to share the money with teachers who had agreed to a contract renegotiation with smaller raises in order to offset a projected \$2.27 million budget deficit. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/10/10]

Supports Abolishing the Department of Education

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh expressed his support of abolishing the federal Department of Education. He said, "I have been involved in school reform my whole life, I have, comma, but I see no need for the federal Department of Education, comma, my punctuation may be off, and I think we should abolish the department of education." [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 25:00, [3/24/11](#)]

Thought Someone was Recording Statement for Use in Campaign Commercial

When Walsh stated his support of abolishing the federal Department of Education, the audience erupted in applause but he said, Don't clap; don't clap; don't clap because Walsh is going to get hit over the head in two years. You know what, somebody just taped me. The only part of that long sentence you're going to see on a commercial is 'get rid of the Department of Education.'" [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 25:00, [3/24/11](#)]

Questioned Need for Department of Education

In January 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that “Walsh questioned the need for several federal agencies, specifically the departments of energy and education.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/28/10]

Claimed DOE Never did Anything Good for Schools

In October 2010, Walsh said, “...we’ve had a Department of Education for 30 to 40 years and you can’t show me one statistical analysis that anything at the federal level at the Department of Education has done any good for our schools.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

Walsh: “There’s no reason to have a Department of Education”

In May 2010, Walsh said, “There are entire departments of the federal government I’d eliminate. There’s no reason to have a Department of Education.” [iCaucus Interview, 34:50, 5/07/10]

Walsh: Education is a State and Local Issue

In October 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh said education should be a state and local issue. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

Supported Vouchers for DC Schools

In March 2011, Walsh supported H.R. 471 which reauthorized the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program which was created in 2004 and provided more than 3,300 District students with vouchers to attend private schools at public expense. Walsh wrote an op-ed for The Hill in which he claimed to support the program because “only those parents with financial means can really decide where they send their kids to school. Many underprivileged families are forced to send their kids to consistently failing public schools.” [[The Hill](#), LTE, [3/29/11](#)]

In a Dear Colleague Letter distributed to Members of Congress, Walsh claimed, “The teachers union is more concerned with protecting bad teachers than with providing students a quality education.” Walsh concluded by saying, “I believe it necessary to support this program to not only provide these students with opportunities not otherwise available to them, but to also prove the legitimacy of a private school voucher program.” [Dear Colleague Letter, Joe Walsh, 3/29/11]

The program pays \$7,500 a year for up to 1,700 students in DC public schools to attend private schools. [NBC Washington, [4/14/11](#)]

The bill passed, 225-195. [HR 471, [Vote #204](#), 3/30/11]

DC Officials Opposed the Voucher Program

District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray joined civic groups in opposition to the voucher program saying the measure imposed a program on city residents without their having a say so. [NBC Washington, [4/14/11](#)]

DC Delegate to Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton agreed saying the “Republican majority refused to allow my amendment to be brought to the House floor that would redirect voucher money to D.C. public schools and public charter schools. Yet, the District will have no vote on the House floor on the continuing resolution, in which the District is the only jurisdiction involved.” [NBC Washington, [4/14/11](#)]

Opponents Noted Discriminatory Nature of Program

Opponents of the DC voucher program said it was selective, taking only motivated students, and that much of the money went to private Catholic schools that discriminate against gays and lesbians and others. [NBC Washington, [4/14/11](#)]

Voted Against Reauthorizing the District of Columbia School Voucher Program

In 2011, Walsh voted against a bill containing a policy rider which reauthorized the District of Columbia School Voucher program.

The policy rider reauthorized the District of Columbia School Voucher program and provided \$16 million for the scholarships. This is possible because the federal government ultimately controls the DC budget. The underlying bill was the final continuing resolution passed to fund the federal government for the rest of Fiscal Year 2011. [CQ BillAnalysis, [7/14/11](#); CQ Floor Votes, [4/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 260-167. [HR 1473, [Vote #268](#), 4/14/11]

NOTE: This bill was passed as a compromise between the White House, Senate and House of Representatives to avoid a government shutdown and provided funding for government agencies for the remainder of FY11.

Called Teachers’ Unions an “Impediment Against Our Schools”

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh criticized teachers’ unions saying, “Here comes another campaign commercial against me. The single greatest impediment against our schools and the education our kids get is the teachers unions.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 49:30, [3/24/11](#)]

Accused Unions of Not Caring About Students

Walsh accused teachers’ unions of greedily protecting teachers without regard for the students. He said, “Their mission is to improve the situation for teachers, to improve conditions for teachers, to improve pensions for teachers, to improve benefits for teachers, regardless of what happens with the kids.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 49:30, [3/24/11](#)]

Compared Inner-City Schools to Prisons

While making an argument for school vouchers, Walsh said, “The kids are captive. I spent years working in the inner-city. Those kids are prisoners at bad schools.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 50:30, [3/24/11](#)]

During the same discussion, he later stated, “It is a crime that we impression kids in bad schools. Free them, free them.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 52:00, [3/24/11](#)]

Professed Love of Teachers

When a constituent accused Walsh of attacking teachers, he replied, “I love teachers. I’ve taught. I’m not placing any blame on teachers, I place blame on the leadership, plain and simple, that’s it. I love teacher, the most noble profession in the country.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 54:45, [3/24/11](#)]

Voted Against Protecting Pell Grants from \$39 Million Cut

In February 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment that would have increased funds for Federal Pell Grants by \$39 million, offset by a reduction in funds available for Department of Education Program Administration.

The amendment was not adopted 186-238. [HR 1, [Vote #146](#), 2/19/11]

1998: Opposed Equalization of School Funding

During his 1998 campaign for the Illinois State House, Walsh drove a yellow school bus around Evanston and Wilmette to highlight his opponent’s vote on a school-funding reform bill supported by then Governor Jim Edgar. The bill would have raised state income taxes by 25 percent while reducing property tax relief in an effort to equalize funding for education across school districts with varying property values.

Walsh charged that an equalization of spending would lead to mediocre schools on the North Shore by siphoning away funds. He said, “It’s an issue of local control. I don’t want to sound hard-hearted about schools...and we want to make sure that every school has some sort of basic minimum, but you can’t take from a district like ours.”

While the equalization plan filed, a compromise school bill passed that raised taxes on cigarettes, telephones and riverboat casinos. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/13/98, 10/06/98]

Employed for at Least 12 Years in “Education Reform,” Supported School Vouchers

According to the [National Journal](#), at least 12 years of Walsh’s professional career include time at organizations that attempted to undermine public education by supporting “reforms” such as school vouchers.

The following table represents Walsh’s career at these organizations:

Year	Position	Organization
2002-2004	Development Director	American Education Reform Council
2001-2002	Executive Director	Legislative Education Action Drive
1997-2001	Executive Director	Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation
1994-1996	Development Associate	Heartland Institute

[National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

American Education Reform Council Supported Vouchers

According to the National Journal, from 2002 to 2004, Walsh worked as a Development Director for the American Education Reform Council. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

The American Education Reform Council was a Milwaukee-based non-profit organization whose mission was “to provide accurate and credible information about school choice.” In 2001 it filed an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court that claimed:

...rigorous empirical studies show that students who receive vouchers and attend private schools improve their academic performance. Just as important, empirical evidence shows that voucher programs, by stimulating competition, motivate underperforming public schools to improve. [Zelman v. Simmons-Harris, 536 U.S. 639, Brief of American Education Reform Council as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioners, filed [11/09/01](#)]

Legislative Education Action Drive Promoted “Alternative Educational Opportunities”

According to the National Journal, from 2001 to 2002, Walsh worked as the Executive Director for the Legislative Education Action Drive. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

According to their website, the “Legislative Education Action Drive (LEAD ACTION) is a 501c4 dedicated to promoting alternative educational opportunities across the country. Since it’s [*s/c*] incorporation in 2001 LEAD Action has become a leading force in the alternative educational options movement.” [leadaction.org, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation Granted Scholarships to Attend Private High Schools

According to the National Journal, from 1997 to 2001, Walsh worked as the Executive Director for the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

In 1997, Walsh said the Foundation operated on the belief that “any kid can succeed if they’re given a chance.” At the time it drew significant support from corporations to raise about \$ 800,000 a year and awarded 80 news scholarships worth \$2,500 each for Chicago students to attend private high schools. [Chicago Sun-Times, 8/08/97]

Heartland Institute & Center for Rebuilding America’s Schools Sought Grassroots Support for Vouchers

According to the National Journal, from 1994 to 1996, Walsh worked as a Development Associate for the Heartland Institute. [National Journal, [11/24/10](#)]

While working at the Heartland Institute, Walsh was the Executive Director of the Center for Rebuilding America's Schools, which was incorporated separately from the Institute in order to perform general public outreach and grassroots organizing on school reform issues.

Walsh said, "There has been no attempt in Illinois to develop a constituency." He planned to use direct mail and statewide events to get 100,000 members signed up to support a school voucher program. "Then maybe the legislature will be more sympathetic to reforms," Walsh said. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 1/08/95]

Note: For further background on the education "reform" organizations and Walsh's time working at them please see the Career section of this book.

Called School Vouchers the "Next Great Civil Rights Movement"

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh supported school vouchers but said he did not think there would be any action on the issue in the next couple years. He said, "It's not a federal issue, it's a state issue...But I believe it's the next great civil rights movement in this country."

He added that it was an important cause to him because, "Inner city blacks, and inner city Hispanics are imprisoned in miserable public schools and other interests keep them there." [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Said Head Start Should Be near the Top of the List for Cuts

In May 2011, Walsh believed Head Start, a jumpstart organization for education, should be cut because of apparent waste.

"Times are tough, we need to cut government spending, everything should be put on the table, and a real dispassionate cost benefit analysis of every government program needs to be conducted to determine worth and value," said Walsh, "and Head Start should be near the top of the list." [Human Events, [5/02/11](#)]

Defended DC School Scholarship Program

In March 2011, Walsh wrote an op-ed in [The Hill](#) offering his support for the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program that provides federal assistance to students, who often ended up using the aid in private schools. He blamed Obama and the administration for supporting an end to the program. He then encouraged his fellow GOP House members to reauthorize the program and to put kids before politics. [[The Hill](#), [3/29/11](#)]

Supported School Vouchers for Religious Schools

In March 2012, Walsh told a town hall that he supported school vouchers for religious schools. He said "I'm a huge proponent of school vouchers whether they go to religious schools or – you name it." [BaarsWestSide.com, [3/06/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Claimed Democrats Want to Keep Minorities on "a Plantation"

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party, Walsh said “African Americans and Hispanics love this issue [referring to school choice]. Republicans talk about this issue – Democrats won’t touch it. Why? I think it’s because they are bought and paid for by the teachers’ unions, and this sort of competition scares the teachers’ unions. Republicans have to do a better job of talking freedom to some of these other populations. Because all the Democrats want to do is put ‘em on a plantation, they could care less of them.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Energy Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Oil Drilling “Wherever We Can”*
- ✓ *Voted to Protect Tax Breaks for Big Oil Companies*
- ✓ *Supported Nuclear Power...Three Days After Japanese Tsunami*
- ✓ *Opposed Ethanol Subsidies*
- ✓ *Questioned Need for Department of Energy*

Walsh supports drilling for oil “wherever we can.” He said, “If the House Republicans could snap their fingers tomorrow we’d be drilling darn near everywhere.” He has even voted to protect tax breaks for big oil companies. Three days after a tsunami struck the Japanese coast, damaging the nearby Fukushima nuclear power plant, Walsh said, “...**We should be looking at nuclear power.**” He would also eliminate the Department of Energy.

Supported Oil Drilling “Wherever We Can”

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked about reducing the United States’ dependence on foreign oil. He replied, “The quickest and best way to ease our dependence on foreign oil is to drill and take advantage of our resources here. We should be drilling off shore, we should be drilling in Alaska, we should be drilling wherever we can.” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/14/11](#)]

In an earlier Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh said, “If the House Republicans could snap their fingers tomorrow we’d be drilling darn near everywhere.” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/04/11](#)]

Voted to Protect Tax Breaks for Big Oil Companies

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have repealed oil and gas production tax breaks for major integrated oil companies for the proposed two week period in the House budget continuing resolution.

Rep. William Keating, who offered the motion to recommit, said, “Our alternative is an alternative of sensible spending cuts. Let’s stop sending taxpayer money to the most profitable companies in the world.” [CQ Today, [3/01/11](#)]

The motion failed, 176-249. [HJR 44, [Vote #153](#), 3/01/11]

Supported Nuclear Power...

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked about reducing the United States' dependence on foreign oil. He replied, "... We should be looking at nuclear power." [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh's Channel, [3/14/11](#)]

...Three Days After Japanese Tsunami

Walsh posted his support of nuclear power to YouTube on March 14, 2011. On March 11, 2011 an 8.9-magnitude earthquake struck near the east coast of Japan which created 30-foot walls of water damaging the nearby Fukushima nuclear power plant. [CNN, [3/11/11](#); [Guardian](#), [3/19/11](#)]

Previously Supported Nuclear Power

In May 2010, Walsh said, "We've been negligent in this country for not building nuclear power facilities for so long in this country. Technology in this area has incredibly improved." [iCaucus Interview, 7:00, 5/07/10]

Opposed Ethanol Subsidies

In April 2011, the [New York Times](#) wrote that Walsh "has been an anti-spending, anti-subsidy diehard, opposing even the Midwest's cherished ethanol subsidies." [[New York Times](#), [4/14/11](#)]

Questioned Need for Department of Energy

In January 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that "Walsh questioned the need for several federal agencies, specifically the departments of energy and education." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/28/10]

Walsh: "There's no reason to have a Department of Energy"

In May 2010, Walsh said, "There are entire departments of the federal government I'd eliminate... There's no reason to have a Department of Energy." [iCaucus Interview, 34:50, 5/07/10]

Voted to Repeal Increased Efficiency Standards for Light Bulbs

In 2011, Walsh voted to repeal bipartisan regulations that increased energy efficiency standards for light bulbs.

The bipartisan regulations passed in 2007 increased energy efficiency standards for light bulbs. The regulation requires bulbs to be 25-30 percent more efficient by 2014 and 60 percent more efficient by 2020. The bill would have also removed \$30 million in funding for education and research that was to go along with the new energy standards. [[New York Times](#), 7/13/11; CQ Floor Votes, 7/12/11]

The bill failed (it was considered under suspension of the rules which requires a two-thirds majority to pass) 233-193. [HR 2417, [Vote #563](#), 7/12/11]

Voted Against Cuts to the Department of Energy Budget

In 2011, Walsh voted against cutting funds for the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year 2012, including to high speed rail and renewable energy programs and to repeal regulations on light-bulbs.

The bill, which provides funding for the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year 2012 cut \$1 billion from similar Fiscal Year 2011 funding. This funding goes to the Department of Energy and the Army Corps of Engineers programs. The bill moved \$1 billion from high speed rail funding to flood relief along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. It also cut \$491 million from the renewable energy programs from FY11 leaving it at \$1.3 billion for FY12. The bill blocks the administration from closing the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project and, because of an amendment, repeals the 2007 bipartisan regulation on light bulbs which would make them more energy efficient. [[Associated Press](#), 7/15/11]

The bill passed 219-196. [HR 2354, [Vote #600](#), 7/15/11]

Voted Against Preventing Gas Price Hikes

In 2011, Walsh voted against limiting the seizures of American farm and ranch land and to prevent gas price hikes.

The motion would have directed “the president to ensure federal agencies take ‘any feasible step’ to prevent an increase in gas prices and limit seizures of American farm and ranch land.” [CQ Floor Votes, 7/26/11]

The motion failed 181-248. [HR 1938, [Vote #649](#), 7/26/11]

Voted to Require the President to Approve the Keystone XL Pipeline Permit

In 2011, Walsh voted to require the President to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline within 60 days of the bill becoming a law.

The bill required President Obama to approve the Keystone XL pipeline within 60 days of the bill becoming law unless “it is determined that the pipeline is not in the national interest.” [CQ Floor Vote, 12/13/11]

The bill passed 234-193. [HR 3630, [Vote #923](#), 12/13/11]

Walsh Said We ‘Absolutely’ Should Get Rid Of Oil Subsidies

At a town hall meeting in April 2011, Walsh said, “Energy subsidies. Absolutely. Absolutely. Get rid of subsidies for oil companies.”

Voted to Continue Giving Subsidies to the Oil and Gas Industry

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which continued giving subsidies to the oil and gas industry.

On Fox News Sunday in 2011, when Paul Ryan was challenged by host Chris Wallace about whether his budget would include reductions in oil and gas subsidies like President Obama's fiscal commission proposed, Ryan responded that "we don't have a tax problem." [Fox News Sunday, 4/3/11]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Ryan had a Conflict of Interest with Oil and Gas Subsidies

In 2011, Newsweek's Daily Beast uncovered a conflict of interest involving Congressman Paul Ryan and the oil and gas industry subsidies he proposed in his budget. According to the Daily Beast:

The congressman stands to make money from his stakes in four businesses that lease land to energy companies which would benefit from \$45 billion in tax breaks and subsidies in his proposed budget. [...] The financial disclosure report Ryan filed with Congress last month and made public this week shows he and his wife, Janna, own stakes in four family companies that lease land in Texas and Oklahoma to the very energy companies that benefit from the tax subsidies in Ryan's budget plan. [...] Some of these firms would be eligible for portions of the \$45 billion in energy tax breaks and subsidies over 10 years protected in the Wisconsin lawmaker's proposed budget. 'Those [energy developing companies] benefit a lot from these subsidies,' explained Russ Harding, an energy policy analyst with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, when presented with the situation, without reference to Ryan. 'Without those, they're going to be less profitable.' [Newsweek's Daily Beast, [6/17/11](#)]

Environmental Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Repeatedly Called for End of EPA...then Claimed he Didn't Want it Abolished*
- ✓ *Voted Against Regulating Pollutants in Drinking-water Sources*
- ✓ *Questioned the Science of Climate Change*
- ✓ *Voted to Bar the EPA from Regulating Greenhouse Gas*
- ✓ *Opposed Cap and Trade*

Walsh has repeatedly called for the defunding and dismantling of the Environmental Protection Agency saying, “There’s no reason to have an EPA.” Yet, when a constituent at a town hall meeting asked how the US could safely drill and mine without the EPA he flip-flopped and said, “Walsh doesn’t want to abolish the EPA.” Walsh is so radical he even questions the science of climate change and called cap and trade an “economic death penalty.” In Congress he voted against regulating pollutants in drinking water and to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases.

March 2011: “Walsh Doesn’t Want to Abolish the EPA”

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, when a constituent asked how the United States could safely drill for oil and mine coal if the EPA were defunded, Walsh claimed to support the EPA but that the agency’s protections had been overzealous. He said:

Walsh doesn’t want to abolish the EPA, our government should play a role in protecting the environment. All I’m arguing is the pendulum swung way too far that way. Right now the EPA and all the other alphabets and agencies are hampering job growth and they’re killing business. The pendulum swung too far and so we got to reasonable swing the pendulum back. [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 1:17:00, [3/24/11](#)]

February 2011: Wanted to Dismantle the EPA

In February 2011, [ThinkProgress](#) asked Walsh if he agreed with Newt Gingrich that the Environmental Protection Agency should be abolished. Walsh replied, “Absolutely, I got hit over the head a lot during the campaign. ‘Walsh! He wants to dismantle the EPA!’ The EPA, right now,

is killing small business in this country. It ought to be scrapped and something better ought to be put in its place.” [ThinkProgress via youtube.com, posted [2/17/11](#)]

Walsh: We Need to Defund the EPA

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked, “Can you mention what big ticket items (other than ObamaCare, which we know you’re against) you’d like to go after, and how we can realistically defund/cancel those?” Walsh replied, “We do need to defund the EPA.” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/20/11](#)]

Walsh: “There’s no reason to have an EPA”

In May 2010, Walsh said, “There are entire departments of the federal government I’d eliminate... There’s no reason to have an EPA.” [iCaucus Interview, 34:50, 5/07/10]

Voted Against Regulating Pollutants in Drinking-water Sources

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which continued the EPA’s authority to regulate pollutants in drinking-water sources.

The motion stated that the legislation would not affect the EPA’s authority when it comes to regulating pollutants, including arsenic or perchlorate, into public drinking-water sources.

The motion failed 188-238. [HR 2018, [Vote #572](#), 7/13/11]

Voted to Undermine the Clean Water Act

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which undermined the Clean Water Act by removing the EPA’s ability to enforce it.

The bill banned the EPA from issuing new or revising water-quality standards if a state standard had already been approved by the agency without the state’s consent. The EPA would also be banned from removing its approval of a state program or limiting federal funds to that program if it disagreed with the way the regulation was implemented, or if the EPA disagreed with the state’s water quality standard.

This effectively removed the EPA’s authority to supervise and regulate the states. [New York Times Editorial, 7/15/11; CQ Floor Votes, 7/13/11]

The bill passed 239-184. [HR 2018, [Vote #573](#), 7/13/11]

Voted to Bar the EPA from Regulating Greenhouse Gas

In 2011, Walsh voted to prohibit the EPA from addressing climate change by regulating greenhouse gases, to change the definition of air pollutant in the Clean Air Act and to keep states from addressing climate change through the regulation of greenhouse gases.

The bill changed the definition of air pollutant to exclude greenhouse gas as it pertained to climate change (though greenhouse gases could be regulated for reasons other than climate change). It also repealed previous EPA regulations on stationary sources of greenhouse gases and barred the EPA from issuing any new regulations on stationary sources of greenhouse gases. Automobile emission standards were exempt from this bill. [CQ House Action Report, [4/4/11](#)]

According to an article in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#): "This really is a shocking attack on states' rights and on public health," said Stanley Young, a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board, which is working on emissions standards for cars that would take effect in 2017. He estimated that the bill could roll back scheduled cuts in pollution and petroleum consumption by 25 percent nationwide. [[San Francisco Chronicle](#), [3/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 255-172. [HR 910, [Vote #249](#), 4/07/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which would have specified that the authority of the EPA administrator under the Clean Air Act wouldn't be abridged by the bill when it came to protecting the health of children and seniors from air pollution produced by large sources of carbon dioxide. The motion failed 191-236. [HR 910, [Vote #248](#), 4/07/11]

Voted Against Protecting New Species under the Endangered Species Act

In 2011, Walsh voted against protecting new species and habitats under the Endangered Species Act.

The amendment struck language from the underlying bill which "barred the Fish and Wildlife Service from listing new species and habitats for protection under the Endangered Species Act." [CQ Floor Votes, 7/27/11]

The amendment passed 224-202. [HR 2584, [Vote #652](#), 7/27/11]

Voted to Block Regulation of Dangerous Pollutants

In 2011, Walsh voted to block regulations to reduce emissions of pollutants from coal-fired power plants by the Environment Protection Agency.

The bill would have required the establishment of a committee to analyze the impact of certain EPA regulations on the economy, delaying the rules, including those on mercury emissions. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/24/11; CQ Floor Votes, 9/23/11]

The bill passed 249-169. [HR 2401, [Vote #741](#), 9/23/11]

Before consideration of the final bill, Walsh even voted against requiring the EPA to "plan and implement a strategy, using existing authority, to control air pollution that could affect the Great Lakes." [CQ Floor Votes, 9/23/11]

The motion failed 180-233. [HR 2401, [Vote #740](#), 9/23/11]

Voted to Nullify Rules Limiting Mercury Pollution from Cement Plants

In 2011, Walsh voted to nullify rules limiting mercury pollution from cement plants.

The bill would nullify Environmental Protection Agency rules for cement plant emissions and require the development of new rules which would not go into effect until 2017. [[Washington Post](#), 10/09/11; CQ Floor Votes, 10/06/11]

According to the [Washington Post](#), the EPA projected up to \$19 in public-health benefits for every dollar of compliance cost to manufacturers. The rule would curb emissions of mercury, which spread to water and fish and can cause brain damage in infants and children. The rules also would curb emissions of particulates that cause heart and lung diseases, as well as gases such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide that form smog. [[Washington Post](#), 10/9/11]

The bill passed 262-161. [HR 2681, [Vote #764](#), 10/06/11]

Before final consideration of the bill, Walsh even voted against a motion to implement the current emissions standards for cement kilns within five miles of a school, day-care, playground or hospital with a maternity ward or neonatal unit. The motion failed 176-247. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/06/11; HR 2681, [Vote #763](#), 10/06/11]

Voted to Nullify Rules Regulating Emissions for Commercial and Industrial Boilers

In 2011, Walsh voted to nullify certain rules regulating emissions for commercial and industrial boilers.

The bill would nullify the current rules for commercial and industrial boilers and require the Environmental Protection Agency to write new rules and finalize them within 15 months of the bill becoming law. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/13/11]

The bill passed 275-142. [HR 2250, [Vote #791](#), 10/13/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion to implement the current proposed commercial and industrial boiler standards for any waste incinerator within five miles of a nursing home, assisted living facility, or hospital. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/13/11]

The motion failed 170-246. [HR 2250, [Vote #790](#), 10/13/11]

Voted to block Environmental Protection Agency Rules on the Disposal of Coal Ash

In 2011, Walsh voted to block the Environmental Protection Agency rules on the disposal of coal ash.

The bill blocked the EPA rules on the disposal of coal ash which would either regulate it as a federal hazardous-waste or require states to regulate it as a non-hazardous waste. The bill instead allowed states to regulate coal-ash as a municipal waste. [[Houston Chronicle](#), 10/15/11; CQ Floor Votes, 10/14/11]

According to the [Houston Chronicle](#), “coal ash – the residue of coal combustion at electric utility plants – contains a range of toxic metals, including chromium, arsenic and lead. Environmental groups, which

want the EPA to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste, say those chemicals can get into groundwater when ash-disposal structures fail, putting people at risk. [[Houston Chronicle](#), 10/15/11]

The bill passed 267-144. [HR 2273, [Vote #800](#), 10/14/11]

Before final passage of the bill, Walsh even voted against a motion which would require monitoring for imminent failures of coal-ash impoundment systems and the notification of state and local first responders and evacuation of the endangered people. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/14/11]

The motion failed 172-238. [HR 2273, [Vote #799](#), 10/14/11]

Voted to Swap Federal Land with Foreign-Owned Copper Mine Company

In 2011, Walsh voted to convey land in Arizona to the Resolution Copper Company for a “giant mine” in exchange for different land in Arizona.

The bill authorized a land swap for the land in Arizona in order for Resolution Copper Co. to develop the largest copper mine in North America by exchanging land in Arizona with the federal government. The bill would exchange “about 2,400 acres in the Oak Flat area of the Tonto National Forest in return for giving more than 5,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land throughout Arizona to the federal government”.

Opponents of the project said it would harm Apache tribal lands and threaten the region’s already scarce water supply. Other critics noted that Resolution Copper’s foreign-based parent company could bring in foreign workers to run the mine or use robotic technology operated outside of the United States. [[Arizona Republic](#), 10/26/11; CQ Floor Votes, 10/26/11]

The bill passed 235-186. [HR 1904, [Vote #809](#), 10/26/11]

Voted to Prevent Air Pollution Regulation Implementation

In 2011, Walsh voted to prevent air pollution regulations from going into effect.

The bill would exempt what is called “nuisance dust” from regulation under the Clean Air Act. The bill defined “nuisance dust” as particulate matter “generated primarily from natural sources, unpaved roads, agricultural activities, earth moving, or other activities typically conducted in rural areas.” [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), 12/10/11; CQ Floor Votes, 12/08/11]

Democrats warned that the bill could pose a threat to public health because it would cover dust from mining operations, smelters and other industrial sources. The Congressional Budget Office also estimated that it would cost the EPA \$10 million to rework its existing air pollution standards and to study whether changes would be necessary in its national monitoring network. [USA Today, 12/08/11]

The bill passed 268-150. [HR 1633, [Vote #912](#), 12/08/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion to ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency would continue to be allowed to regulate particulate containing cadmium, lead or asbestos released from mining activities and from demolition and renovation. [CQ Floor Votes, 12/08/11]

The motion failed 166-252. [HR 1633, [Vote #911](#), 12/08/11]

Questioned the Science of Climate Change

In November 2010, Walsh said he believed the science behind climate change needs to be developed further. He said, “We can’t rush headlong into a policy that is going to tax our businesses. Right now, people are hurting. Helping people keep their homes and pay their bills has to be our focus.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/18/10]

Walsh: Cap and Trade is an Economic Death Penalty

In April 2010, while speaking to representatives from 500 manufacturing companies at the Metals Services Institute conference, Walsh said, “My opponent voted for cap-and-trade. That’s almost all you need to know. Because a vote for cap-and-trade is a vote to impose the economic death penalty on Illinois manufacturing and raise energy prices on consumers.” [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Opposed Cap and Trade

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that included opposing cap and trade as one of the ways he would “support Illinois manufactures.” [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Voted against Ensuring that Deregulation of Greenhouse Gases Wouldn’t Threaten Our National Security

In 2011, Walsh voted against allowing the EPA and the Secretary of Defense to certify if a lack of greenhouse gas regulation would threaten national security before repealing those regulations.

The amendment prevented the provisions of this legislation from going into effect until the EPA Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, certified that the consequences of not regulating greenhouse gas emissions. The certification would include the consequences of the subsequent impact on climate change, including the potential to create sustained natural and humanitarian disasters and the ability to likely foster political instability where societal demands exceed the capacity of governments to cope. It would also require certification that the repeal of those regulations did not jeopardize American security interests at home or abroad. [Congressional Record, p. H2380, [4/06/11](#)]

The overarching bill changed the definition of air pollutant to exclude greenhouse gas as it pertained to climate change (though greenhouse gases could be regulated for reasons other than climate change). It also repealed previous EPA regulations on stationary sources of greenhouse gases and barred the EPA from issuing any new regulations on stationary sources of greenhouse gases. Automobile emission standards were exempt from this bill. [CQ House Action Report, [4/04/11](#)]

The amendment failed, 165-260. [H.R. 910 H. Amdt. 485, [Vote #239](#), 4/06/11]

Voted to Force the Sale of Off-shore Oil Leases near Virginia and in the Gulf of Mexico

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which forced the sale of oil and natural gas leases in the waters off the coast of Virginia and in the Gulf of Mexico about a year after the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe.

The legislation required the Secretary of the Interior to hold sales for specific off-shore leases located in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Virginia. It also stated that the environmental requirements for these sales would be considered as having been met by the current Environmental Impact Statement. [[New York Times](#), [5/06/11](#); CQ Floor Votes, [5/05/11](#)]

The bill passed 266-149. [HR 1230, [Vote #298](#), 5/5/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which specified that all the oil and natural gas produced by the land from these leases would be sold only in the United States.

The motion failed 171-238. [HR 1230, [Vote #297](#), 5/05/11]

Voted to Speed Up Oil and Gas Lease Approvals in the Gulf of Mexico

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which required the Department of the Interior to rule on exploratory drilling permits for lessees in the Gulf of Mexico in 60 days or less or the permit would be considered approved.

The legislation required the Department of the Interior to deem applications for oil and gas drilling permits approved 30 days, or as many as 60 days (after two possible 15 day extensions), after receiving the application. If the application is denied then the Department of the Interior must provide written reasons for the denial.

Democrats opposed the bill because they felt that it would hinder the ability of the Department of the Interior to approve the leases in a responsible way. [[The Hill](#), [05/05/11](#); [The Hill](#), [5/11/11](#); [USA Today](#), [5/12/11](#); CQ BillAnalysis, [5/20/11](#); [FoxBusiness](#), [5/11/11](#)]

The bill passed 2263-163. [HR 1229, [Vote #309](#), 5/11/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which stopped the sale of new leases to companies which still owed fines and penalties for economic and environmental damages in the Gulf of Mexico.

The motion failed 186-239. [HR 1229, [Vote #308](#), 5/11/11]

Voted to Allow Gas Companies to Continue to Hide Executive Bonuses

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment which would force oil and gas companies to disclose how much they spend on executive bonuses when applying for oil and gas leases.

The amendment would require companies seeking off-shore oil and gas leases under the programs listed in H.R. 1231, the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act, to disclose the amount of money their executives received in bonuses in the previous quarter. [[The Hill](#), [5/11/11](#)]

The amendment failed 186-240. [HR 1231, [Vote #314](#), 5/11/11]

Voted Against Requiring Companies to Have a Disaster Plan for Oil Spills

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment that required oil and gas companies to have contingency plans for worst-case scenarios, including plans for oil containment and cleanup, when applying for 5-year oil and gas off-shore permits.

The amendment would require companies seeking off-shore oil and gas leases under the 5-year oil and gas leasing programs listed in H.R. 1231, the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act, to submit plans for a worst-case scenario oil spill including oil containment and cleanup. Due to a lack of planning for oil containment and cleanup the Deepwater Horizon oil spill leaked about 185 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. [[The Hill](#), [5/11/11](#); Congressional Record, [5/11/11](#); [New York Times](#), 10/17/11]

The amendment failed 195-223. [HR 1231, [Vote #315](#), 5/11/11]

Voted to Allow Offshore Drilling on the East Coast and Off of Southern California

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which expanded the available land for offshore drilling to include areas in the Pacific near southern California and off the east coast in the Atlantic Ocean.

The legislation would have expanded the land available for offshore drill leasing to include parts off the shore of southern California and the eastern seaboard during the 2012-2017 five-year oil and gas leasing period. [[The Hill](#), [5/11/11](#); [The Hill](#), [3/29/11](#); [Bloomberg News](#), [5/11/11](#)]

The bill passed 243-173. [HR 1231, [Vote #320](#), 5/12/11]

Voted Against a Motion to Recommit to Sell American Gas and Oil Here in America

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recommit which would have required that oil and gas developed from leases made in the underlying bill would have to be sold in the United States.

The motion required that all the oil and natural gas generated from the new leases be sold in the United States. The motion would have also required that the number of non-producing leases be cutting in half by 2017.

The motion failed 180-243. [HR 1231, [Vote #319](#), 5/12/11]

Voted Against Determining the Benefit of Lowering Environmental Standards for Off-Shore Drilling

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which required the EPA administrator to determine if a Republican bill would actually result in lower gas prices at the pump.

The motion would have required the EPA administrator to study whether relaxing the off-shore oil and gas permitting process, as laid out in the Republicans' underlying bill, would actually reduce the cost of gas per gallon at gas stations. Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee suggested that this bill would lower gas prices. [House Energy and Commerce Press Release, [6/22/11](#); Congressional Record, [6/22/11](#)]

The motion failed 177-245. [HR 2021, [Vote #477](#), 6/22/11]

Voted to Limit Outer Continental Shelf Drilling Regulations

In 2011, Walsh voted to limit the EPA's ability to regulate drilling on the outer continental shelf.

The bill limited the EPA to six months to deny air pollution permits for offshore rigs and platforms. The bill also "limits challenges to the EPA's appeals board and restricts which emissions can be evaluated." [[Washington Post](#), 6/23/11]

The bill passed 253-166. [HR 2021, [Vote #478](#), 6/22/11]

FEMA and Disaster Relief Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Eliminate the National Flood Insurance Program*
- ✓ *Voted Against Reforming the National Flood Insurance Program*

Walsh has not been good to people living in flood-prone areas. He voted to eliminate the National Flood Insurance Program and against grants to help 2011 flood victims rebuild.

Voted to Eliminate the National Flood Insurance Program

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment to eliminate the National Flood Insurance Program.

The amendment to eliminate the National Flood Insurance Program would not impact current coverage but would prevent the NFIP from issuing new policies or renewing old ones. The amendment would allow states to form interstate compacts to provide flood insurance. [CQ Floor Votes, 7/12/11; [Associated Press](#), 7/12/11]

The amendment failed 38-384. [HR 1309, [Vote #560](#), 7/12/11]

Voted Against Reforming the National Flood Insurance Program

In 2011, Walsh voted against extending and making bipartisan reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program.

The bill would extend the National Flood Insurance program for five years and make bipartisan reforms to help extend the life of the program, in which some 20,000 communities nationwide participated. Some of these reforms included increasing the allowed premium percentage increase, increasing the minimum deductible for properties, and allowing communities that are required to buy flood insurance to seek a suspension while they worked to improve their flood protection systems. [[Associated Press](#), 7/12/11]

The bill passed 406-22. [HR 1309, [Vote #562](#), 7/12/11]

However, Walsh voted against a motion to authorize FEMA to provide flood victims in major emergency or disaster zones, as declared by the president in 2011, grants to help with their rebuilding costs. The motion would have also allowed those people to be exempted from flood insurance premium increases for three years.

The motion failed 181-244. [HR 1309, [Vote #561](#), 7/12/11]

Foreign Policy Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Troop Surge in Afghanistan*
- ✓ *Opposed Efforts to Withdraw Troops*
- ✓ *Opposed US Action in Libya*
- ✓ *Claimed Costs of Wars Should Not be Debated*
- ✓ *Opposed UN Recognition of Palestinian Statehood*

In 2009, Walsh was supportive of President Obama's Afghanistan troop surge even calling Iraq and Afghanistan "central fronts" in a global war on terror. However, Walsh opposed efforts to withdraw troops and accused Obama of pandering to his political base using foreign policy. Breaking from his tradition of seeking budget cuts, Walsh believes the costs of fighting wars should not be debated. Since 1996 Walsh has also claimed to be an ardent supporter of Israel.

Supported Troop Surge in Afghanistan

In December 2009, Walsh supported the troop surge in Afghanistan. He called military and political success in Afghanistan "vitaly important" and said withdrawing forces too soon would further destabilize Pakistan "and risk the possibility of this nuclear-armed state (falling) under the control of Islamic extremists." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/31/09]

Opposed Efforts to Withdraw Troops

While Walsh supported President Obama's Afghanistan troop surge, he rejected efforts to end U.S. involvement in the country and accused Obama of pandering to his political base using foreign policy. In December 2009 Walsh said:

While I hope that this strategy is the right one, I'm concerned that the president's actions may have been determined more to appease his left-wing base rather than to address the facts on the ground. Specifically, I think his preoccupation with ending our engagement there sends a terrible signal to our allies, the Afghan people, and our enemies alike. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/02/09]

Called Afghanistan and Iraq Central Fronts in the Global War on Terror

In September 2010, Walsh said, “If you believe we’re in a global war on terror -- which I believe we are and which I believe our president doesn’t believe we are -- Iraq and Afghanistan are central fronts in that war.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/29/10]

Claimed Costs of Wars Should Not be Debated

In September 2010, Walsh claimed the costs of fighting wars should not be debated. He said, “In our limited view of government, this is one function government can and should do. Is it worth the cost we’re going to incur? If we’re attacked, we don’t sit there and have that debate.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/29/10]

Walsh: Defend the Country No Matter the Cost

One month earlier Walsh echoed his belief that the costs of war should not be considered when he said, “Both parties recognize the need for a strong defense. When it comes to defending our country, we want our country to do what it has to do no matter the cost. The economics of those decisions should never be on the table.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/25/10]

Voted to Remove US Forces from Libya

In 2011, Walsh voted for a resolution which would direct the President to remove all US Forces from Libya within 15 days of the passage of the resolution.

According to [The Hill](#), “[Rep. Dennis] Kucinich said he thought he won over Republicans by focusing more on the need for Congress to assert its Constitutional prerogative to declare war than on the wisdom of the mission itself.” [[The Hill](#), 6/04/11]

The resolution failed 148-265. [H Con Res 51, [Vote #412](#), 6/03/11]

Voted Against Supporting US Efforts in Libya

In 2011, Walsh voted against authorizing the limited use of force in support of NATO.

The one-year authorization of limited use of force in support of NATO’s mission in Libya would have also required the president to consult with and brief Congress on a regular basis. [[The Hill](#), 6/23/11; [Politico](#), 6/24/11; [CBS News](#), 6/22/11]

The bill failed 123-295. [H J Res 68, [Vote #493](#), 6/23/11]

Voted Against Limiting Spending Funds on the NATO Mission in Libya

In 2011, Walsh voted to against limiting spending funds on the NATO mission in Libya to help remove Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

The bill limited the spending of defense funds appropriated only to “non-hostile American support of the NATO-led mission.” [[Politico](#), 6/24/11]

The resolution “would require a withdrawal from engagements there - excepting ‘forces engaged in non-hostile actions such as search and rescue, aerial re-fueling, operational planning, intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance, and non-combat missions,’ according to Boehner.” [[CBS News, 6/22/11](#)]

The bill failed 180-238. [HR 2278, [Vote #494](#), 6/24/11]

Note: Walsh opposed this bill because he opposed all action in Libya and did not want to authorize any spending for the mission.

Voted Against Blocking Business with Iran-Linked Mining Company

In 2011, Walsh voted against blocking an American company from partnering with a British mining company with ties to Iran for the largest copper mine in North America.

The motion would have kept Resolution Copper from partnering with entities that have shared interest with the Iran Foreign Investment Company.

According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, “Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday mounted a vigorous offense against the bill, saying that Resolution Copper was owned by London-based Rio Tinto, and that that company is partnered with the Iran Foreign Investment Company in mining uranium in Namibia.” [[Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 10/26/11](#)]

The motion failed. [HR 1904, [Vote #808](#), 10/26/11]

Voted Against Restricting Companies with Ties to Iran from Participating in “Crowdfunding”

In 2011, Walsh voted against restricting companies with ties to Iran from participating in “crowdfunding.”

The motion would have banned crowdfunding securities sales from being affiliated, in any way, with corporations doing business with Iran. Crowdfunding is funding from a crowd of people — that is, many people provide small amounts of money for financing. [CQ Floor Votes, 11/03/11; [Forbes](#), 1/13/12]

The motion failed 187-237. [HR 2930, [Vote #824](#), 11/03/11]

Opposed US Action in Libya

In June 2011, Walsh issued a press release criticizing President Obama for ordering continued actions in Libya “without Congressional authority and without a defined mission.” Walsh supported legislation that would have ended American involvement in Libya. [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 6/29/11]

Sponsored Legislation to Withhold UN Dues over Report that Accused Israel of War Crimes

In April 2011, Walsh sponsored legislation to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations until the UN formally retracts the final report of the “United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict” which accused Israel of war crimes during its invasion of Gaza in 2008 and 2009. According to

Richard Goldstone, the author of the report, it “found evidence of potential war crimes and ‘possibly crimes against humanity’ by both Israel and Hamas.”

However, in April 2011, Goldstone wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post in which he said, “If I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document.” Walsh claimed that Goldstone “retracted the entire report.”

In a Dear Colleague Letter distributed to Members of Congress, Walsh claimed “The Goldstone Report has not only been used by the U.N. Human Rights Council to repeatedly condemn and vilify Israel, but it also has been used by Israel’s enemies to justify their aggression.” [[Washington Post](#), LTE, 4/01/11; Dear Colleague Letter, Joe Walsh, 4/07/11; HR 1501, filed 4/12/11]

Feared Report Could be Used to Justify a Palestinian State

In his Dear Colleague Letter, Walsh expressed concern over the Goldstone Report potentially being used to recognize a Palestinian state. He wrote, “the United Nations may use the Goldstone Report as justification to officially recognize a Palestinian state, which could place Israel in the position of occupying lands belonging to a sovereign state and member of the United Nations.” [Dear Colleague Letter, Joe Walsh, 4/07/11]

Opposed UN Recognition of Palestinian Statehood

In October 2011, Walsh criticized the U.N. agency, UNESCO, after it officially voted to recognize Palestinian statehood. Walsh said, “Its [*sic*] time to cut off all U.S. funding to both the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority.” [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 10/31/11]

1996: Campaigned in Support of Israel

In 1996, Walsh campaigned in the Jewish community, “assuring them of his devotion to Israeli safety and secure borders.” [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 11/04/96]

Said Obama Is No Friend to Israel

In a May 2011 speech, Walsh told the crowd that President Obama is “not Israel’s friend.” [Slate, [5/26/11](#)]

Op-ed: Israel before Peace

In a May 2011 op-ed, Walsh said his support for peace is secondary to his support for Israel. He wrote, “As a freshman Congressman, I am pro-Israel first and pro-peace second.” [Daily Caller, [5/25/11](#)]

Called for Strong Sanctions Against Iran

In December 2011, Walsh signed a letter to President Obama written by Illinois Representative Randy Hultgren “calling for strong sanctions on Iran and the Iranian financial system.” [Hultgren Official Press Release via States News Service, 12/14/11]

Asked Department of Agriculture for Nearly \$7.5 Million for Nicaragua

In February 2011, Walsh asked the Department of Agriculture to donate cash and commodities totaling \$7,498,015 for the American Nicaraguan Foundation and Febretto Children's Foundation. It is unknown if the funding went through. [Huffington Post, [7/05/11](#)]

Gay and Lesbian Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Opposed Gay Marriage*
- ✓ *Supported a Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage*
- ✓ *Opposed Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”*
- ✓ *1996: Claimed to be Most “Gay-Friendly Republican Around”*

When Walsh ran for Congress in 1996, he claimed to be the most “gay-friendly republican around.” Then he supported the Employee Non-Discrimination Act, domestic partnerships, and repealing Don’t Ask Don’t Tell. In 2010 Walsh supported a Constitutional ban on gay marriage, opposed civil unions, and opposed the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell. He freely admits his position on gay issues changed because he moved Congressional districts.

Opposed Gay Marriage

In September 2010, Walsh opposed gay marriage. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/21/10]

Opposed Civil Unions

In January 2011, Walsh opposed civil unions, calling them “simply another way to achieve gay marriage.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/10/10]

Supported a Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage

In January 2011, Walsh supported a constitutional ban that would prevent states from deciding the issues of gay marriage saying, “Without this codified distinction, a slippery slope would ensue where any type of relationship and or arrangement would be called marriage, much to the detriment of our society.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/10/10]

Opposed Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

In January 2010, Walsh opposed the repeal of the United State’s military’s policy of “don’t ask don’t tell.” He believed gays should only be allowed to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private saying, “Problems can ensue when soldiers are open and extroverted with their orientation.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/20/10]

...Then Said Military Should Handle the Issue

In September 2010, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh did not believe openly gay people serving in the military was in its best interest. However he also believed “the military should handle issues of protocol.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/10]

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell

In February 2010, Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen supported repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Mullen said, “No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens.” [New York Times, 2/02/10]

Commandant of the Marine Corps: No Issues Since Repeal Announced

In April 2011, five months after Don't Ask, Don't Tell was officially repealed, commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen. James Amos said repealing the law had no adverse effects.

Amos said, “We've not seen issues... There's not been anxiety over it from the forces in the field... There hasn't been the recalcitrant pushback... Young Marines... quite honestly, they're focused on the enemy.” [New York Daily News, 4/07/11]

Commandant of the Marine Corps. Previously Opposed Repeal

Amos had been one of the strongest opponents of repealing the Don't Ask Don't Tell ban. Last year, he said his men would be distracted - possibly fatally - by allowing gays to serve. [New York Daily News, 4/07/11]

Navy Admiral: Repeal Will Not Change the Navy

Navy Admiral Gary Roughead said the change would not be that dramatic.

Roughead said, “Repeal will not change who we are or what we do... The same regulations and standards of conduct will apply.” [New York Daily News, 4/07/11]

Voted to Delay the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

In 2011, Walsh voted to delay the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

The FY2012 Defense Authorization bill contained a number of policy riders including one which changed the process for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell which bans homosexuals from serving openly in the military. Under the rider, which was included in the bill, the repeal would be delayed until the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine chiefs could certify that the repeal wouldn't harm their units' “readiness,

effectiveness, cohesion, and morale.” [[Wall Street Journal Blog-Washington Wire](#), [5/12/11](#); CQ BillAnalysis HR 1540, 7/4/11]

The bill passed 322-96. [HR 1540, [Vote #375](#), 5/26/11]

Voted in Support of the Defense of Marriage Act

In 2011, Walsh voted to support the Defense of Marriage Act.

The amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill banned the use of any funds to be used in violation of the Defense of Marriage Act. This vote was largely symbolic and was intended to show support for the Defense of Marriage Act according to the author of the amendment. [[Los Angeles Times](#), 7/9/11; [The Hill](#), 7/7/11]

The amendment passed 248-175. [HR 2219, [Vote #516](#), 7/07/11]

Claimed “Traditional” Family Units Were Best for Children

In May 2010, Walsh claimed children raised in a “traditional” family unit, by a mother and father, were most successful. He said:

When kids grow up in a traditional two parent household, a mother and a father, [according to every] socioeconomic indicator on the planet they’re going to be better off. So we as a society need to encourage that unit. We certainly don’t want to go after other family units but we don’t want to put other family units on the same level or pedestal that we put the traditional family unit that we know works on. [iCaucus Interview, 8:50, 5/07/10]

1996: Supported Gay Rights

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that Walsh supported “equal protection for gays and lesbians...” However, he was “less sure about same-sex marriages.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Admitted Changing Districts Changed his Position

In January 2010, Walsh told the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) that he previously supported gay rights “because I was running in Evanston, Ill.” Evanston is a largely left-leaning city where he lived at the time. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/14/10]

1996: Claimed to be Most “Gay-Friendly Republican Around”

In October 1996, the [Windy City Times](#) reported that on gay issues, “Walsh insisted he’s not only liberal, but out front.” Walsh said, “If there’s a more gay-friendly Republican around, I’d like to meet them.” [[Windy City Times](#), 10/24/96]

Supported ENDA, Repealing Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and Domestic Partner Benefits

In October 1996, the Windy City Times reported that “Walsh said he would support the Employee Non-Discrimination Act, vote to eliminate the military ban on gay and lesbian service personnel, enact domestic partnership benefits for same-sex couples and assume a leadership role in advocating for gay issues.” [Windy City Times, 10/24/96]

Planned to Campaign in Gay Community

In the final weeks of the 1996 campaign, the Windy City Times reported that Walsh planned to campaign in some of the district’s “ubiquitous gay bars and press some gay flesh.” He said, “It’s a community that I really want to reach out to.” [Windy City Times, 10/24/96]

Note: The Windy City Times is a Chicago lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered newspaper.

Said He Supported Traditional Marriage for Economic Reasons, for the Benefit of Children

Even after having divorced his wife and refusing to pay child support, Walsh said at his final town hall of his 10 town halls in ten days campaign in McHenry that he is a supporter of traditional marriage between a man and a woman for economic reasons.

He also stated that studies have shown it is more beneficial for a child to be raised in a home where a mother and father are present rather than in same-sex households. The congressman, however, said he was open to further information and research that might disprove that. [Northwest Herald, [8/14/11](#)]

Supported a Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage

In January 2011, Walsh supported a constitutional ban that would prevent states from deciding the issues of gay marriage saying, “Without this codified distinction, a slippery slope would ensue where any type of relationship and or arrangement would be called marriage, much to the detriment of our society.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/10/10]

Gun Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Concealed-Carry Laws*
- ✓ *Supported Supreme Court Decision Striking Down Chicago's Handgun Ban*
- ✓ *Defended Sarah Palin's "Targeted" Congressional Map After Arizona Shootings*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Assault Weapons Ban & Brady Law*

Since his first campaign for Congress in 1996, Walsh's position on guns has completely flipped. Then he supported a ban on assault weapons as well as the Brady law which required a waiting period and background check before buying handguns. In 2010, Walsh claimed to be "solidly pro-gun." Now he opposes an assault weapons ban and called it an "embarrassment that Illinois is not a concealed-carry state." He even defended Sarah Palin's use of gun cross hairs on her map of "targeted" Congressional seats Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head during a public meeting with constituents.

Walsh: The Second Amendment is a Citizen's Most Important Right

In September 2010, Walsh said the Second Amendment was a citizen's most important right. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/21/10]

Voted to Override State Laws Regarding Concealed Carry of Guns

In 2011, Walsh voted to require states that allow concealed-carry permits to recognize the conceal-carry permits issued by other states.

According to Bloomberg News, "the measure... would grant permit reciprocity across every state except Illinois, the District of Columbia and two territories, which all ban concealed weapons." The measure would not cover machine guns or other "destructive devices."

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York called the bill "antcommunity, antisafety and antipolice," noting that it would require states with strong gun safety laws "to allow out-of-state visitors, potentially as young as 18, to walk down our streets armed and dangerous." [Bloomberg News, 11/17/11]

The bill passed 272-154. [HR 822, [Vote #852](#), 11/16/11]

...Even Allowed Concealed Weapons for Stalkers and Abusers

Walsh even voted against a motion that prevented the forced recognition if the permit carrier had been convicted of a sex offense against a minor; had a restraining order for harassing, stalking or threatening loved ones, partners or the children of partners; or if the attorney general had determined them suspected to be, engaged in, or supported terrorism. [CQ Floor Votes, 11/17/11]

The motion failed 161-263. [HR 822, [Vote #851](#), 11/16/11]

Supported Concealed-Carry Laws

In October 2010 Walsh supported laws to allow citizens to carry concealed weapons. He said:

I am solidly pro-gun. I am a solidly pro-Second Amendment candidate. I think it's an embarrassment that Illinois is not a concealed-carry state. All the evidence, all the statistical analysis in this country shows us that when a state brings in concealed-carry, crime goes down and violent crime goes down. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

Supported Supreme Court Decision Striking Down Chicago's Handgun Ban

In June 2010, Walsh supported the United States Supreme Court's decision in *McDonald v. Chicago* which struck down the city's ban on handgun ownership. Walsh issued a statement which said:

...we have a fundamental right as written in the Second Amendment to provide for our protection and the protection of our families. When we preemptively curtail the Constitutional rights of a law-abiding citizen, as Chicago has done with the handgun ownership ban, we in effect make no distinction between the criminal and the law-abiding. The Court recognized this contradiction in properly defining the Second Amendment as the individual right that it is... [Walsh for Congress Press Release via Walsh Campaign Email, 6/28/10]

Defended Sarah Palin's "Targeted" Congressional Map After Arizona Shootings

In January 2011, after Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head during a public meeting with constituents Walsh defended Sarah Palin's use of gun cross hairs on her map of "targeted" Congressional seats. He said, "That discussion about her site should have been had eight or nine months ago. Unless we find out that nutbag (was motivated by her site), there's no reason to be having this conversation right now." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/16/11]

Opposed Increased Protection for Members of Congress After Shooting

After the shooting of Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords, Walsh said calls for increased security and penalties for making threats to members of Congress were examples of "over-legislation." He said, "We should not. And I should not support legislation that would cut off openness members have with their constituents, or infringe upon the First Amendment rights to say anything about me." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/16/11]

Supported National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act

In November 2011, Walsh voted in favor of the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act saying, “Today’s [*sic*] vote brings us one step closer to making Illinois a right-to-carry state and allowing Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights across state lines. Currently, Illinois is the only state in this nation that denies its citizens the right to keep and bear arms.” [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 11/16/11]

Brady Campaign: Walsh Supports Timothy McVeigh Theory of the Second Amendment

In a November 2011 press release, Brady Campaign Acting President Dennis Henigan compared Walsh’s view on gun rights to those of Timothy McVeigh saying:

Walsh asserts that Allowing our citizens to carry firearms is to allow them to exercise their right as Americans to protect themselves be it from violent crime or to secure their freedom from a despotic government. I have called this the Timothy McVeigh theory of the Second Amendment. Timothy McVeigh strongly agreed with Rep. Walsh and he acted on those beliefs when he bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City. [Brady Campaign Press Release via States News Service, 11/23/11]

1996: Supported Assault Weapons Ban, Now Opposes

In May 2010, the Associated Press wrote that Walsh “now opposes a ban on assault weapons, something he once supported.” [Associated Press, 5/04/10]

Credits Pro-Gun Groups for Educating Him on Constitutionality

In January 2010, Walsh explained his altered position on assault weapons as a matter of education. He said, “It did not take a long time for me to realize I was wrong about the ban. All it took was additional education and research on the issue. Some pro-gun groups helped me to realize how unconstitutional a ban was and is.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/14/10]

1996: Supported Brady Law

In 1996, Walsh supported the Brady law which required a waiting period and background check before buying handguns. [Chicago Tribune, 9/26/96]

Said Not Being a Conceal and Carry State Is an Embarrassment

In August 2011, Walsh said, “It’s an embarrassment that Illinois is not a conceal and carry state. If the NRA wants to write me a \$100,000 check, they should be able to, and everyone should know about it.” [Northwest Herald, [8/14/11](#)]

Health Care Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Repeal Health Care Reform*
- ✓ *Voted to Cut Off Funding to Implement Health Care Reform Law*
- ✓ *Supported Shutting Down Government in Order to Defund Health Care Reform*
- ✓ *Opposed Requiring Coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions*
- ✓ *Refused Congressional Health Insurance*

Walsh voted to repeal the historic health care reform bill passed in 2010 though he admits the political implications of his vote saying Republicans will be in trouble if health care reform is not repealed. Walsh also voted to eliminate funding needed to implement the law and even supported shutting down the federal government in order to defund health care reform. Personally, Walsh has refused to participate in the federal health insurance plans available to Members of Congress, even though his wife had a preexisting condition and needed a \$30,000 procedure. However, he voted to allow other Members to keep their Congressional health care while repealing reform. Walsh claimed to support expanded access to care but opposed requiring coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Voted to Repeal Health Care, Put Insurance Industry in Charge of Americans' Health

In 2011, Walsh voted to repeal the historic health care reform bill passed the previous year.

“If we repeal health reform there will be no prohibition on discrimination against over 100 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, no prohibition on insurance companies canceling your coverage when you get sick, no prohibition on lifetime caps and annual limits, no required coverage for young adults on their parents’ policy,” said Rep. Henry Waxman. [CQ Today, 1/19/11]

The American Medical Association and the AARP both opposed repealing the health care law. Out of several industry groups, only the U.S. Chamber of Commerce supported the repeal bill. [[The Hill](#), 1/19/11]

For Walsh’s Eighth Congressional District, repealing health insurance reform could:

- Allow insurance companies to deny coverage to 127,000 to 331,000 individuals, including 10,000 to 47,000 children, with pre-existing conditions.

- Rescind consumer protections for 538,000 individuals who have health insurance through their employer or the market for private insurance.
- Eliminate health care tax credits for up to 16,700 small businesses and 118,000 families.
- Increase prescription drug costs for 6,800 seniors who hit the Part D drug “donut hole” and deny new preventive care benefits to 78,000 seniors.
- Increase the costs of early retiree coverage for up to 9,900 early retirees.
- Eliminate new health care coverage options for 2,500 uninsured young adults.
- Increase the number of people without health insurance by 26,000 individuals.
- Increase the costs to hospitals of providing uncompensated care by \$20 million annually. [Energy and Commerce Committee analysis, 1/18/11]

The bill passed, 245-189. [HR 2, [Vote #14](#), 1/19/11]

Repealing Health Care Could Eliminate Up to 400,000 Jobs

According to the Center for American Progress, the repeal of health insurance reform could eliminate 250,000 to 400,000 jobs annually over the next ten years. [Center for American Progress, [1/07/11](#)]

Repeal Would Add \$230 Billion to the Deficit

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the repeal of health care reform would increase the deficit by \$230 billion by 2021. The CBO’s previous score of the Affordable Health Care Act had it decreasing the deficit by \$143 billion over 10 years. [Politico, [1/06/11](#)]

Received Over \$5,000 from Insurance Industry

Walsh has received \$5,250 in campaign contributions from the insurance industry, including health insurance companies. [opensecrets.org, accessed [04/17/11](#)]

Walsh: Republicans will be in Trouble if Health Care Reform is not Repealed

In December 2010, Walsh said, “The Republicans were given the keys to congress to do three things: stop spending now, repeal Obamacare, and cut taxes. If we don’t deliver on those things, we’re going to be in trouble in two years.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/15/10]

Voted to Cut Off Funding to Implement Health Care Reform Law

In 2011, Walsh voted to bar the use of funds to carry out the provisions of the 2010 health care reform bill and its reconciliation measures, or any amendment made by those laws.

The amendment was adopted, 241-187. [HR 1, King amendment #267, [Vote #98](#), 2/18/11]

Walsh also voted to prohibit the use of funds to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the federal government to implement the provisions of the health care reform bill.

That amendment was adopted, 237-191. [HR 1, King amendment #268, [Vote #99](#), 2/18/11]

Supported Shutting Down Government in Order to Defund Health Care Reform

In February 2011, Walsh said if health care reform were not undone, Republicans “will do what we have to do, to shut down the government if we have to.” In an interview, Walsh said:

This is an unusual freshman class. Many of them feel like I do. We will do what we have to do, to shut down the government if we have to, to choke Obamacare if we have to. Look, we all came here for real serious reasons. We didn't come here to get along. I think you're going to see the Republican Party moving in that direction. [thinkprogress.org, [2/27/11](#); Walsh Statement via youtube.com, posted [2/16/11](#)]

Voted to Eliminate the Disease Prevention and Public Health Fund

In 2011, Walsh voted to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund which was created by the Affordable Care Act and would have received almost \$18 billion dollars in the years to come. [[Roll Call, 4/13/11](#)]

The goal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund was to provide funds to communities and states to prevent chronic diseases. [CQ House Action Report, [4/11/11](#)]

According to Dr. Jeff Susman, the Editor-in-Chief at the Journal of Family Practice, “[... T]his fund supports: training and development of primary care providers to use evidence-based interventions to address tobacco control, obesity prevention, and HIV-related health disparities; integration of primary care and behavioral health care; promotion of healthy lifestyles and activities aimed at reducing obesity-related conditions and costs, including the First Lady's “Let's Move!” initiative; implementation of anti-tobacco media campaigns, telephone-based smoking cessation service, and outreach programs targeting vulnerable populations [...] [Journal of Family Practice, Editorial, 5/01/11]

The bill passed 236-183. [HR 1217, [Vote #264](#), 4/13/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which would have changed the funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund from mandatory to discretionary spending and specified that the fund would be used for prevention, wellness and public health activities for people 65 and older. The motion failed 189-234. [HR 1217, [Vote #263](#), 4/13/11]

Voted Against Prioritizing Underserved Communities When Funding Health Centers

In 2011, Walsh voted against prioritizing underserved communities when providing funds for qualified teaching health centers.

The motion would have amended the underlying bill to require that the Secretary of Health and Human Services prioritize underserved communities when determining the allotment of funding for qualified teaching health centers. [CQ Floor Votes, 5/25/11]

The motion failed, 184-263. [HR 1216, [Vote #339](#), 5/25/11]

Walsh then voted for the bill which eliminated a mandatory \$230 million appropriation for qualified teaching health centers to expand or establish programs to provide training to medical residents. It was the fourth in a series of five GOP measures aimed at repealing or adjusting mandatory funding for programs under the 2010 health care overhaul law. [CQ Weekly, [5/30/11](#); HR 1216, [Vote #340](#), 5/25/11]

Voted Against Increasing Funding for Indian Health Facilities

In 2011, Walsh voted against increasing funding for Indian health facilities.

The amendment increased funding for Indian health facilities in the underlying bill by \$18 million and was budget neutral by reductions in the underlying bill. [CQ Floor Votes, 7/25/11]

The amendment failed 175-237. [HR 2584, [Vote #632](#), 7/25/11]

Planned to Defund Health Care Reform

In December 2010, Walsh supported defunding the implementation of health care reform. He said, “We should, as much as possible, deny funding to every little piece of Obamacare that we can in the next two years, and then, hopefully, we will put somebody in the White House who understands that we need a different approach.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Allowed Repealing Health Care While Keeping Benefits for Members of Congress

In January 2011, Walsh voted against a motion that would not allow Congress to repeal the health reform bill without a majority of members of the House and Senate agreeing to forgo federal benefits themselves.

The motion to recommit instructed the repeal bill to be sent back to three committees and altered to require a majority of House and Senate members to give up federal health care benefits before repeal could take place.

“Congress should live by the same rule it imposes on everyone else,” said Rep. Robert Andrews. “There are serious consequences of this bill and we believe that repealing it is unfair and just plain wrong. It would even be more wrong for those who support the repeal to live by a different standard.” [[The Hill](#), [1/19/11](#)]

The bill failed, 185-245, without a two-thirds majority required for bills under suspension rules. [H.R. 2, [Vote #13](#), 1/19/11]

Refused Congressional Health Insurance

Following through on a campaign promise, Walsh refused to participate in the government-sponsored health insurance plan available to Members of Congress. He said, “I don’t think congressmen should get pensions or cushy healthcare plans.” [[thehill.com](#), [12/26/10](#)]

In 2011, Walsh reiterated that he will not take the congressional health care package given to lawmakers saying he didn’t want to "burden" Americans with his health bills, and he will purchase insurance on the individual market. He said, “My wife and I now are going to have to go through the struggles that a lot of

Americans go through, trying to find insurance in the individual market and having to deal with problems of preexisting conditions.” [The Hill, 1/04/11]

Wife Had Pre-Existing Condition Requiring a “Procedure”

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), Walsh’s wife had a pre-existing medical condition which he declined to disclose the specifics of except to say she would need to undergo a procedure. Walsh said, “It’s a procedure she’s going to have taken care of within the next couple months that we knew about during the campaign.”

Walsh admitted her condition made it more difficult to find insurance saying, “it will probably mean that my wife and I will be paying ourselves for what she’s going to have to go through.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/16/11]

Later Walsh told the [Chicago Tribune](#), the unidentified procedure cost was about \$30,000. [Chicago Tribune, 6/16/11]

Incorrectly Claimed Health Reform Made Finding Individual Insurance More Difficult

In January 2011, on Fox News, Walsh stated his mistaken belief that health reform had made the process of obtaining health insurance on the individual market more difficult. He said:

It’s terribly difficult. The whole issue of preexisting conditions is a difficult one. Obamacare will make that process, I think, entirely worse. There are other reforms. My wife and I are in this together, and we are going to have to and we’re in the process right now of setting out in the individual market to do what we need to do. [Fox News Network, Nexis Transcription, 1/06/11]

Health Reform Prevents Denying Coverage on Individual Market

In January 2011, the US Department of Health and Human Services released an analysis showing that, without the Affordable Care Act, up to 129 million Americans with a pre-existing condition would be at risk of losing health insurance or be denied coverage altogether.

According to HHS, “Prior to the Affordable Care Act, in the vast majority of states, insurance companies in the individual market could deny coverage, charge higher premiums, and/or limit benefits based on pre-existing conditions.” [Department of Health and Human Services, [1/18/11](#)]

Opposed Requiring Coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions

In January 2011, Walsh opposed prohibiting insurance companies from dropping coverage when people get sick.

According to the [Grayslake Review](#), during a town hall meeting a woman told Walsh she paid about \$1,200 a month for private health insurance but had a hard time getting insurance because of a pre-

existing condition. She asked if he would vote to repeal even popular aspects of the health care reform law, such the prohibition against insurance companies dropping coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Walsh responded that he believes excessive government regulations on industry are one of the main reasons for the high cost of health care. He said, "I don't want my government telling every insurance company in this country that you have to accept people (with) pre-existing conditions." [[Grayslake Review](#), 1/13/11]

Claimed to Support Expanded Access to Health Care

In August 2010, Walsh claimed to support expanded access to health care. He said, "There's not a Republican or Democrat who would tell you that expanding access is not a goal." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/15/10]

Believed Reform Would Only Reduce Uninsured from 15 Percent to 6-8 Percent

According to the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), "Walsh said he believes the reforms will only reduce the percentage of uninsured Americans from 15 percent to 6 to 8 percent while lowering the quality and cost-effectiveness of care."

He said, "This is a huge, expensive price to pay for that level of change." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/15/10]

Claimed Health Care Reform Made it Easier for Illegal Aliens to Obtain Coverage

In September 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh claimed health care reform made it easier for illegal aliens to receive health coverage. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/12/10]

Supported Re-Importing Prescription Drugs from Canada

In December 2010, Walsh expressed support for measures that would allow citizens to buy prescription drugs from Canada at discounted rates. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

Supported Tort Reform and Health Savings Accounts

In December 2010, at a town hall meeting, Walsh was challenged to present his alternative health care plan. He advocated tort reform, the use of health savings accounts, and the ability to buy insurance across state lines. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Claimed Eliminating Punitive Damages Would Lower Malpractice Insurance Costs

In a January 2010 candidate survey on health care reform, Walsh explained his support for tort reform saying:

Limiting jury awards to actual damages and eliminating outrageous punitive damages for pain and suffering will dramatically lower malpractice insurance

costs. An additional benefit will be the reduction in cost achieved by the elimination of unnecessary testing associated with defensive medicine. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/28/10]

Note: For a complete copy of Walsh's health care reform plan, please see the Appendix II –Letters to the Editor section of this book.

Supported Individual Tax Breaks for Purchasing Insurance

In August 2010, Walsh supported offering the same tax breaks to individuals who buy their own insurance as employers who purchase it for employees.

Supported Selling Insurance Across State Lines

In August 2010, Walsh supported allowing consumers to shop across state lines for health insurance. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 8/15/10]

Did Not Cast Vote on Whether to Disclose Accepting Federal Health Care Benefits

In January 2011, Walsh did not cast a vote on requiring disclosure for Members who were enrolling in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program.

The bill failed, 191-238. [H Res 5, [Vote #5](#), 1/05/11]

Note: This vote took place at 5:17 PM. Walsh voted for both Roll Call Vote #4 at 4:57 PM and Roll Call Vote #6 at 5:34 PM.

Voted Against Helping States Provide Health Insurance Exchanges

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill eliminating funding to help states set up insurance exchanges created by the 2010 healthcare reform law.

The bill repealed funds designed to help states set up the required insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010. This bill would have only removed the federal funding designated to help the states set up exchanges and would not have removed the mandate for the state insurance exchanges. [[The Hill](#), [5/03/11](#); [Politico](#), [5/03/11](#)]

The bill passed 238-183. [HR 1213, [Vote #285](#), 5/03/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which required insurance plans offered under the state insurance exchanges to disclose how much of an impact pre-existing conditions have had on premiums and policy denials.

The motion failed 190-231. [HR 1213, [Vote #284](#), 5/03/11]

Voted to Stop Construction of School-based Health Facilities

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which repealed funds allocated in the Affordable Care Act for the construction of school-based health facilities.

The bill would eliminate a \$50 million dollar per year program designed to build school-based health facilities which was created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010. This is one of a group of bills intended to repeal the Affordable Care Act one piece at a time rather than using a comprehensive bill. [[The Hill](#), [5/04/11](#); [The Hill](#); [5/08/11](#)]

Part of the funds for this program were dispensed on July 14, 2011. \$95 million was awarded to 278 school-based health center programs which could help them increase the number of patients annually they see from 790,000 to 123,000. [[HHS.gov](#), [7/14/11](#)]

The bill passed 235-191. [HR 1214, [Vote #290](#), 5/04/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which required the Department of Health and Human Services to compile and make public the list of applicants for school-based health center construction. The motion failed 180-230. A list of 278 schools who received funding on July 14, 2011 was published with a press release from Health and Human services. [HR 1214, [Vote #289](#), 5/04/11; [HHS.gov](#); [7/14/11](#)]

Walsh Said Repealing Health Care Reform Will Put Americans Back to Work

In January 2011, Walsh said he is opposed to “virtually the entire [health care] bill,” calling it a job-killer. He said, “Republicans very quietly and very seriously want to set about the task of putting Americans back to work. One of the first strong signals we can send is repealing Obamacare.” [[The Hill](#), 1/04/11]

Co-Sponsor of Bill to Eliminate 1099 Provision

In January 2011, Walsh signed onto Republican legislation to eliminate a provision of health care reform that required companies to file tax forms for any purchase or service transaction of \$600 or more. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/18/11]

Vowed Not to Rest until Health Care Was Repealed

During the 2011 CPAC conference, Walsh spoke on a panel titled “Repealing Obamacare” and promised to not rest until the health care law was repealed. Walsh added that he was “a tea party guy” and thus had a promise of repeal to fulfill. He said, “Nothing short of repeal is gonna satisfy this freshman class.” [[Washington Post](#), [The Fix Blog](#), 2/12/11]

Said His Vote Was Not Merely Symbolic

During the 2011 CPAC conference, Walsh said that his vote to repeal last year's health-care legislation was "not symbolic." [[Washington Post](#), [The Fix Blog](#), 2/12/11]

Promised to Shut Down Government If Health Care Was Not Repealed

At the CPAC conference in February 2011, Walsh said that GOP freshmen had no qualms about shutting down the government should health care reform not be repealed.

He said, “This is an unusual freshman class. Many of them feel like I do. We will do what we have to do, to shut down the government if we have to, to choke Obamacare if we have to. Look, we all came here for real serious reasons. We didn’t come here to get along. I think you’re going to see the Republican Party moving in that direction.” [YouTube, [2/17/11](#)]

Denying “Cushy Health Care Plans” and Federal Perks

In March 2011, Walsh said he is rejecting the “cushy health care plans” available to members of Congress as well as any federal pension and retirement benefit. [[Daily Herald](#), [3/29/11](#)]

Praised Unconstitutional Ruling of Individual Mandate

In August 2011, Walsh praised the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals’s decision that the individual mandate included in the Health Care Reform law, which requires almost all Americans to buy health insurance, is unconstitutional.

Walsh said, “The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision that Obamacare’s individual mandate is unconstitutional validates what I and millions of courageous Americans have been saying since this debate started.” [Barrington Courier Review, [8/12/11](#)]

Said Catholic Church Got “Taken” on Obamacare

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party meeting, Walsh said the Catholic Church loses “their way because they so much want to take care of their fellow man they think government has to do this. My Catholic church got taken on Obamacare” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Commended the “Two Page” Health Care Repeal Bill

In January 2011, Walsh said, “I commend the Republican leadership for simplifying this process by drafting a two-page, stand-alone bill for repeal.” [House Floor statements, 1/18/11]

Immigration and Border Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Deporting Illegal Immigrants*
- ✓ *Supported Arizona's SB 1070*
- ✓ *Opposed a Border Fence*
- ✓ *Opposed Amnesty, Pathway to Citizenship*
- ✓ *Opposed the DREAM Act*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Education for Children of Illegal Immigrants*

Walsh likes to use tough language to talk about illegal immigrants such as “they should be deported immediately no questions asked” and he supported Arizona’s controversial immigration law, SB 1070. In 1996 he opposed a ban on education for the children of illegal immigrants but in 2010 he opposed the DREAM Act. He opposed the construction of a border fence as well as amnesty.

Supported Deporting Illegal Immigrants

In September 2010, Walsh said a tough stance should be maintained even after borders were secured. He supported deporting illegal immigrants as soon as they came to the attention of law enforcement. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/12/10]

In May 2010, he said, “When it is ascertained that an illegal immigrant is here, they should be deported immediately no questions asked and not thrown into our penal system. We need to make it easier for our police and other agencies to do that.” [iCaucus Interview, 12:10, 5/07/10]

Supported Arizona’s SB 1070

In January 2011, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh supported “Arizona’s controversial immigration law.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/03/11]

Opposed Federal Government’s Suite Against Arizona Immigration Law SB 1070

In December 2010, referring to Arizona's attempt to enforce stricter immigration laws with its Senate Bill 1070, Walsh said, "I am ashamed at my federal government for suing one of my states for doing its duty." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

Opposed a Border Fence

In May 2010, Walsh opposed the construction of a border fence while supporting other measures to secure the United State's southern border. He said, "We need to secure our borders. I'm not a fence guy but we need to secure our borders. If we need troops down there, we need troops down there. We should be using drones. We should be using whatever technology we've got available to us to secure our borders." [iCaucus Interview, 11:40, 5/07/10]

Opposed the DREAM Act

In December 2010, Walsh said he would not support the DREAM Act. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

According to [Politico](#), the DREAM Act "would provide a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants brought to the country as children if they attend college or join the military for two years." [[Politico](#), 12/18/10]

1996: Supported Education for Children of Illegal Immigrants

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that while Walsh supported immigration reforms, he opposed a ban on education for the children of illegal immigrants. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/26/96]

Opposed Amnesty, Pathway to Citizenship

In May 2010, Walsh opposed granting amnesty to undocumented workers. He said, "This whole notion, Michael, of amnesty and pathway to citizenship, to me, is a non-starter." [iCaucus Interview, 12:50, 5/07/10]

Note: Walsh made this statement during an iCaucus interview. Michael was one of the interviewers.

Promised to Hold Businesses Accountable for Undocumented Workers

In December 2010, Walsh said his main goals for immigration were securing the border and holding businesses accountable for employing undocumented immigrants. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/15/10]

In May 2010, he said, "We need to hold businesses accountable for hiring illegals. We need to make it as easy for them as we can using things like e-verify but at the end of the day we need to hold business accountable." [iCaucus Interview, 12:10, 5/07/10]

Claimed Health Care Reform Made it Easier for Illegal Aliens to Obtain Coverage

In September 2010, the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Walsh claimed health care reform made it easier for illegal aliens to receive health coverage. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 9/12/10]

Said It's Not Mean-Spirited to Want to Secure Borders and Alleviate Burden of Illegal Immigrants

In April 2011, Walsh said, "Let me say we are the most compassionate country in the world. It should not be mean-spirited to say we need to secure our borders. (Illegal immigration) is a burden on our schools, healthcare and welfare systems." [Lake County News Sun, [4/25/11](#)]

Endorsed by Americans for Legal Immigration in 2010

In 2010, Americans for Legal Immigration (ALIPAC) endorsed Walsh. Walsh indicated on ALI's questionnaire that he supported Arizona's immigration law, opposed any form of amnesty or path to citizenship for illegal immigrants currently in the U.S., and supported heavy fines for employers who intentionally hire illegal aliens. He also signed ALIPAC's pledge. [[Americans for Legal Immigration](#), accessed 02/16/12]

Labor and Working Family Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Allowed Government Contracts with Companies Shipping Jobs Overseas*
- ✓ *Signed Americans for Tax Reform's Pledge*
- ✓ *Supported Free Trade with Colombia, Panama and Korea*
- ✓ *Opposed Extending Unemployment Benefits*
- ✓ *Opposed Employee Free Choice Act*

Walsh is not a friend of working families. During his first month in office he voted to allow government contracts with companies shipping American jobs overseas and supported free trade with Colombia, Panama and Korea. He opposed extending unemployment benefits and opposed the Employee Free Choice Act which would give unions the option to organize using signature petitions or elections.

Allowed Government Contracts with Companies Shipping American Jobs Overseas

In January 2011, Walsh voted for a motion that would not allow government spending on contracts with companies determined to have outsourced American jobs abroad.

The motion to recommit required the Rules Committee to report an amendment that would specify that, when the House Budget Committee chairman set a discretionary spending limit for the remainder of fiscal 2011, no spending would be allocated for a contract with a company the Labor secretary determined to have shipped jobs abroad. [CQ Today, 1/25/11]

The motion failed, 184-242. [H Res 38, [Vote #19](#), 1/25/11]

Voted for a Budget that Would Cost 1.7 Million Jobs

In 2011, Walsh voted for a budget that would cost 1.7 million jobs, including 900,000 jobs in 2012.

According to Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics, a former McCain economic advisor, the Republican budget proposal would result in 1.7 million fewer jobs, including 900,000 in the first year compared to the president's proposal. [Moody's Analytics, 4/14/11]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Claimed to Oppose Making It Easier for Companies to Ship Jobs Overseas

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, when asked about the impact of outsourcing jobs and trade policies on the economy, Walsh claimed to oppose the government assisting companies in outsourcing.

He said:

I never want my government to make it easier for companies to go abroad. I think the primary reason companies go abroad and don't stay here is the tax environment and regulatory environment right here. Just look at Illinois, if you were a company and could get out of Illinois you would. It's the same thing in America. [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 1:19:45, [3/24/11](#)]

Signed Americans for Tax Reform's Pledge Not to Eliminate Tax Deductions

Walsh signed the Americans for Tax Reform's *Taxpayer Protection Pledge*, stating that he opposed any net reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by further reducing tax rates. [[Americans for Tax Reform](#), accessed 1/24/11]

Obama Called for the Elimination of Tax Breaks for Companies that Create Jobs Overseas

On May 4, 2009, President Obama stated that his budget would end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. The President's proposal would accomplish this goal by stopping letting American companies that create jobs overseas to take deductions on their expenses when they do not pay any American taxes on their profits. [Obama Remarks, 5/04/09]

Supported Free Trade with Colombia, Panama and Korea

In April 2011, Walsh supported the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea. He said, "Each day, month, year that we don't pass them is costing small business men and women." [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 4/09/11]

Voted Against Protections from Unfair Chinese Currency Manipulation

In 2011, Walsh voted against a bipartisan effort to crack down on unfair Chinese currency manipulations that cost American jobs.

The motion would have added the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act to the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act. The motion would have allowed the U.S. government to impose tariffs on goods produced in countries that "fundamentally" undervalue their currencies. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/12/11]

According to the Economic Policy Institute, "If only China revalued [their currency] by 28.5%, the growth in U.S. GDP would support 1,631,000 U.S. jobs." That revaluation of the yuan/dollar exchange rate by China alone would increase U.S. GDP by \$207 billion dollars in 18 to 24 months. [Economic Policy Institute, [6/17/11](#)]

The motion failed 192-236. [HR 3078, [Vote #780](#), 10/12/11]

Voted to Implement the Colombia Trade Agreement

In 2011, Walsh voted to implement the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

The agreement “reduce[d] most tariffs and duties on goods traded between the two countries, reduce[d] barriers to trade in services, increase[d] protections for intellectual property and require[d] Colombia to take steps to strengthen its labor and environmental enforcement standards”. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/12/11]

Critics of the trade agreement said it failed to crack down on violence against union activists. [USA Today, 10/13/11]

The bill passed 262-167. [HR 3078, [Vote #781](#), 10/12/11]

Voted to Implement the Panama Trade Agreement

In 2011, Walsh voted to implement the Panama Trade Agreement.

The bill implemented the Panama Trade Agreement which “reduce[d] most tariffs and duties on goods traded between the two countries, reduce[d] barriers to trade in services, increase[d] protections for intellectual property and require[d] Panama to take steps to strengthen its labor and environmental enforcement standards”. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/12/11]

Critics of the trade agreement said it would take away legal tools used to fight tax evasion and money laundering. [USA Today, 10/13/11]

The bill passed 300-129. [HR 3079, [Vote #782](#), 10/12/11]

Voted to implement the South Korea Trade Agreement

In 2011, Walsh voted to implement the South Korea Trade Agreement.

The bill implemented the South Korea Trade Agreement which “reduce[d] most tariffs and duties on goods traded between the two countries, reduce[d] barriers to trade in services, increase[d] protections for intellectual property and reduce[d] tariffs on U.S. autos exported to South Korea”. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/12/11]

Critics of the trade agreement said there were no guarantees the deal with South Korea would boost U.S. auto exports. [USA Today, 10/13/11]

The bill passed 278-151. [HR 3080, [Vote #783](#), 10/12/11]

Voted Against Extending Trade Adjustment Assistance

In 2011, Walsh voted against extending Trade Adjustment Assistance that provides retraining to workers and others who lost their jobs due to unfair trade practices.

According to the Indianapolis Star, qualified workers are “eligible for college tuition payments, relocation benefits and health insurance tax credits not available to other unemployed workers. And they have a longer eligibility period for unemployment benefits.” [Indianapolis Star, 10/13/11]

The motion to concur passed 307-122. [HR 2832, [Vote #784](#), 10/12/11]

Voted against protecting TRICARE Subcontractor Employees under Labor Protection Laws

In 2011, Walsh voted against protecting TRICARE subcontractors and defense contractor employees under labor protection laws.

The motion would have struck a provision in the conference report that exempted TRICARE network providers from labor protection laws. According to a press release from the author of the motion, “By striking this section, the motion would guarantee that employees of TRICARE subcontractors and other defense contractors are afforded labor protections for civil rights, disabilities, and veterans.” [CQ Floor Votes, 12/14/11; Rep. Sanford Bishop Press Release, 12/14/11]

The motion failed 183-234. [HR 1540, [Vote #931](#), 12/14/11]

Opposed Extending Unemployment Benefits

In November 2010, Walsh opposed extending unemployment benefits. The Chicago Daily Herald reported that he preferred “to fix the 8th District’s 11 percent unemployment rate by eliminating tax uncertainty for small business owners.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 11/18/10]

Voted to Reduce the Maximum Unemployment Benefits from 99 Weeks to 59 Weeks

In 2011, Walsh voted to reduce the maximum duration of unemployment benefits from 99 weeks to 59 weeks.

The bill which covered a number of different subjects limited the maximum duration of unemployment benefits from 99 weeks to 59 weeks. [CQ Floor Vote, 12/13/11]

The bill passed 234-193. [HR 3630, [Vote #923](#), 12/13/11]

Opposed Employee Free Choice Act

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that included “voting down the undemocratic card-check legislation” as one of the ways he would “support Illinois manufactures.” [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

The Employee Free Choice Act would give workers the option of forming unions by getting a majority of workers to sign cards to join without having to hold an election. Current law leaves it up to employers to decide whether workers must hold an election or can organize via “card check.” The legislation also mandates that a government arbitrator intervene and set terms if employers and workers cannot reach a contract within 120 days. [Washington Post, [3/10/09](#)]

Voted to Change Union-Representation Ballot Counting Rules

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which changed the union-representation ballots rules for rail and airline employees.

The legislation would have reduced the overall funding for the FAA by \$4 billion dollars and contained an anti-union rule which changed the way union-representation ballots are counted for companies governed by the Railway Labor Act, which includes rail and airlines. [CRS Report, [R41666](#), 3/3/11; CQ BillAnalysis, [6/7/11](#)]

The bill passed 223-196. [HR 658, [Vote #220](#), 3/29/11]

Voted to Protect Companies Retaliating Against Workers Trying to Unionize

In 2011, Walsh voted to prevent the National Labor Relations Board from “ordering any employer to close, relocate or transfer employment under any circumstances.”

The bill would have prohibited the National Labor Relations Board from taking action against companies that it felt were retaliating against workers for forming a union, striking, or exercising any of their other federally protected rights. These actions include “ordering a company to reinstate production or make certain investments, at a given location” or “blocking a firm’s decision to relocate” and would apply to all decisions that had not been finalized prior to the passage of the legislation. [[New York Times](#), 9/15/11; CQ Floor Votes, 9/15/11]

The bill passed 238-186. [HR 2587, [Vote #711](#), 9/15/11]

...And to Allow Them to Outsource American Jobs

Walsh even voted against a motion which would have ensured that the National Labor Relations Board retained the “authority to order a company to maintain or restore jobs that have been or will be outsourced to a foreign country in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.” [CQ Floor Votes, 9/15/11]

The motion failed 189-235. [HR 2587, [Vote #710](#), 9/15/11]

Voted Against Prioritizing American Inventors

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which moved patents to be developed and produced in America to the front of the approval line.

The motion would have required the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to prioritize patents which pledge to develop or manufacture their products in the United States. The motion would also deny this prioritization to nationals of countries that deny adequate and effective protection for patent rights or fair and equitable access for persons that rely on patent protection. [CQ Floor Votes, [6/23/11](#)]

The motion failed 172-251. [HR 1249, [Vote #490](#), 6/23/11]

Voted to Cut \$604 Million from the Women, Infants and Children Program

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment which would have cut \$604 million dollars, or 10 percent, of the budget from the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC).

The amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations legislation reduced the WIC account by 10 percent and transferred the funds to a spending reduction account. [Congressional Record, [6/15/11](#); [The Hill](#), [6/15/11](#)]

The amendment failed 64-360. [HR 2112, [Vote #430](#), 6/15/11]

Voted to Cut \$127 Billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which would cut \$127 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Republican budget proposed cutting \$127 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) and changing the program to a block grant to the states which would be set and indexed to inflation starting in 2015. It also would have made “aid contingent on work or job training.” [The Path to Prosperity, p. 41, accessed [10/6/11](#); [The Washington Post](#), 5/5/11; [The Hill](#), 4/7/11]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Voted Against Increased Funding for Economic Development Assistance

In 2011, Walsh voted against increased funding for economic development assistance programs in the Economic Development Administration of the Commerce Department by \$80 million. Equal funding would be taken from funds for the periodic census at the Census Bureau.

According to Michaud, from 2004 to 2008, the EDA-funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs nationwide. [Michaud press release, 2/16/11]

The amendment was adopted, 305-127. [HR 1, Michaud amendment #153, [Vote #50](#), 2/16/11]

Voted to Delay, Make Union Formation More Difficult

In 2011, Walsh voted to institute mandatory waiting periods into the voting process for workers to form a union.

The bill would delay votes on forming a union until at least 35 days after a successful pre-election hearing, which would happen at least 14 days after certifying a unionization petition. [Associated Press Financial Wire, 11/30/11; CQ Floor Votes, 11/30/11]

The bill passed 235-188. [HR 3094, [Vote #869](#), 11/30/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion that required unionization elections to happen within the same period as required to elect a new CEO, under the laws of the individual state. The motion also prohibited mandatory attendance meetings campaigning for or against unionization. [Congressional Record, H7984, 11/30/11; CQ Floor Votes, 11/30/11]

The motion failed 185-239. [HR 3094, [Vote #868](#) 11/30/11]

Claimed Federal Workers Fired because of RSC Budget would Find Work in Private Sector

In a January 2011 interview on MSNBC, Walsh defended the Republican Study Committee's budget proposal that included \$2.5 billion in cuts and a 15 percent reduction in the civil service workforce. When asked where the federal workers who would lose their jobs would work, Walsh claimed the private sector would hire them.

From MSNBC:

MSNBC: What would you do for thousands and thousands of government employees that will lose their jobs if you get your way?

WALSH: They will embark in the private sector and because of Republican policies it will be a booming, growing private sector, which is where we all want the jobs to be, and that's where they'll find employment. [MSNBC, 1/24/11]

Walsh: Should Explore Taxing Union Pension Funds

In April 2011, the New York Times reported that during a town hall meeting, a man suggested heavily taxing the profits of pension funds. Walsh "smilingly responded," "Interesting, should be explored." [New York Times, [4/14/11](#)]

Supported Exporting Illinois Manufactured Goods

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that included "opening foreign markets to Illinois' manufactured goods" as one of the ways he would "support Illinois manufactures." [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Claimed Opponent Supported Outsourcing Illinois Jobs

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that accused his opponent of supporting the outsourcing of Illinois jobs. The release read:

Both Melissa Bean and Joe Walsh support manufacturing. The difference is that Melissa Bean supports moving Illinois manufacturers to India, China, Mexico and Brazil. By contrast, Joe Walsh knows we can keep Illinois manufacturers here and attract new ones to the transportation hub of the Midwest by providing the tax and regulatory relief that allows manufacturing to be the engine that powers Illinois' economic recovery. [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Said Those Losing Jobs Will “Understand”

In January 2011, after the Republican Study Committee unveiled the “Spending Reduction Act of 2011” that extended a pay freeze on federal employees for an additional three years, cut the civil service by 15 percent through attrition over a decade, and prohibit federal workers from serving as union officials on government time, Walsh said, "I've got to believe that even public workers understand the looming crisis. Private companies do this all the time. The public sector will have to go down the same road everybody needs to go down." [Washington Post, 1/21/11]

Claimed to Oppose Making It Easier for Companies to Ship Jobs Overseas

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, when asked about the impact of outsourcing jobs and trade policies on the economy, Walsh claimed to oppose the government assisting companies in outsourcing. He said:

I never want my government to make it easier for companies to go abroad. I think the primary reason companies go abroad and don't stay here is the tax environment and regulatory environment right here. Just look at Illinois, if you were a company and could get out of Illinois you would. It's the same thing in America. [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 1:19:45, [3/24/11](#)]

Allowed Government Contracts with Companies Shipping American Jobs Overseas

In January 2011, Walsh voted for a motion that would not allow government spending on contracts with companies determined to have outsourced American jobs abroad.

The motion to recommit required the Rules Committee to report an amendment that would specify that, when the House Budget Committee chairman set a discretionary spending limit for the remainder of fiscal 2011, no spending would be allocated for a contract with a company the Labor secretary determined to have shipped jobs abroad. [CQ Today, 1/25/11]

The motion failed, 184-242. [H Res 38, [Vote #19](#), 1/25/11]

Legal Reform Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Tort Reform*
- ✓ *Co-Sponsored Constitutional Amendment to Allow States to Repeal Federal Laws*

Walsh has supported tort reform multiple times saying it would “bring an end to costly, frivolous lawsuits.” He also co-sponsored a Constitutional Amendment that would allow states to repeal federal laws if two-thirds agreed.

Supported Tort Reform

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that included “fighting for civil justice reforms that bring an end to costly, frivolous lawsuits” as one of the ways he would “support Illinois manufactures.” [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Supported Tort Reform and Health Savings Accounts

In December 2010, at a town hall meeting, Walsh was challenged to present his alternative health care plan. He advocated tort reform, the use of health savings accounts, and the ability to buy insurance across state lines. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Co-Sponsored Constitutional Amendment to Allow States to Repeal Federal Laws

In May 2011, Walsh co-sponsored the Repeal Amendment that would “amend the U.S. Constitution to provide states with the authority to repeal any federal law or regulation if two-thirds of the States are in agreement.” [Rep. Rob Bishop Official Press Release via States News Service, 5/12/11]

Other Social Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Admitted Constituents Disagreed with Social Views*
- ✓ *1996: Opposed Prayer in Public Schools*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Funding the National Endowment for the Arts*
- ✓ *1996: Supported Federal “Safety Net”*

In 2011, Walsh admitted that his views on social issues did not match those of his constituents but claimed the country was currently more concerned with fiscal issues. During his 1996 campaign for Congress, Walsh portrayed himself as liberal on social issues. He opposed prayer in public schools, supported the National Endowment for the Arts, and even a federal “safety net.”

Led Effort to Allow Members to Include Religious Messages on Holiday Cards

In December 2011, Walsh “was a key player in helping to overturn a policy preventing members of Congress from sending Christmas or Hanukkah wishes with tax dollars.” Walsh said, “It’s either an anti-religious bent or there’s (some) real worrying about political correctness, and that’s just crazy.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/24/11]

Claimed to Celebrate both Christmas and Hannukah

In December 2011, Walsh claimed he, his wife, and their five children celebrated both Christmas and Hannukah. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/24/11]

Admitted Constituents Disagreed with Social Views

In March 2011, Walsh admitted that his views on social issues did not match those of his constituents. He told the [Chicago Daily Herald](#), “I have no doubt most of the district is with me on the fiscal stuff. Is most of the district with me on some the social stuff? Probably not, but those aren’t the issues (right now). This thing has overtaken the normal Republican/Democrat stuff that they argue about.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 3/29/11]

1996: Opposed Prayer in Public Schools

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Walsh was “against prayer in public schools.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 10/26/96]

1996: Supported Funding the National Endowment for the Arts

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the Chicago Tribune reported that Walsh saw “merit in Yates’ [his opponent’s] view that government has a role in the arts.” [Chicago Tribune, 9/26/96]

Yates was “One of the Best Friends the Arts Community Ever Had”

In 2000, the Chicago Sun-Times described Congressman Sidney Yates as “without a doubt one of the best friends the arts community ever had.” The paper described Yates’ regular efforts over his nearly 50 years in Congress to protect the National Endowment for the Arts. According to the Sun-Times, “Without Yates’ support, government funding for theater, music, dance and visual arts might have vanished.” [Chicago Sun-Times, 10/10/00]

1996: Supported Federal “Safety Net”

During his 1996 campaign for Congress, the Chicago Tribune reported that Walsh said he would have voted for the welfare reform bill but saw a lack of a federal “safety net” as a problem. [Chicago Tribune, 9/26/96]

Voted to Cut Legal Services Funding for Poor

In 2011, Walsh voted to strike all funding, or an additional \$324.4 million, for the Legal Services Corporation. The program provides funding for essential legal services to almost \$60 million Americans living below 125 percent of the poverty level.

Republicans had earlier proposed an 18 percent cut for the program, or some \$75 million in the \$420 million annual budget of the LSC. Gene Nichol, professor of law at UNC-Chapel Hill, noted that studies had shown how for decades millions of poor and near poor Americans had been “effectively priced out of the civil justice system.” [Charlotte News & Observer, Nichol op-ed, 2/28/11]

The amendment failed, 171-259. [HR 1, Duncan amendment #110, Vote #54, [2/16/11](#)]

Voted to Cut Community Service Block Grants by \$100 Million

In 2011, Walsh voted to cut Community Service Block Grant programs by \$100 million.

The amendment was rejected, 115-316. [HR 1, Flake amendment #457, [Vote #72](#), 2/17/11]

Received “A+” from Americans for Prosperity

Walsh was one of 39 House members to receive a perfect score of “A+” from Americans for Prosperity on its 2011 annual congressional key vote scorecard. The votes scored by AFP included repealing “Obamacare,” preventing the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases, and Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan’s 2011 budget plan. [NBC Chicago, [1/11/12](#)]

Family Research Council Called Walsh a “True Blue” Member

In November 2011, the Family Research Council Action committee named Walsh a “True Blue” member of Congress for “unwavering support of the family.” Walsh said, “I am proud and honored to be recognized by the Family Research Council as the only member from Illinois with a 100 percent pro-family voting record.”

The Chicago Sun-Times noted the irony of Walsh being honored by a “family group” while owing more than \$100,000 in back child support. [Chicago Sun-Times, 11/04/11]

Claimed Religious Beliefs of Founders “Dictated” Their Actions

In March 2012, Walsh told a town hall that the religious beliefs of the founders dictated their actions. Walsh said “This is a country built by God-fearing men who intended... their belief in an almighty, their belief in inalienable rights that came from somewhere, that we didn’t want our government to trample on, dictated a lot of what they did.” [BaarsWestSide.com, [3/06/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Said He “May Not” Represent Atheist Voters

In March 2012, when asked how he would represent atheist voters in the district, Walsh responded, “I may not.” He qualified his statement by highlighting the diversity of the district. “We have all kinds of people in this district... so I have very little room to veer... If enough of a certain type of people are unhappy with me I won’t win re-election.” [BaarsWestSide.com, [3/06/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Supported “In God We Trust” Motto

In March 2012, Walsh told a town hall that he supported the use of “In God We Trust” as a government motto. He said “‘In God we trust,’ that’s fairly acceptable language which we’ve used for a while; I want my government to continue using it.” [BaarsWestSide.com, [3/06/12](#)]

Note: This video is saved to the drive.

Voted to Cut \$30 Billion from Farm Spending over 10 years

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which would cut \$30 billion from farm spending over 10 years.

The Republican budget proposed cutting “farm spending by \$30 billion over 10 years.” These cuts would come from “a reduction in the \$5 billion-a-year in ‘direct payments’” and from reforming “the open-ended nature of the government’s support for crop insurance” this “would equal 20 percent of the projected spending on them, according to Congressional Budget Office figures”. [Reuters, [4/05/11](#)]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Senior Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted for Ryan Budget... Said it did not Go Far Enough*
- ✓ *Voted Against Protecting Social Security and Medicare Benefits from Privatization*
- ✓ *Supported Immediately Raising the Retirement Age to Reduce Budget Deficits*
- ✓ *Proposed Taxing Wealthy Seniors to Balance Budget*
- ✓ *Compared Medicare and Social Security to Ponzi Schemes*

Walsh is out to get seniors. He voted for Representative Paul Ryan's plan that ends Medicare, reinstates the "donut hole" for prescription drug coverage, and will almost double the cost of senior's healthcare. He voted against protecting Social Security and Medicare benefits from privatization, even comparing them to Ponzi schemes. He supported immediately raising the Social Security retirement age and taxing wealthy seniors in order to balance budget.

Voted for Ryan Budget

In April 2011, Walsh voted for Representative Paul Ryan's budget for Fiscal Year 2012 saying, "I fully support the Path to Prosperity budget." He claimed Ryan's budget "reduces spending and eliminates barriers to economic growth, which will create one million jobs in the first year. It puts in place policies that create an environment that fosters long term economic growth, resulting in getting more Americans back to work." [Walsh Press Release via States News Service, 4/15/11]

Said Ryan Did Not Go Far Enough

In April 2011, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that Walsh said Ryan's "Path to Prosperity" did not go far enough. He believed that Social Security should have been addressed in addition to the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid detailed in the plan. He also supported cuts for those over 55 years of age, which Ryan's plan avoided, in order to balance the budget more quickly. [blogs.dailyherald.com, [4/26/11](#)]

Budget Ends Medicare

According to the Wall Street Journal, “The plan would essentially end Medicare, which now pays most of the health-care bills for 48 million elderly and disabled Americans, as a program that directly pays those bills.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/04/11](#)]

Brought Back “Donut Hole” Coverage Gap for Prescription Drugs

According to the Associated Press, “The coverage gap in the Medicare prescription drug benefit would be brought back. Obama’s health care law gradually eliminates the so-called doughnut hole. Ryan’s plan repeals that provision, the budget office analysis said.” [Associated Press, [4/06/11](#)]

CBO: GOP Budget Raises Health Costs for Retirees

The Associated Press reported that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, “Most future retirees would pay more for health care under a new House Republican budget proposal.” This is due to the private Medicare plans which have higher administrative cost and the federal contribution would grow more slowly than health care cost inflation, leaving a bigger gap for beneficiaries to pay. [Associated Press, [4/06/11](#)]

Republican Budget Chairman Paul Ryan agreed that his plan for Medicare would shift more of the burden of health care costs out of their own pockets to seniors. [Fox News Sunday, [4/03/11](#)]

GOP Budget Would Almost Double Healthcare Costs for Seniors

The Los Angeles Times reported Ryan’s “proposal to privatize Medicare would mean a dramatic hike in U.S. healthcare costs for the elderly, an independent analysis finds. Seniors would pay almost double — more than \$12,510 a year.” [Los Angeles Times, [4/07/11](#)]

Impact of the Republican Budget on Medicare

According to the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ryan’s budget affected Congressman Walsh’s district in the following ways:

- Increase prescription drug costs for 7,700 Medicare beneficiaries in the district who enter the Part D donut hole, forcing them to pay an extra \$76 million for drugs over the next decade.
- Eliminate new preventive care benefits for 78,000 Medicare beneficiaries in the district.
- Deny 580,000 individuals age 54 and younger in the district access to Medicare’s guaranteed benefits.
- Increase the out-of-pocket costs of health coverage by over \$6,000 per year in 2022 and by almost \$12,000 per year in 2032 for the 128,000 individuals in the district who are between the ages of 44 and 54.
- Require the 128,000 individuals in the district between the ages of 44 and 54 to save an additional \$29.9 billion for their retirement – an average of \$182,000 to \$287,000 per individual – to pay for the increased cost of health coverage over their lifetimes. Younger residents of the district will have to save even higher amounts to cover their additional medical costs.

- Raise the Medicare eligibility age by at least one year to age 66 or more for 74,000 individuals in the district who are age 44 to 49 and by two years to age 67 for 453,000 individuals in the district who are age 43 or younger. [Committee on Energy and Commerce, [June 2011](#)]

Walsh: Medicare Should Only be for Those Who Cannot Get Health Care Elsewhere

In September 2011, Walsh told Mundelein High School students that Medicare should be used only as a “safety net” for those who cannot get health care anywhere else.

Walsh believed those who were affluent should pay more for medical care citing as an example his parents, who live in a “fancy retirement home in Barrington.” He said, “We have got to begin to pay for and be more responsible for our own health care costs.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 9/07/11]

Voted Against Protecting Social Security and Medicare Benefits from Privatization

In March 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have prohibited continuing appropriations funds for fiscal year 2011 for being used in developing or implementing a system that cuts Social Security benefits or that privatizes Social Security.

The amendment also prohibited funds from being used to develop or implement a system that cuts Medicare benefits, eliminates guaranteed health coverage for seniors or establishes a Medicare voucher plan that limits payments to beneficiaries in order to purchase health care in the private sector.

The motion failed, 190-239. [HJR 48, [Vote #178](#), 2/15/11]

Voted Against Protecting Seniors from Abusive, Deceptive, or Unfair Practices

In 2011, Walsh voted against ensuring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would retain its ability to protect seniors from abusive, deceptive, or unfair practices.

The motion failed 183-232. [HR 1315, [Vote #620](#), 7/21/11; CQ Floor Votes, 7/21/11]

Supported Immediately Raising the Retirement Age to Reduce Budget Deficits

In February 2011, when talking about how to cut the federal budget deficit, Walsh said, “Raise the retirement age now.” However, he did not say to what age. [[Northwest Herald](#), [2/25/11](#)]

Reiterated Support for Raising Retirement Age and Means-Testing

At a town hall meeting in March 2011, Walsh reiterated his support for raising the retirement age and means-testing senior. He said, “We’ve got to do things every politician is afraid to say. [Whispering] Raise the retirement age, means testing maybe for welfare retirees. Allow my generation and my kid’s generation to begin privately to save for their own retirement.” [Walsh Statement, Town Hall Meeting, Grayslake, IL, 39:40, [3/24/11](#)]

Proposed Taxing Wealthy Seniors to Balance Budget

In February 2011, the Northwest Herald reported that Walsh “suggested that it might be necessary to ‘tax wealthier seniors’ as a means of finding a way to a balanced budget.” [Northwest Herald, [2/25/11](#)]

Compared Medicare and Social Security to Ponzi Schemes

In January 2010, according to the Chicago Daily Herald, Walsh called Medicare and Social Security “well-loved but ill-conceived programs” and compared them to Ponzi schemes. [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/21/09]

Walsh: It is About Personal Responsibility

Walsh told the Chicago Daily Herald that people should have to set aside portions of their own incomes for retirement and health care. He said, “Only when individuals have some responsibility for their own well-being will we be able to get a handle on skyrocketing costs.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/21/09]

Accused President Obama of “Lying” About Social Security

In July 2011, during a debate about raising the national debt limit, Walsh posted a YouTube video that accused President Obama of “lying” about the impact of not raising the national debt ceiling and asked, “Have you no shame, sir?” Walsh claimed there was “plenty of money” to pay debts and cover Social Security even if the limit was not raised. [Associated Press, 7/14/11]

Voted to Make Benefits for Seniors and Veterans Harder to Get

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would make it harder for low-income veterans and Social Security recipients to retain counsel in a civil action against the United States, like when fighting for benefits.

The Lummis amendment imposed a seven-month moratorium on all legal fees paid under the Equal Access to Justice Act, a Reagan-era law designed to help people afford an attorney while suing the government.

“We’re in the middle of two wars right now and to make it harder for a veteran — fighting for his benefits — to have an attorney is a horrible thing. That’s not what this country is about,” Robert Chishold, a prominent veterans’ law attorney said. [Politico, 2/23/11]

The amendment passed, 232-197. [HR 1, Lummis amendment #195, Vote #85, [2/17/11](#)]

Named Reforming Entitlements as One of Top Three Priorities in Congress

In January 2010, Walsh said reforming entitlements would be one of his top three priorities in Congress. From the Chicago Daily Herald:

Reform Entitlements

Entitlement reform. Medicare and Social Security are both well-loved but ill-conceived programs. As our population ages and retirees live longer, beneficiaries are putting increased strains on those paying into the system far beyond any-thing that was originally anticipated.

The unfunded liabilities of both programs dwarf the official national debt, and unless some changes are made, these programs will soon gobble up our country's capacity to spend on anything else.

The problem, of course, is that special interest groups have prevented any meaningful reform of either of these pro-grams and both parties pillory political opponents who even propose any changes. I'll try to avoid that trap here.

These issues can only be solved when members of both parties recognize the magnitude of the problem and agree to work in a bipartisan way to address them. I think that time is near, but events playing out in Congress demonstrate that we are not there yet. The President's health care proposals effectively perpetuate the Ponzi scheme-like character that epitomizes both Social Security and Medicare.

Ultimately, the answer will require some mechanism for individuals to set aside a portion of their own income for their own retirement and health care. Only when individuals have some responsibility for their own well-being will we be able to get a handle on skyrocketing costs.

In the meantime, we must guarantee benefits to those already in these programs or nearing retirement. Eventually, younger workers will need a new program to replace these existing entitlements. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/15/10]

Note: For the complete list of Walsh's top three priorities please see the Appendix II – Letters to the Editor section on this book

Wanted More Changes to Social Security in Republican Budget

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said he did not like parts of the Republican budget. He said, "It doesn't balance the budget for 30 years. Which is too long...it stays away from social security." He accused the opposition of not releasing a plan and instead, "They are on their backsides trying to score political points." [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Wanted to See a Means Testing of Social Security

In February 2011, Walsh said he would like to reform Social Security by subjecting the program to a means testing – determining whether individuals are eligible for government aid based on their income. He said this could include cutting back or taxing some benefits for wealthier seniors. [Northwest Herald, [2/26/11](#)]

Wanted to Allow Working Age Adults to Opt Out of Social Security

In February 2011, Walsh called on Democrats to support the creation of an option for working-age adults to opt out of Social Security and instead save for retirement on their own.

He blamed Obama for not addressing Social Security, saying, “We will take the political shot because the president won’t touch it. And shame on him.” [Northwest Herald, [2/26/11](#)]

Walsh: “Raise Retirement Age Now.”

In February 2011, Walsh said he supports raising the retirement age effective immediately as a solution to the federal budget woes. Although he did not specify what age, he said, “Raise the retirement age now.” [Northwest Herald, [2/27/11](#)]

Supported Taxing Wealthy Seniors

Walsh also said a solution to the deep federal debt is to “tax wealthier seniors.” He added, “Life’s short. I’m not afraid to say it.” [Northwest Herald, [2/27/11](#)]

Wanted to Cuts to Social Security and for Those 55 and Older on Medicare

In April 2011, Walsh said Ryan’s “Path to Prosperity” did not go far enough in its cuts to programs. He said Social Security should also have been addressed as well as cuts made to those 55 and older so that the budget may be balanced more quickly. [Daily Herald, [4/26/11](#)]

Disappointed when Medicare Overhaul Was Rumored to Be Removed from the 2012 Republican Budget

In May 2011, after talks of perhaps not pursuing a Medicare overhaul, Walsh expressed his disappointment.

“I would be very disappointed if we didn’t follow through. I appreciate the chairman’s notion, but I would continue to respectfully challenge him to get this thing through committee.” [Newser, [5/05/11](#)]

Honored by Retire Safe

In January 2012, Retire Safe, an organization committed to protecting seniors, honored Walsh for his efforts to protect the health benefits and security of Illinois’ seniors and disabled. [[Lake County News-Sun, 01/29/12](#)]

Tax Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported Flat Tax*
- ✓ *Supported Making Bush Tax Cuts Permanent*
- ✓ *Opposed Buffett Rule to Ensure Millionaires Paid Fair Share*
- ✓ *Supported Ending Estate Tax & Capital Gains Tax*
- ✓ *Supported 50% Reduction in Corporate Taxes*
- ✓ *Claimed that Tax Cuts would Increase Government Revenues, Called “False”*

Walsh supported the flat tax which lowers tax rates for the wealthy while increasing taxes for everyone else. He has repeatedly supported extending and making permanent President Bush’s tax cuts that added over \$1 trillion to the federal deficit and caused the financial crisis. He also supports eliminating the estate tax and the capital gains tax as well as cutting the corporate tax in half. Over and over again Walsh has claimed cutting taxes increases government revenue, a statement that Politifact.com rated as “False.”

Voted to Reduce Taxes on Top Earners and Corporations by 10 percent

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which reduced the tax rate for top individual earners and corporations.

According to the Washington Post, “On taxes, Ryan’s budget would consolidate brackets and lower tax rates; the top individual and corporate rates would drop to 25 percent.” [Washington Post, 4/05/11]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Voted to Make the Bush Tax Cuts Permanent

In 2011, Walsh voted for a Republican budget which assumed the Bush tax cuts would be made permanent.

According to the “Path to Prosperity,” the title given to the FY2012 budget written by Representative Budget Chairman Paul Ryan:

This budget starts with the proposition that first, Congress must do no harm. It assumes that Congress will not allow massive, across-the-board tax increases to hit the economy in 2013, when current law calls for the tax cuts that were enacted in 2001 and 2003 to expire. [Path to Prosperity, page 52, 4/05/11]

The bill passed 235-193. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #277](#), 4/15/11]

Supported Flat Tax

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked about “the outlook for a simplified tax system.” He responded, “We need to simplify the code because the code is a mess. I’m a fan of the flat tax.” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/20/11](#)]

Flat Tax Would Shift Burden from Rich to Non Rich

According to a report by the Economic Policy Institute, lower tax rates for the wealthy under a flat tax will have to be financed by some combination of higher taxes on the middle class and larger budget deficits.

A flat tax that raises the same revenues as our current tax code would shift a significant portion of the tax burden from the rich to average workers.

According to Citizens for Tax Justice, under a flat tax, the fortunate few with incomes above \$200,000 will see their taxes fall by an average of \$53,940. [[Falling Flat: The Dubious Case for a Flat Tax](#), Economic Policy Institute, 1/17/96]

Supported Making Bush Tax Cuts Permanent

In April 2010, Walsh issued a press release that included “working to make permanent the elimination of the federal estate tax and the 2001 and 2003 personal income tax cuts” as one of the ways he would “support Illinois manufactures.” [Illinois Republican Party Press Release via States News Service, 4/21/10]

Supported Extending Bush Tax Cuts

In November 2010, according to the [Chicago Sun Times](#), “Walsh expressed support for extending the Bush tax cuts...” [[Chicago Sun Times](#), 11/04/10]

Voted Against Repealing the Bush Tax Cuts

In 2011, Walsh voted against legislation which eliminated the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts for those making more than \$250,000 a year.

The legislation allowed the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts to expire and maintained funding for low-income heating assistance and Community Development Block Grants and increased funding for food stamps and infrastructure. [CQ Floor Votes, [4/15/11](#); [The Hill](#), 4/13/11]

The bill failed 166-259. [H Con Res 34, [Vote #276](#), 4/15/11]

Bush Tax Cuts Added Over \$1 Trillion to Deficit

According to Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman, the Bush Tax Cuts added \$1.35 trillion to the deficit. [[New York Times](#), 7/27/09]

Taxes Dropped Most Sharply for Richest Americans Under Bush Tax Cuts

Families earning more than \$1 million a year saw their federal tax rates drop more sharply than any group in the country as a result of President Bush's tax cuts, according to a Congressional study.

The study, by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, also shows that tax rates for middle-income earners edged up in 2004, the most recent year for which data was available, while rates for people at the very top continued to decline. [[New York Times](#), 1/08/07]

Bush Tax Cuts Caused the Housing Crisis

According a 2008 article by Rutgers Professor of History James Livingston, the Bush tax cuts are directly to blame for the current housing crisis. He argues that the tax cuts, which primarily benefited the wealthy, caused a 'liquidity-driven' speculative bull market.

He wrote:

Our questions should then be, why did this huge investment in subprime mortgages take place, and why should dismal forecasts on the housing/mortgage market affect all others? The short answer to the first question is George W. Bush's tax cuts—and this answer should give the Democratic candidates another reason to repeal them.

The augmented income provided by the Bush tax cuts gave investment bankers for the wealthy an incentive to make riskier investments, such as sub-prime mortgages. [[GMU History News Network](#), 8/20/07]

USA Today Editorial: Bush Tax Cuts Should Expire to Prevent Growing Financial, Fiscal Crisis

In 2008, USA Today's editorial board wrote that the Bush tax cuts were at least part to blame for the nation's fiscal problems and that their repeal would be critical funding the measures necessary to prevent a larger financial crisis.

They wrote:

In opposing the extension of all these tax cuts, we do not mean to suggest that this nation can rely solely on tax hikes to bring the budget into control. Overspending is a bigger problem than undertaxation.

But the Bush tax cuts have aggravated the nation's fiscal problems. And, to be realistic and blunt, if the country is to avoid a financial crisis much bigger than today's appears to be, it will need both painful curbs in benefit programs and hikes in taxes. [[USA Today](#), 6/9/08]

Corporations Benefitted From Bush Tax Policies

According to a report released by Citizens for Tax Justice and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, eighty-two of America's largest and most profitable corporations paid no federal income tax in at least one year during the first three years of the George W. Bush administration, a period when federal corporate tax collections fell to their lowest sustained level in six decades.

The report claimed that was due in part due to a major expansion in corporate tax breaks in 2002 and 2003, along with Congress and the White House's position against curbing corporate offshore tax sheltering. [Citizens for Tax Justice release, 9/22/04]

Sponsored Bill to Index Capital Gains Tax to Inflation

In October 2011, Walsh sponsored the Capital Gains Inflation Relief Act of 2011 which would index the capital gains tax to inflation. According to FreedomWorks, a supporter of the bill, "Let's assume an individual purchased stock in a company in 1990 for \$100 a share and sold it in 2011 at \$173 a share. The individual had no wealth accretion since the increase in price was solely a result of inflation."

[FreedomWorks Press Release, 10/04/11]

Voted Against Penalizing Contractors Delinquent on Federal Taxes

In 2011, Walsh voted against penalizing contractors who were delinquent on federal taxes.

The motion would have struck the language from the underlying bill and would have repealed the three percent withholding requirement for contractors on certain payments by government entities, except those who were delinquent on their federal taxes. [CQ Floor Votes, 10/27/11]

The bill failed 183-235. [HR 674, [Vote #814](#), 10/27/11]

Voted Against 3.6 Percent Surtax on Incomes over \$1 Million

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which would have imposed a 3.6 percent surtax on incomes over \$1 million.

The motion would have imposed a 3.6 percent surtax on incomes over \$1 million, which would be indexed to inflation beginning in 2012. [CQ Floor Vote, 12/13/11]

The motion failed 183-244. [HR 3630, [Vote #922](#), 12/13/11]

Voted Against Additional 1.1 Percent Payroll Tax Cut for Working Families

In 2011, Walsh voted against an additional 1.1 percent payroll tax cut for working families.

The motion would have increased the employee payroll tax cut to 3.1 percent for 2012 from 2.0 percent. According to an analysis by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Tax Policy, expanding the tax cut to 3.1 percent would have been a "tax cut of about \$1,550 for the typical American working family in 2012" when compared to no extension of the payroll tax cut. [HR 3630, [Vote #922](#), 12/13/11; Congressional Record, H8820, 12/13/11; Office of Tax Policy – Treasury Department, [11/30/11](#); CQ House Action Report, HR 3630, 12/12/11]

The motion failed 183-244. [HR 3630, [Vote #922](#), 12/13/11]

Voted Against Considering Payroll Tax Cut Extension for Working Americans Six Times

In 2011, Walsh voted against the consideration of a payroll tax cut extension for working Americans six times.

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering the Payroll Tax Holiday Extension Act of 2011, which extended middle class tax relief for 2012. [Congressional Record, H7955-1957, 11/30/11]

The previous question passed 239-184. [H Res 477, [Vote #870](#), 11/30/11]

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering the Payroll Tax Holiday Extension Act of 2011, which extended middle class tax relief for 2012, and the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2011, which extended unemployment benefits. [Congressional Record, H8151-8152, 12/06/11]

The previous question passed 236-184. [H Res 479, [Vote #889](#), 12/06/11]

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering the Payroll Tax Holiday Extension Act of 2011, which extended middle class tax relief for 2012, and the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2011, which extended unemployment benefits. [Congressional Record, H8269-8270, 12/08/11]

The previous question passed 241-173. [H Res 487, [Vote #902](#), 12/08/11]

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which extended middle class tax relief, unemployment benefits, and the Medicare reimbursement doctor fix. [Congressional Record, H8756, 12/13/11]

The previous question passed 236-182. [H Res 491, [Vote #918](#), 12/13/11]

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering the Middle Class Fairness and Putting America Back to Work Act of 2011, which extended middle class tax relief, unemployment benefits, and the Medicare reimbursement doctor fix. [Congressional Record, H8919, 12/14/11]

The previous question passed 235-173. [H Res 493, [Vote #925](#), 12/14/11]

- ✓ Walsh voted to order the previous question, preventing Democrats from considering a bill passed by the Senate, which extended middle class tax relief, unemployment benefits, and the Medicare reimbursement doctor fix for two months. [Congressional Record, H9956-9958, 12/20/11]

The previous question passed 233-187. [H Res 502, [Vote #944](#), 12/20/11]

Opposed Buffett Rule

In a September 2011 press release, Walsh opposed the proposed Buffett Rule saying, “It doesn’t make any sense to raise taxes on America’s job creators to pay for another stimulus program that won’t create any jobs. The President is in over his head and just isn’t serious about helping American businesses create jobs.” [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 9/19/11]

Rule would Enact a Minimum Tax Rate for Individuals Making Over \$1 million

According to the [New York Times](#), the proposed Buffet Rule would create “a minimum tax rate for individuals making more than \$1 million a year to ensure that they pay at least the same percentage of their earnings as middle-income taxpayers, according to administration officials.” [New York Times, [9/17/11](#)]

Supported Cutting Capital Gains Tax

In December 2010, Walsh said that he wanted to cut the capital gains tax and the dividends tax. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Supported Eliminating the Estate Tax

In December 2010, Walsh supported abolishing the estate tax. He said, “We should cut taxes on businesses and families so that businesses know when they walk out this building, they know what their tax obligations are going to be for the next five to 10 years.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 12/13/10]

Supported Ending Estate Tax, AMT, Capital Gains Tax, and Reducing Corporate Taxes by 50%

In April 2010, Walsh told the conservative newspaper [Human Events](#), “We can give people more opportunities by ending the estate tax, the Alternative Minimum Tax, and the capital gains tax-and then cutting the corporate tax in half. We can then give people more money, more security and more chances to make their own decisions.” [[Human Events](#), [4/13/10](#)]

Claimed Tax Cuts would Increase Government Revenues

In October 2010, Walsh claimed that cutting taxes would stimulate economic growth and ultimate result in more government revenue. He said, “I will say unequivocally, I will always support tax relief. The more we cuts [*s/c*] taxes, the more we’re going to grow the economy, which will lead to greater revenues for our government.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 10/21/10]

Repeated Claim on YouTube

In a March 2011 Facebook Video Q&A, Walsh was asked about “the outlook for a simplified tax system.” He responded, “We need to cut spending and we need to I believe cut taxes so we can grow revenues into the government...when we cut taxes government revenues grow.” [youtube.com, RepJoeWalsh’s Channel, [3/20/11](#)]

Politifact.com Called Walsh’s Claim “False”

In April 2011, politifact.com rated Walsh’s claim that “Every time we’ve cut taxes, revenues have gone up, the economy has grown” as “false.” According to the White House Office of Budget and Management, there was a small reduction in revenues in 1983 after President Reagan cut taxes in 1981. Politifact.com wrote, “More significantly, income tax revenues fell in 2001, 2002 and 2003, as President George W. Bush successfully pursued tax cuts.”

The fact-check also noted that “economists expect tax revenues to go up each year due to economic growth, population growth and inflation, even if tax rates stay the same.” Bob Williams of the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center said, “There’s no clear relationship between taxes and economic growth.” [politifact.com, [4/19/11](#)]

Proposed Making Business Lunches Tax Deductible

In December 2011, as Chairman of the Small Business Committees Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, Walsh held a field hearing about how the federal government could promote a climate that would foster small business job creation.

One of the suggestions touted in Walsh’s press release was to make business lunches tax deductible. [Walsh Official Press Release via States News Service, 12/12/11]

Current Rules Allow for 50 Percent Deduction

Under current IRS rules, business meals and entertainment are 50 percent deductible. [[Entrepreneur](#), [3/22/10](#)]

Supported Tax Breaks for Sears Holdings Corporation

In November 2011, Walsh wrote a letter to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, House Speaker Michael Madigan, and Senate President John Cullerton “urging them to create a more business-friendly climate for Sears, based in Hoffman Estates, as well as for small businesses across the state.” [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/18/11]

One Month Later: Governor Signed \$330 Million per Year Tax Break Bill

In December 2011, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill of tax breaks expected to cost the state \$330 million or more per year. The goal of the incentives was to keep Sears Holding Corp and CME Group Inc, two large employers, operating in Illinois. [[Associated Press](#), [12/16/11](#)]

Supported Flat Tax, Minimal Regulation for Economic Growth

In a May 2011 interview, Walsh said a low, flat tax and minimal regulation would lead to economic growth. He said, "If you give me a flat rate of 17 percent, I'm happy...history generally tells me, and we all hang onto our generalities, that when you keep rates low and regulations generally minimal, the economy long term tends to grow and prosper." [Slate, [5/27/11](#)]

Wanted to Abolish Estate Tax and Lower Capital Gains Taxes

In February 2011, Walsh said he would spend the next six months working on abolishing the estate tax abolished and lowering the capital gains taxes. [Northwest Herald, [2/26/11](#)]

Claimed Tax Cuts Led to a Rise in Revenues

In April 2011, Walsh went against the GOP and said that cutting taxes has resulted in higher revenues.

"In the '80s, federal revenues went up. We didn't cut spending. Revenues went up in the '80s. Every time we've cut taxes, revenues have gone up. The economy has grown." [Salon.com, [4/21/11](#)]

Said He Would Not Raise Taxes...But Rather Expand the Tax Base

In his final town hall of 10 town halls in ten days in McHenry, IL, Walsh said in response to a constituent asking him to tax the wealthy, Walsh stated that the tax code needed to be simplified and that he has no intention of supporting a tax raise. "I don't want to increase taxes," Walsh said. "I want to increase taxpayers." [Northwest Herald, [8/14/11](#)]

Terrorism and Homeland Security Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted Against Increasing Funding for Customs and Border Security*
- ✓ *Voted to Cut 10 Percent of the Department of Homeland Security's Funding*

Walsh voted against increasing boarder security and customs funding by \$32 million and to cut 10 percent of the Department of Homeland Security's **budget**.

Voted Against Increasing Funding for Customs and Border Security

In 2011, Walsh voted against an amendment which increased border security and customs funding by \$32 million in the Homeland Security Appropriations legislation.

The amendment would have increased the funding for customs and border security by \$32 million by transferring \$16 million from the Office of the Undersecretary for Management and another \$16 million from the Office of the Undersecretary for Science and Technology. [CQ Floor Votes, 6/1/11]

The amendment failed 162-256. [HR 2017, [Vote #388](#), 6/01/11]

Voted to Cut 10 Percent of the Department of Homeland Security's Funding

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment which would have cut the funding for the Department of Homeland Security, except US Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, by 10 percent.

According to [Politico](#), "Republicans, including the party leadership, were badly split on the proposed 10 percent reduction which would have come on top of \$1.1 billion already cut from current Homeland funding." [[Politico](#), 6/02/11; Congressional Record, 6/01/11]

The amendment failed 110-312. [HR 2017, [Vote #402](#), 6/02/11]

Voted Against Acknowledging the Leadership of Presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton in the Killing of Osama bin Laden

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recognize that the killing of Osama bin Laden resulted from the leadership and direction of President Obama and to recognize the leadership of Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton as well as the intelligence community.

The motion would have also directed the intelligence community to prioritize tasks and activities which would lead to the fall of al-Qaeda and organizations that fall under their influence. [[The Hill](#), [5/13/11](#)]

The motion failed 182-228. [HR 754, [Vote #328](#), 5/13/11]

Voted Against Major Cuts to the Department of Homeland Security

In 2011, Walsh against a bill which contained major cuts to the Department of Homeland Security, including funding for first responders.

The appropriations bill funded the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2012. This budget was \$1.1 billion less than the amount appropriated in FY2010 and \$3 billion less than the amount requested by President Obama. The cuts impacted grants for local fire departments, which were originally cut by \$460 million but after a Democratic amendment were only cut \$140 million. The bill contained a \$2 billion cut for state and local aid funds from the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. There was also an amendment adopted which barred the TSA from using collective bargaining. [[Politico](#), [6/01/11](#), [6/02/11](#); [Washington Post](#), 6/03/11]

Even the Republican Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee Rep. Peter King voted against the bill saying:

“We know also from bin Laden’s own records that he is aiming at maritime, he is aiming at mass transit, and he is aiming at our major cities. Yet we are cutting each of those programs by 50 percent, a fifty percent cut. [...] And I just cannot see why, at a time when the threat level is the highest it’s been since September 11, that we are reducing Homeland Security grants by 50 percent. [Congressional Record, [6/01/11](#)]

The bill passed 231-188. [HR 2017, [Vote #409](#), 6/02/11]

Walsh even voted against a motion which increased funding for state and local transportation and railroad security assistance grants by \$75 million. The motion failed 187-234. [HR 2017, [Vote #408](#), 5/26/11]

Voted to Extend Telecommunications Provisions of the PATRIOT Act

In 2011, Walsh voted to extend, through June 1, 2015, provisions of the PATRIOT Act.

The motion to concur extended three provisions of the PATRIOT Act until June 1, 2015. According to the [Washington Post](#), under the bill, “investigators can obtain court orders to follow suspected terrorists with ‘roving wiretaps’ that cover multiple phone numbers and carriers. They also will extend provisions that allow investigators to seize customer records for suspected terrorists.” [[Washington Post](#), 5/27/11]

The motion to concur passed 250-153. [S 990, [Vote #376](#), 5/26/11]

Voted to Improve Cell Phone Communication on the Border

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment to improve border security by increasing cell phone coverage on the border.

The bipartisan amendment used \$10 million to improve cell phone communication on the border, an idea originally belonging to Rep. Gabby Giffords. [[The Hill](#), [6/01/11](#)]

The amendment passed 327-93. [HR 2017, [Vote #387](#), 6/01/11]

Sent President Obama a Letter to Discourage the Transfer of Gitmo Detainees to Thomson

In March 2011, Walsh sent a letter to President Obama urging the administration to make a statement promising Gitmo detainees will not be moved to the Thomson Correctional Center. The signees said Thomson should rather be purchased by the federal government and used as a maximum-security federal prison.

The Illinois Bureau of Prisons closed Thomson Correctional Center in April 2010 to make way for the purchase of the facility by the federal government. [[Freeport Journal Standard](#), [3/10/11](#)]

Transportation Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Supported O'Hare Expansion and Roads, Opposed Rail Transit*
- ✓ *Supported Federal Spending to Extend Route 53*
- ✓ *Voted against adding Additional Air Marshals to High Risk Flights*

Walsh supports the expansion and modernization of O'Hare International Airport as well as a northward extension of Route 53 naming it one of his top three priorities in Congress. He said, "This is one area where federal dollars should be spent." He also took the interesting position of wanting to compensate property owners displaced by the Route 53 extension beyond the market value for their properties. However, Walsh said that a "focus on rail travel is one the public is being force-fed by environmentalists."

Supported O'Hare Expansion and Roads, Opposed Rail Transit

In September 2010, Walsh supported federal assistance to expand and modernize O'Hare International Airport. However, the Chicago Daily Herald reported that he believed the "focus on rail travel is one the public is being force-fed by environmentalists."

Walsh did support the northern extension of Route 53, a road project, saying, "It needs some federal leadership. It's an issue I made a big deal about during the primary." [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/24/10]

Wanted to Compensate Home Owners Beyond Market Value

Walsh claimed to be sensitive to the property rights of residents who would be displaced by the Route 53 extension project. Walsh said he would fight for them to be compensated beyond the market rate for their properties. [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/24/10]

Supported Federal Spending to Extend Route 53

In December 2009, Walsh said federal leadership was needed to extend Illinois Route 53 northward. He even suggested stretching the highway to the Wisconsin border.

Walsh said, "This project has been on the drawing board for over 40 years, and government inaction has saddled residents of Lake and McHenry counties with some of the longest commute times in the nation. This is one area where federal dollars should be spent." [Chicago Daily Herald, 12/19/09]

Named Extending Route 53 as One of Top Three Priorities in Congress

In January 2010, Walsh said extending Route 53 into Lake County would be one of his top three priorities in Congress. From the Chicago Daily Herald:

Additionally, I will provide federal leadership to extend Route 53 into Lake County. This project has been on the drawing board for over 40 years and government inaction has saddled residents of Lake and McHenry counties with some of the longest commute times in the nation. We need some Congressional leadership to move this public need forward. [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/15/10]

Note: For the complete list of Walsh's top three priorities please see the Appendix II—Letters to the Editor section on this book

Voted against adding Additional Air Marshals to High Risk Flights

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recommit which changed the union-representation ballots rules for rail and airline employees.

The motion would have required the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to deploy federal air marshals on the highest risk passenger flights.

The motion failed 184-235. [HR 658, [Vote #219](#), 3/29/11]

Voted to Eliminate Critical Funding for Rural Airports

In 2011, Walsh voted for a bill which reduced funding levels for the FAA and ended the Essential Air Service (EAS) program which provides critical funding for rural airports (except in Alaska and Hawaii).

The legislation would end the EAS program on October 1st, 2013 (except in Hawaii and Alaska). In 2010 the EAS program served about 150 rural communities across the country. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) 3 communities in the state would be impacted by the termination of the EAS program. [CRS Report, [R41666](#), 3/3/11; CQ BillAnalysis, [6/7/11](#)]

The bill passed 223-196. [HR 658, [Vote #220](#), 3/29/11]

Voted to Cut Funding for 13 Airports that Receive Essential Air Service Funds

In 2011, Walsh voted to cut funding for 13 airports that were either receiving subsidies of more than \$1,000 dollars per passenger or were closer than 90 miles to a major hub airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization allowed the FAA to continue operating but cut funding for 13 rural airports, some of which were closer than 90 miles to the nearest major hub airport and which received subsidies of more than \$1,000 per passenger. Cutting these subsidies would have saved \$16.5 million. [New York Times, 7/23/11]

According to the Associated Press: “The 13 affected cities are Athens, Ga.; Morgantown, W.Va.; Glendive, Mont.; Alamogordo, N.M.; Ely, Nev.; Jamestown, N.Y.; Bradford, Pa.; Hagerstown, Md.; Jonesboro, Ark.; Johnstown, Pa.; Franklin/Oil City, Pa.; Lancaster, Pa., and Jackson, Tenn.” [Associated Press, [7/20/11](#)]

The bill passed 243-177. [HR 2553, [Vote #611](#), 7/20/11]

Opposed IL High Speed Rail Route

In March 2011, Walsh disagreed with Governor Pat Quinn’s and Senator Dick Durbin’s plan to begin the next phase of construction on a high-speed rail route between Chicago and St. Louis. Walsh said the government cannot afford the project and doubted that the train would be used because “Americans love their cars.” [Associated Press, [3/23/11](#)]

Veteran Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ *Voted to Make Benefits for Seniors and Veterans Harder to Get*
- ✓ *Voted Against Millions in Additional Funding for Suicide Prevention and PTSD Veterans*

During his short Congressional career, Walsh voted to make benefits for seniors and veterans harder to get by imposed a seven-month moratorium on all legal fees paid under the Equal Access to Justice Act. He also opposed an additional \$20 million for veterans' **medical service to help with post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention.**

Voted Against Millions in Additional Funding for Suicide Prevention and PTSD for Veterans

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion which would have provided an additional \$20 million for veterans' medical service to help with post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention.

According to the Watertown Daily Times, "Rep. Bill Owens offered an amendment to a military appropriations bill in the House of Representatives that would increase spending on veterans' mental health services by \$20 million." The \$20 million would be put towards better advertising the suicide prevention assistance and services offered to veterans. [Watertown Daily Times, [6/14/11](#); CQ Floor Vote, 6/14/11]

The motion failed 184-234. [HR 2055, [Vote #417](#), 6/14/11]

Voted to Make Benefits for Seniors and Veterans Harder to Get

In 2011, Walsh voted for an amendment that would make it harder for low-income veterans and Social Security recipients to retain counsel in a civil action against the United States, like when fighting for benefits.

The Lummis amendment imposed a seven-month moratorium on all legal fees paid under the Equal Access to Justice Act, a Reagan-era law designed to help people afford an attorney while suing the government.

"We're in the middle of two wars right now and to make it harder for a veteran — fighting for his benefits — to have an attorney is a horrible thing. That's not what this country is about," Robert Chishold, a prominent veterans' law attorney said. [Politico, 2/23/11]

The amendment passed, 232-197. [HR 1, Lummis amendment #195, Vote #85, [2/17/11](#)]

Voted to Protect His Own Pay...

In 2011, Walsh voted against a measure that would have struck all of the provisions in the bill and would have prohibited Members of Congress and the President from receiving basic pay for any period in which there is more than a 24-hour lapse in appropriations. The measure would have also have prohibited the Members and President from receiving retroactive pay. The measure failed 188-237. [HR 1255, [Vote #223](#), 4/01/11]

...But Not That of Soldiers

In 2011, Walsh voted against a motion to recommit which would have ensured that Service Members would have gotten paid in the event of a government shutdown.

The motion would have added a new section to the bill providing that the salaries of the members of the armed forces would not be interrupted in the event of a government shutdown.

The motion failed 191-236. [HR 1363, [Vote #246](#), 4/07/11]

NOTE: According to the 27th amendment Congress can't change its pay scale prior to an election. The motion would technically violate the Constitution if they were to change the amount that a Representative was to receive. [Fox News, [4/01/11](#)]

Appendix I – Campaign Finance

Items of Interest

- ✓ *Wrote Bad Checks*
- ✓ *2010: Raised Almost \$625,000*
- ✓ *Ended Cycle with Over \$360,000 in Debt*
- ✓ *76 Percent of Contributions Came from Individual Donors*
- ✓ *Donald Rumsfeld Contributed \$2,400 to Walsh*

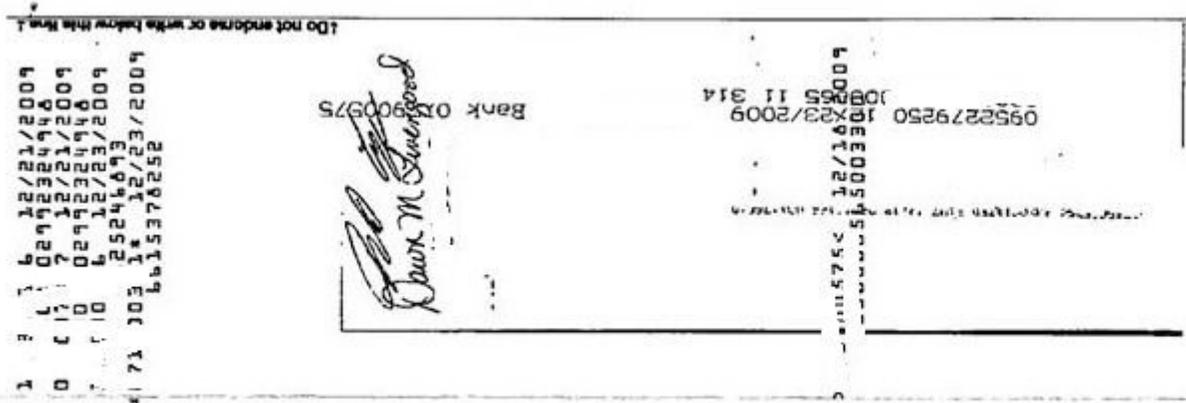
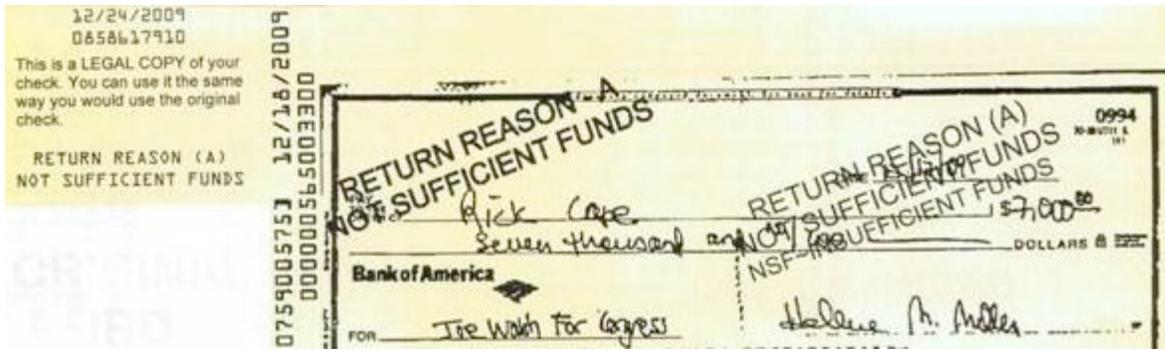
Walsh's 2010 fundraising suffered because the Republican Party saw little hope of victory. He raised a total of \$625,000 and ended the cycle with more than \$360,000 in debt, most of which accumulated during the recount proceedings. In May 2010, the press reported that Walsh had bounced checks, including some to employees of his campaign. Donald Rumsfeld, President Bush's Secretary of Defense personally contributed \$2,400 to Walsh.

Wrote Bad Checks

In May 2010, the Associated Press wrote that Walsh had “bounced checks, including some to employees and one for a fundraiser for the Lake County Illinois Republican Federation.” [Associated Press, 5/04/10]

Richard Cape, a former Walsh campaign staffer gave a conservative Illinois blog, the Illinois Review, a copy of a campaign pay check that was returned for insufficient funds. The Walsh campaign charged that Cape was a disgruntled former employee trying to “throw dirt” on his employer. [illinoisreview.typepad.com, 5/15/10]

A copy of Walsh's bad check is below:



[illinoisreview.typepad.com, [5/15/10](#)]

Cape Publicly Resigned from Campaign

Less than two weeks before Cape released a copy of the bounced check to the Illinois Review, he and another campaign staffer, Ted Livengood, resigned claiming, “We had been lied to and deceived enough by Joe... If we would have known who the true Joe Walsh was, we never would have supported him.” [Chicago Sun Times, 5/04/10]

2010: Raised Almost \$625,000

During the 2010 election cycle, Walsh raised a total of \$624,694 and spent \$602,803.

As of December 31, 2010, Walsh had \$21,891 cash on hand. [opensecrets.org, accessed [3/24/11](#)]

Ended Cycle with Over \$360,000 in Debt

At the end of the 2010 election cycle, Walsh had \$361,740 in outstanding campaign debts. [opensecrets.org, accessed [3/24/11](#)]

Below is a list of the creditors to whom Walsh owed money:

Creditor	Amount
Account for estimated legal recount	\$10,000.00

expenses unknown as of this date	
Ancel Glink Diamond DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C.	\$60,215.00
CBC Tax & Accounting	\$8,512.50
Hanson Peters Nye	\$74,242.65
Jacksack, Laura	\$15,375.00
Jamestown Associates	\$5,650.00
Joan Etten LLC	\$15,500.00
Law Office of Brien J. Sheahan	\$12,937.50
Law Office of John Fogarty, Jr.	\$17,332.50
Mayer Brown	\$13,275.00
Means Law Offices	\$11,759.00
Mill Creek Inn	\$5,000.00
Patrickson-Hirsch Associates	\$20,000.00
Provenzano, Dominic	\$20,757.50
RA Adams Enterprises	\$3,600.00
Schuyler, Roche ,Crisham, P.C.	\$11,732.55
Starfish Consulting	\$2,000.00
Svenson Law Offices	\$19,750.00
UPS Store	\$216.00
Walsh, Charles	\$4,955.00
Walsh, Joe	\$529.32
White, Jessica	\$15,000.00
Total	\$ 348,339.52

[FEC, Joe Walsh, filed [01/31/11](#)]

Over 70 Percent of Debt was Result of 2010 Recount

According to his 2010 year-end report to the Federal Election Commission, \$250,385 of Walsh's debt or 71.9 percent was a result of preparing for the 2010 recount.

The table below is summarizes the purpose of Walsh's campaign debt:

Purpose of Debt	Amount
Estimated expenses for recount preparation	\$250,385.80
Campaign bonus owed for successful outcome	\$20,757.50
Disputed debt and amount owed to former campaign consultant	\$20,000.00
Fundraising Fees - This is a disputed debt	\$15,500.00
Legal fees for defense of disputed debt	\$11,233.40
Accounting, payroll reports, FEC filing	\$8,512.50
Debt owed for design and distribution of mailer	\$5,650.00
Estimated amount for Victory Rally expenses on 11/02/2010	\$5,000.00
Fundraising consulting fees	\$4,955.00

Monthly rental on trailer	\$3,600.00
Consulting on campaign communications and messaging	\$2,000.00
Victory Night expenses - to be reimbursed	\$529.32
Mail Box rental	\$216.00
Total	\$348,339.52

[FEC, Joe Walsh, filed [01/31/11](#)]

76 Percent of Contributions Came from Individual Donors

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, over the course of his congressional career, Walsh has received 76 percent of his campaign contributions from individuals and 19 percent from political action committees.

The table below summarizes the source of Walsh's funds:

Source of Funds	Amount	Percentage
Individual Contributions	\$1,140,303	76%
PAC Contributions	\$ 277,533	19%
Candidate self-financing	\$13,400	1%
Other	\$ 64,987	4%

[opensecrets.org, accessed [1/23/12](#)]

2010: 86 Percent of Individual Donors Gave Large Amounts

During the 2010 campaign, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, 86 percent of Walsh's individual donors contributed a large amount of money:

Source of Funds	Amount	Percentage
Small Individual Contributions	\$74,785	14%
Large Individual Contributions	\$453,775	86%

[opensecrets.org, accessed [3/24/11](#)]

Industry Analysis

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, over the course of his congressional career, the securities and investments industry contributed the most amount of money to Walsh followed by retirees. The table below summarizes the industries which supported Walsh:

Industry	Amount
Securities & Investment	\$137,329
Retired	\$104,421
Insurance	\$61,494
Business Services	\$54,300
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$42,233
Misc Finance	\$40,950
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$36,200

Pharmaceuticals/Health Products	\$36,200
Retail Sales	\$34,500
Leadership PACs	\$30,900
Health Professionals	\$29,125
Construction Services	\$26,450
General Contractors	\$25,350
Real Estate	\$25,100
Republican/Conservative	\$23,850
Hospitals/Nursing Homes	\$23,585
Commercial Banks	\$18,400
Automotive	\$17,800
Home Builders	\$15,700
Special Trade Contractors	\$15,420

[opensecrets.org, accessed [1/23/12](#)]

PAC Analysis

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, business political action committees were Walsh's largest PAC contributor. The table below summarizes PAC contributions to Walsh:

PAC Sector	Amount	Percentage
Business	\$213,883	73%
Ideological/Single Issue	\$65,865	22%
Labor	\$13,000	4%

[opensecrets.org, accessed [1/23/12](#)]

Donor Analysis

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Walsh's individuals who worked at Otto Engineering were the largest contributor to Walsh. The table below summarizes the employers (and PAC contributions) of Walsh's donors:

Contributor	Total	Individuals	PACs
Honeywell International	\$27,633	\$0	\$27,633
Sage Products	\$25,900	\$25,900	\$0
Otto Engineering	\$24,400	\$24,400	\$0
Western Asset Management	\$20,100	\$20,100	\$0
Pepper Companies	\$19,600	\$19,600	\$0
Holden International	\$19,400	\$19,400	\$0
Performance Trust Capital Partners	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0
Kennedy Homes	\$15,700	\$15,700	\$0
Cancer Treatment Centers of America	\$15,085	\$15,085	\$0
Hills Capital Management	\$14,800	\$14,800	\$0
Spo Partners & Co	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$0
Hollister & Co	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0

[opensecrets.org, accessed [1/23/12](#)]

Geographic Analysis

In 2010, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, 87 percent of Walsh's contributions came from within the state of Illinois:

Location	Amount	Percentage
In State	\$375,291	87%
Out of State	\$57,420	13%

[opensecrets.org, accessed [3/24/11](#)]

Throughout his congressional career, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, over \$786,000 of Walsh's contributions came from within the Chicago metro area. The table below summarizes the locations of his donors:

Metro Area	Amount
Chicago	\$786,511
Los Angeles-Long Beach	\$32,700
San Francisco	\$19,100
Miami	\$12,300
Naples	\$10,900
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV	\$10,650

[opensecrets.org, accessed [1/23/12](#)]

Charles Walsh Filed for Bankruptcy, Contributed \$2,400 to Walsh

In October 2009, Charles Walsh of Cary Illinois filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy. [Northern Illinois Court, Case No 0938604, filed 10/16/09, Nexis Public Records Search]

During the 2010 campaign, Charles Walsh contributed \$2,400 to Walsh's campaign. His address was 24740 Golden Oat Circle, Cary, IL. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Note: Source documents should be obtained for confirmation and further analysis.

Charles Walsh Arrested for Resisting Arrest/Search, Contributed \$3,400 to Walsh

In September 1994, Charles Walsh of Lake Barrington Illinois was arrested in Bexar County Texas for resisting arrest/search. [Case No CR2 584950, Bexar, TX, arrested 9/02/94, Nexis Public Records Search]

During the 2010 campaign, Charles M Walsh contributed \$3,400 to Walsh's campaign. His address was 253 Biltmore Dr, North Barrington, IL. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Note: Source documents should be obtained for confirmation and further analysis.

Donald Rumsfeld Contributed \$2,400 to Walsh

In February 2010, former Bush Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld contributed \$2,400 to Walsh's Campaign. He reported his occupation as "retired" and employer as "public servant." [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) reported that Rumsfeld used to represent the district. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 4/17/10]

Tax Delinquent Aeronautical Entrepreneur Contributed \$2,000 to Walsh

Howard Seedorf was one of three owners of the Lake in the Hills Aviation Group, a private company that operated the Village-owned Lake in the Hills Airport.

In 1997 the Village of Lake in the Hills attempted to terminate its operating agreement with the Aviation Group alleging that the Group had failed to pay the village 2 percent of the monthly gross revenue and refused to rent hangar space or sell fuel to competitors.

In 1998, the Group paid an outstanding property-tax debt of \$78,000 which had accrued since 1992. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 6/26/98]

During the 2010 campaign, Howard Seedorf contributed \$2,000 to Walsh's campaign. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Note: Source documents should be obtained for confirmation and further analysis.

Developer Paid to Settle Clean Water Act Violation, Contributed \$2,000 to Walsh

In 2004, Dale Berger along with several residential developers in Lake County, Illinois agreed to pay \$1.4 million to settle a federal lawsuit alleging a wetland was destroyed in Long Grove in violation of the Clean Water Act. According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), "The 2000 lawsuit alleged that the defendants illegally installed a sewer line through the wetland in the Indian Creek residential development to facilitate development of the nearby Pheasant Ridge project"

While a federal judge found only one of the other developers and his construction company liable for violations of the Clean Water Act, the other defendants including Berger agreed to contribute to the settlement while denying any wrongdoing. The settlement included a \$500,000 penalty to the federal government, \$500,000 to a wetland restoration fund and \$400,000 to remove and reroute the sewer line and clean up waste material in the wetland. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 10/26/04]

During the 2010 campaign, Dale Berger contributed \$1,000 to Walsh's campaign. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Note: Source documents should be obtained for confirmation and further analysis.

COO Accused of Overbilling Government and Private Insurers Contributed \$1,000

In December 1999 a suit was filed by a former employee against the Cancer Treatment Centers of America alleging the clinics and hospitals overbilled government and private insurers for oncology

services and medical care. Roger Cary was the Chief Operating Officer for the Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

The Chicago Tribune reported that court documents indicated the firm “billed for chemotherapy services that were never rendered and paid kickbacks to doctors for patient referrals.” [Chicago Tribune, 5/15/03]

During the 2010 campaign, Roger Cary contributed \$1,000 to Walsh’s campaign. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Note: Source documents should be obtained for confirmation and further analysis.

Founder of Paramilitary Company Involved in Fatal Columbia Operation Contributed \$1,000

Walter Holloway is the founder and President of AirScan. [AirScan press release via PR Newswire, 12/20/02; Los Angeles Times, 3/17/02]

AirScan provides “experienced personnel, proven equipment, and innovative tactics, techniques, and procedures to create a system capability that plans, executes, and supports the finest tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance in the world.” [airscan.com, accessed [4/15/11](#)]

In 1998, a Colombian air force helicopter dropped a cluster bomb over the only paved road in Santo Domingo, Columbia killing 18 people, including several children. The helicopter’s crew claimed they were fed incorrect coordinates for the attack by three Americans in a nearby surveillance plane operated by AirScan.

AirScan had aided Colombian military operations to ward off rebel attacks on the Cano Limon pipeline, which is owned in part by Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. [Los Angeles Times, 3/17/02, 5/27/04]

During the 2010 campaign, Walter Holloway contributed \$1,000 to Walsh’s campaign. [FEC, Campaign Finance Disclosure, Walsh 2010]

Major Individual Contributors

During the 2010 campaign, Walsh disclosed the names of 366 individual contributors to his campaign. The table below summarizes those contributors and the total amount they gave to Walsh:

Donor	Amount
Bail, Richard	\$4,800
Buck, John	\$4,800
Buck, Kathleen	\$4,800
Buonanno, Vincent	\$4,800
Ditton, Richard	\$4,800
Foglia, Patricia	\$4,800
Foglia, Vincent	\$4,800
Gignilliat, Ellen	\$4,800

Gignilliat, Paul	\$4,800
Hills, Barbara	\$4,800
Hills, Paul	\$4,800
Holden, Christine	\$4,800
Holden, James	\$4,800
Keiser, Michael	\$4,800
Keiser, Rosalind	\$4,800
Kennedy, Pat	\$4,800
Kennedy, William	\$4,800
Marinacci, Carl	\$4,800
McKenna, Michelle	\$4,800
McKenna, William	\$4,800
Miller, Michael	\$4,800
Oberndorf, Susan	\$4,800
Oberndorf, William	\$4,800
Pepper, Richard	\$4,800
Pepper, Roselyn	\$4,800
Reese, John	\$4,800
Roeser, Jeannine	\$4,800
Roeser, John	\$4,800
Smithburg, William	\$4,800
Walsh, Maura	\$4,800
Walsh, Stephen	\$4,800
Weaver, Allen	\$4,800
Dickinson, Daniel	\$3,900
Walsh, Charles M	\$3,400
Donnelly, Bruce	\$3,202
Kearney, Tom	\$3,000
Dickinson, Nancy	\$2,600
Apmann, Jon	\$2,400
Barney, Stephen	\$2,400
Bernstein, Lawrence	\$2,400
Bradford-White, Mary	\$2,400
Canning, John	\$2,400
Canning, Rita	\$2,400
D'amore, Kimberly	\$2,400
Duchossois, Richard	\$2,400
Foglia, Vince	\$2,400
Fournier, Kip	\$2,400
Gaynor, George	\$2,400
Goode, Stephen	\$2,400

Halston, John	\$2,400
Hanifl, Paul	\$2,400
Herbert, Alan	\$2,400
Holsonback, Ann	\$2,400
Keller, Darren	\$2,400
Kretz, Cara	\$2,400
Leech, Eileen	\$2,400
Leech, S Kenneth	\$2,400
MacLean, Barry	\$2,400
Mayer, Jim	\$2,400
McAndrews, George	\$2,400
McAndrews, Katherine	\$2,400
McGrath, Kristina	\$2,400
Parrillo, Michaela	\$2,400
Parrillo, Richard	\$2,400
Rich, Howard	\$2,400
Roeser, Bette	\$2,400
Roeser, Thomas	\$2,400
Rumsfeld, Donald	\$2,400
Solomon, Lynnette	\$2,400
Stephenson, Jamie	\$2,400
Stephenson, Shawn	\$2,400
Stevens, James	\$2,400
Tamraz, Nancy	\$2,400
Tamraz, Paul	\$2,400
Tenzer, Lee	\$2,400
Thodos, John	\$2,400
Walsh, Charles	\$2,400
Walsh, Michele	\$2,400
Walsh, Susan	\$2,400
White, Lynn	\$2,400
Wickstrom, Colin	\$2,400
Yapp, George	\$2,400
Carmichael, C Todd	\$2,300
Roemer, Karen	\$2,300
Jones, Ronald	\$2,110
Alexander, Duncan	\$2,100
Ensslin, Laurence	\$2,100
Ensslin, Mary	\$2,100
Berger, Louis	\$2,000
Box, Larry	\$2,000

Brenner, Ken	\$2,000
Doering, Rick	\$2,000
McKay, Scot	\$2,000
McLaughlin, Michael	\$2,000
Seedorf, Howard	\$2,000
Tejan, Richard	\$2,000
Kummer, Ken	\$1,950
Desmond, Robert	\$1,800
Howarth, William	\$1,800
Herbert, Connie	\$1,600
Mariani, Rick	\$1,600
Thodos, Peggy	\$1,600
Anderson, Mel	\$1,515
Beaubien, Mark	\$1,500
Christy, George	\$1,500
Deno, David	\$1,500
Harold, Stephanie	\$1,500
Lis, Christopher	\$1,500
Stuart, A.D.	\$1,500
Sundelin, Robert	\$1,500
Johnson, Ralph	\$1,455
Lewis, William	\$1,250
Peirce, Margaret	\$1,250
Stephens, Norval	\$1,250
St. John, Stephanie	\$1,200
Roth, Don	\$1,115
Miller-Walsh, Helene	\$1,002
Becker, Bruce	\$1,000
Bell, Bruce	\$1,000
Berger, Dale	\$1,000
Bockwinkel, Glenn	\$1,000
Bonner, Stephen	\$1,000
Botsford, Stephen	\$1,000
Cary, Roger	\$1,000
Combs, Earle	\$1,000
Conway, John	\$1,000
Costello, Robert	\$1,000
Crouch, Michael	\$1,000
Defeo, John	\$1,000
Dincher, Thomas	\$1,000
Fisher, John	\$1,000

Fitzgerald, Thomas	\$1,000
Flynn, Timothy	\$1,000
Henderson, Craig	\$1,000
Holloway, Walter	\$1,000
Isaacson, Jerry	\$1,000
Kolber, Vincent	\$1,000
Lechowicz, Carolyn	\$1,000
Maneval, Mitchel	\$1,000
Martinez, Mario	\$1,000
Mayo, Robert	\$1,000
McNeil, John	\$1,000
McVickers, Susan	\$1,000
Murray, Rodney	\$1,000
Neerhof, Mark	\$1,000
Nolan, Bill	\$1,000
Nolan, Cyrena	\$1,000
Paholak, Tom	\$1,000
Rioux, Michel	\$1,000
Russell, John	\$1,000
Schink, Jim	\$1,000
Scurto, Russell	\$1,000
Speer, Paul	\$1,000
Stedronsky, Robert	\$1,000
Steffenhagen, Ann	\$1,000
Tiballi, Robert	\$1,000
Tobey, William	\$1,000
Wilson, Bruce	\$1,000
Young, Edward	\$1,000
Glynn, W Michael	\$850
McCord, Pamela	\$850
Logan, John	\$820
Hein, Timothy	\$750
Johnson, Dewey	\$750
Merrick, Stephen	\$750
Richardson, Kevin	\$750
Shield, James	\$750
Nielsen, Walter	\$700
Steinwold, Yvonne	\$700
Lundahl, Daniel	\$650
Blaurock, Richard	\$600
Brendel, John	\$600

Larkin, Ian	\$600
Prunskis, John	\$600
Javor, Bryan	\$550
Miles, Judith	\$550
Parsons, Roger	\$550
Cape, Richard	\$510
Banks, James	\$500
Bigony, Robert	\$500
Capp, Stephen	\$500
Civello, Michael	\$500
Curielli, Catherine	\$500
Dixon, Darren	\$500
Eichstaedt, Gabrielle	\$500
Eisenhauer, David	\$500
Fix, Robert	\$500
Golant, Hedwig	\$500
Goshgarian, John	\$500
Graft, Mary	\$500
Hagar, Tom	\$500
Hamilton, Kirk	\$500
Hamilton, Mark	\$500
Hanson, Keith	\$500
Herr, Thomas	\$500
Hirsch, David	\$500
Horn, John	\$500
Hucker, Richard	\$500
Johnson, Michael	\$500
Johnson, Pat	\$500
Kenyon, Alfred	\$500
Kretz, Thomas	\$500
Kroll, Steven	\$500
Lancaster, James	\$500
Leahy, Daniel	\$500
Levin, Shirley	\$500
Masterson, Joe	\$500
Masterson, Nancy	\$500
Mazzochi, Deanne	\$500
McGuire, Meredith	\$500
Morgan, Robert	\$500
Moses, Michael	\$500
Murphy, James	\$500

Naponelli, Richard	\$500
Nikolich, Annette	\$500
O'Brien, Sheridan	\$500
Olejniczak, Matt	\$500
Pethokoukis, John	\$500
Porter, Richard	\$500
Provenzano, Dominic	\$500
Regan, Douglas	\$500
Roney, Edward	\$500
Rueter, Maxine	\$500
Ruth, Charles	\$500
Schlemmer, Dennis	\$500
Selvaggio, David	\$500
Skowron, John	\$500
Smith, Maida	\$500
Sullivan, Michael	\$500
Tan, Bradford	\$500
Thomas, Richard	\$500
Walton, John	\$500
Wamberg, Diane	\$500
Wardrop, William	\$500
Wortendyke, Jason	\$500
Wytmar, Kathleen	\$500
Kennebeck, Donna	\$450
Prunskis, J.V.	\$450
McKay, Michael	\$420
Chamberlin, Mark	\$400
Daniel, Karen	\$400
Duresa, Bonnie	\$400
Gallitano, Dennis	\$400
Knoll, John	\$400
Lincoln, Joseph	\$400
Nicholas, Debra	\$400
Payette, Frank	\$400
Tunca, Josh	\$400
Clements, Greg	\$390
Conroy, James	\$350
Dawson, Eugene	\$350
Johnson, Susan	\$350
Rodriguez, Maria	\$350
Thomason, Juliann	\$350

Rush, Thomas	\$333
McNeil, David	\$325
Baker, Arthur	\$300
Baldwin, Rand	\$300
Berger, Kyle	\$300
Cooper, Beverly	\$300
Crise, Jeremiah	\$300
Fosness, Rob	\$300
Green, Daniel	\$300
Guzik, Lawrence	\$300
Logan, Pat	\$300
Markiewicz, Barbara	\$300
McKiernan, Nancy	\$300
Myers, Theodore	\$300
Reiland, Sheila	\$300
Russell, Stanley	\$300
Simon, Lawrence	\$279
Golash, Roman	\$275
Kedrow, Richard	\$270
Sullivan, Patrick	\$270
Bacon, Charles	\$255
Alger, Mary	\$250
Baer, Steven	\$250
Bisconti, F.E.	\$250
Braun, Donald	\$250
Cameron, Douglas	\$250
Cocks, Robert	\$250
Connor, Raymond	\$250
Crouch, Peter	\$250
Derderian, Kevork	\$250
Dillon, Jane	\$250
Duensing, Tom	\$250
Gheen, William	\$250
Gustafson, Robert	\$250
Hudson, Kathleen	\$250
Jaarda, Christopher	\$250
Kelley, Martin	\$250
Kiefer, Michael	\$250
Korpan, Walter	\$250
Leahy, Tom	\$250
Libby, Sabrina	\$250

Luczkiw, Amalia	\$250
Lundstrom, Brett	\$250
Marinacci, Kevin	\$250
Meisner, Anne	\$250
Millin, John	\$250
Monico, Ken	\$250
Morris, George	\$250
Muller, Michael	\$250
Murphy, Brian	\$250
Naughton, Frank	\$250
Neuman, Jennifer	\$250
O'Brien, Steven	\$250
Olson, Mark	\$250
Oran, Hilary	\$250
Pacelli, Patricia	\$250
Phlamm, James	\$250
Picchietti, Phillip	\$250
Powers, Douglas	\$250
Rosenberg, James	\$250
Sanchez, Ranulfo	\$250
Seedorf, Chad	\$250
Seib, Benjamin	\$250
Sobel, John	\$250
Sowders, Roderick	\$250
Spak, Lorin	\$250
Synovic, A	\$250
Thompson, David	\$250
Tonigan, Rebecca	\$250
Trickey, Michael	\$250
Vashi, Pankaj	\$250
Veillette, David	\$250
Williams, Dolores	\$250
Wilson, Alan	\$250
Wilson, Kathleen	\$250
Winter, Brian	\$250
Wright, Elaine	\$250
Zivian, Bruce	\$250
LeFew, William	\$244
Bolander, Carl	\$200
Callen, Barbara	\$200
Cook, Robert	\$200

Delaney III, Martin	\$200
Devilbiss, Edwin	\$200
Hansen, Greg	\$200
Maczka, Scott	\$200
Mathis, Michael	\$200
Nowell, Richard	\$200
Paullin, Don	\$200
Schroeder, Jeff	\$200
Stack, Stan	\$200
Westphal, Erin	\$200
Ziebro, Chris	\$200
Yeagley, Jeanne	\$199
Huckstadt, Donald	\$150
Mandel, Adam	\$150
Routh, Ronald	\$125
Brandon, Claudia	\$100
Czynski, Mark	\$100
D'amore, Stephen	\$100
Lichtenauer, John	\$100
Pavel, Peter	\$100
Schlichting, Harold	\$100
Schultz, Erik	\$100
Steele, Robert	\$100
Vancura, Nancy	\$75
Whitney, John	\$75
Borkon, Henry	\$56
Madsen, Wayne	\$50
Gendusa, Joseph	\$35
Mura, John	\$35
Lake, James	\$25
Total	\$ 453,815

[FEC, Joe Walsh, [2010 Election Filings](#)]

2011 First Quarter: Raised \$371,000

In April 2011, Walsh outraised the other four newly elected Republican Members of Congress by raising \$371,000 in the first quarter of 2011. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 4/19/11]

Headline: Tea Party's Walsh reaping PAC money

In April 2011, after Walsh's first quarter fundraising as a Member of Congress, the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) reported that he received over \$50,000 from political action committees. The story's headline read, "Tea Party's Walsh reaping PAC money." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 4/17/11]

Promised \$3.5 Million in Campaign Support to Switch Districts

In December 2011, Walsh announced he was switching to the eighth congressional district race and the Daily Herald reported Walsh was promised \$3.5 million in fundraising help from Speaker John Boehner to make the change. [Daily Herald, [12/08/11](#)]

Note: A PDF of the article is saved on the drive.

Boehner Encouraged Walsh to Switch Districts at Behest of \$50K Donor

The Daily Herald also reported that Boehner met with Walsh to encourage him to switch districts after Jack Roeser, an influential Barrington Republican with deep pockets, had only months before given Boehner \$50,000. [Daily Herald, [12/08/11](#)]

Fundraised to Prevent Redistricting

In June 2011, Illinois Republicans, including former Speaker Denny Hastert, former Labor Secretary Lynn Martin and former Rep. Tom Ewing, held an event to raise funds for an anticipated legal challenge to the Illinois redistricting map. Under the name “The Committee for a Fair and Balanced Map,” the Republicans planned to file a federal lawsuit and urged Gov. Quinn not to sign off on the map. Suggested contributions from individuals was \$250 and either \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,500 for a sponsorships. [Chicago Sun-Times, [6/14/11](#)]

Member of PAC to Retire Campaign Debt

In January 2011, the Courier News wrote: “Illinois’ freshmen class may not be outwardly concerned about 2012, but it already formed a political action committee, Illinois House Republican Freshmen, and hired a professional fundraiser to help it pay down campaign debt. The PAC is not expected to remain active going forward.” Walsh was one of five Illinois GOP freshmen to participate in the political action committee. [[Courier News](#), 1/30/11]

Received over \$27,000 in Post-Election PAC Contributions

From November to December 2010, Walsh received more than \$27,000 in industry PAC contributions following his successful bid for Congress. [[Wall Street Journal Blog](#), 2/03/11]

Took \$5,000 from the Exxon Pac

In April 2011, the Exxon Mobile Corporation PAC disclosed that it contributed \$5,000 to Representative Walsh. [Exxon Mobil Corporation FEC Report, 4/15/11]

Said He Supported Limiting Donations of individuals and PACs

When a constituent at a district town hall questioned the large sums of money spent on political campaigns, Walsh suggested that the limits of monetary donations allowed by individuals and PACs be removed. [Northwest Herald, [8/14/11](#)]

Appendix II – Key Videos

Walsh Meltdown: “Don’t Blame the Banks!”

During a November 2011 “Cup of Joe with Joe” session, in response to questions about the lack of bank regulation and the presence of lobbyists in Washington Walsh ranted at his constituents:

It’s not the private marketplace that created this mess. What created the mess is your government, which has demanded for years that everybody be in a home... Don’t blame banks, and don’t blame the marketplace for the mess we’re in right now. I am tired of hearing that crap. ... This pisses me off. Too many people don’t listen. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 11/16/11; [Chicago Tribune](#), 11/10/11; YouTube, [11/09/11](#)]

Avoided Group of Occupy Chicago Protestors, Including Two of His Constituents

In December 2011, Occupy Chicago protestors, including two of Walsh’s own constituents, travelled to D.C. The protestors dropped by Walsh’s office where according to the Huffington Post, a staffer told the group that Walsh could meet with them around 3 p.m. Around 3:20 p.m. however, Walsh fled his office without saying a word. [The Huffington Post, [12/6/11](#) (video available in article)]

...Then Insulted the Group on Twitter

Afterward Walsh tweeted “My office was invaded by the Occupy Protestors today & all I saw were \$1000 laptops and vomit on the carpet. Thank God for #febreze.” [[Chicagoist.com](#), [12/7/11](#)]

Refused to Discuss Charges of Owing Child Support

In January 2012 interview with Martin Bashir, Walsh refused to discuss charges that he owes \$117,000 in child support. Walsh pledged to fight the charges “legally and privately.” [Huffington Post, [01/24/12](#) (video available in article)]

Refused to Comment on Illinois Bill Forbidding Child Support Debtors from Running for Office

Walsh also refused to comment on an Illinois bill that would forbid people owing more than \$10,000 in child support from running for political office. [Huffington Post, [01/24/12](#)]

Claimed Democrats Want to Keep Minorities on “a Plantation”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party, Walsh said “African Americans and Hispanics love this issue [referring to school choice]. Republicans talk about this issue – Democrats won’t touch it. Why? I think it’s because they are bought and paid for by the teachers’ unions, and this sort of competition scares the teachers’ unions. Republicans have to do a better job of talking freedom to some of these other populations. Because all the Democrats want to do is put ‘em on a plantation, they could care less of them.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Said Obama Elected Because County “Lost Its Reason”

In March 2012, Walsh told a town hall that Obama was elected because the country “lost its reason.”

Walsh said “We elected this man because of who he was: a historic figure, our first black president... the country just got caught up in it and we lost our reason a little bit. It made us feel good about ourselves as a country. If we can’t be honest enough about ourselves to say it we haven’t learned anything.” [YouTube, [3/05/12](#)]

Said Americans Voted for Obama “To Make Us Feel Good About Ourselves”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party meeting, Walsh said Americans voted for Obama “based on who he was: a historical figure - our first black president. Made the country feel good about ourselves.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Said Country Has “Arrived Racially When We Can Criticize our First Black President”

He went on to say that “This country that we love has arrived racially when we can criticize our first black president just like we can criticize our white presidents, any presidents. If we can’t criticize this president because of his race, shame on us.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Called Being a Congressman a “Pain in the Rear-End”

In February 2012, at a Rockford Tea Party meeting, Joe Walsh said “This job is a pain in the rear-end. I can see why a lot of people don’t want to do it. And I spent a year and a half doing my best to make enemies on both sides. My Republican establishment and the Democrats. And I’ve done a good job because they’re both unhappy with me.” [YouTube, [2/18/12](#)]

Failed to Provide One Example of How He’s Brought Jobs to His District

In February 2012, Walsh responded to a question at a town hall meeting where he was asked to provide an example of how he has brought jobs to his district. Walsh spoke for four and a half minutes, and was unable to come up with a single specific example. [YouTube, [2/28/12](#)]

Walsh: Plenty of Money after Aug. 2 to Make Debt and Social Security Payments and Told Obama to “Quit Lying”

In a July 2011 video posted from his congressionally-associated Youtube account, Walsh sharply criticized President Obama’s warning that Social Security checks might be delayed or stopped if a vote to raise the debt limit before August 2 does not happen. Walsh said,

“President Obama quit lying. You know darn well that if August 2nd comes and goes, there’s plenty of money to pay off our debt and cover all of our Social Security obligations. And you also know that you and only you have the discretion to make those payments. What’s next, sir? You are going to try to scare students and families and say that unless we raise the debt limit, we won’t be able to make student debt payments? How about military families? Time to steer them and claim we won’t have the money to pay their benefits? ... We will not raise your debt ceiling unless we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. You see President Obama, the American people don’t trust politicians, yourself included, unless we force politicians to balance

their books every year, they won't. The only way to force them to do this is through a constitutional amendment. Quit playing politics with the debt ceiling vote and quit lying to the American people...The American people understand and support the balanced budget amendment, virtually all Republicans do...You don't like ultimatums? Tough. Here's my ultimatum: I won't place one more dollar of debt upon the backs of my kids and grandkids unless we structurally reform the way this town spends money." [RepJoeWalsh official YouTube page, [7/13/11](#)]

Not "Bothered" by Congressional Inaction

In February 2012, at a town hall meeting, Walsh told the audience that Congressional inaction "doesn't bother me." He explained that he believed inaction was better than Obama's proposals. [YouTube, [2/28/12](#)]

Appendix III –Letters to the Editor

Walsh has written a number of letters to the editor during his time as a candidate for public office as well as in his capacity as an advocate for privatizing public education. His letters and candidate surveys are reprinted in whole below.

Responding to Daily Herald's Criticisms

Walsh: 'My constituents are my bosses'

Earlier this week, the Daily Herald Editorial Board ran an editorial attacking me for not attending the president's recent address to Congress and for not listening. I have nothing but the highest respect for the office of the president, but I will never apologize for listening to my constituents over another one of the president's political speeches. We've tradition-ally reserved joint sessions of Congress for extraordinary occasions such as times of war and visits from heads of state from around the world. I felt that in presenting his third jobs plan in 2 1/2 years, President Obama was politicizing a joint session of Congress, and I didn't want to take part in that.

And if it wasn't political, then why did the Democratic National Committee use clips from the president's speech to cut a campaign ad? It's illegal to use any of the president's official appearances for his re-election campaign. You can't get more political than a campaign ad. And the Daily Herald had the gall to call what I did political grandstanding?

The editorial stated: "(Walsh is) not listening ... If you don't have respect for the office of the president, if you don't want to listen to the other side ..." Listening to whom? To whomever the Daily Herald approves? I did listen. I do listen. I listen to my constituents. My responsibility is to them, not to the president.

Moreover, I didn't ignore the president's remarks. I read the entire speech, and then I discussed it with a group of over 100 small business owners. We came up with some small business jobs proposals in response, and I sent those propos-als in a letter to the president. How many members of Congress listened that closely, gave the president's speech that much attention, let alone read it? And the Daily Herald would have preferred that I had just been a prop for the president and sat in my seat. That doesn't seem very productive to me.

There are other ideas out there, and maybe we should start paying attention to them. The last time I checked, the presi-dent's ideas aren't working too well -- the economy added zero jobs in August and unemployment is still above 9 per-cent. The president has tried his ideas, and they haven't worked. Listening only to Obama isn't listening at all. I think it's time the Daily Herald started listening to some other people too and getting some new ideas.

So, again, I am confused by the accusation that I am not listening. I listen to Republicans and Democrats, including this president, every day. And I listen to my constituents, whom I represent. My constituents are my bosses, and my constitutional obligation is to serve them, not the president. It is for that reason that I will never make Washington, D.C., my home. It is for that reason that I sleep in my office and fly home every single weekend. It is for that reason that I have held over 70 town-hall meetings since I was sworn

in last January. That has been the single most important mission of my time so far in Washington -- to talk with my constituents as much as possible. I represent them, and that's my job. I realize that might bring me into conflict with the news media's devotion to the president, but if we're going to discuss small business job creation, then I am going to talk to the small business owners in my district because they, not the president, are the ones who are going to create these jobs.

* Joe Walsh, a McHenry Republican, represents Illinois' 8th Congressional District. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 9/16/11]

Financial Reform

True reform means ending 'too big to fail'

True financial reform must accomplish two things in my view: preserve the integrity of our nation's financial system and protect taxpayers from future bailouts.

The financial overhaul legislation put forward by Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and congressional Democrats doesn't advance either of these causes.

Instead, the Dodd legislation would codify the notion of "too big to fail" and leave taxpayers on the hook for corporate bailouts in perpetuity.

The most hotly debated provision of the bill is the \$50 billion so-called "resolution fund" to wind down failing financial institutions. But even if that provision were removed from the legislation, the new powers granted to the FDIC and Treasury would still create a de facto "too big to fail" climate. As House Minority Leader John Boehner said of the Dodd bill, the FDIC and Treasury have "got the ability to go in and bail out anybody they deem in need of it or anyone who is systemically at risk."

And it's not just Republicans saying this. Rep. Brad Sherman, a California Democrat, recently said, "The bill contains permanent, unlimited bailout authority."

Granting such sweeping policy-making authority to regulators is a fatal flaw in this legislation.

Additionally, like so many other pieces of legislation advanced by congressional Democrats to expand federal power under the guise of "reform," the Dodd bill is a job killer. The National Federation of Independent Business, in a letter to Congress, had this to say about it: "Addressing the problems in the financial services sector makes sense, but such regulations should not overreach to include small business or leave small business paying for the excess of companies deemed too big to fail." With unemployment at 12 percent, the last thing we should do is pile more regulatory and financial burdens on our job-creating small businesses.

Finally, conspicuous by its absence from the Dodd bill is any effort to revamp and reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. There is no such thing as real reform that will protect U.S. taxpayers and 8th District families from the calamities of the last few years without reform of Fannie and Freddie.

I support the bill by Texas Republican Rep. Jeb Hensarling -- the Government Sponsored Enterprise Bailout Elimination and Taxpayer Protection Act -- which would set a two-year expiration date for the

conservatorship of Fannie and Freddie, after which they would enter a three-year transitional phase that would impose steeper capital requirements and more stringent curbs on their mortgage activities. I also support New Jersey Republican Rep. Scott Garrett's bill to include Fannie and Freddie in the federal budget so there is an accurate accounting of their activities.

I also support a slew of other provisions in the Senate Republicans' alternative to the Dodd bill introduced last week including: tighter limits on the Fed's emergency lending power, a more transparent regulatory framework for over-the-counter derivatives, new underwriting standards for residential mortgage, and a reorganization of the SEC to enhance its enforcement efficiency.

The bottom line is the "too big to fail" philosophy of the Washington political class creates unacceptable moral hazards that encourage both public sector and private sector actors to take risks they otherwise wouldn't take because ultimately U.S. taxpayers bear the responsibility. Not only is it wrong, we cannot afford it.

* Joe Walsh is the 8th District Republican nominee for Congress. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 5/07/10]

Walsh's Condo Foreclosure

Walsh statement

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the full text of the e-mailed statement Republican congressional candidate Joe Walsh sent to the media and supporters Wednesday, regarding his foreclosure and a story appearing in the Daily Herald. It appears unedited.

Our country faces critical challenges. I'm running for Congress to address those challenges. It is incredibly disappointing to me -- and to the majority of voters in the Illinois 8th Congressional District -- that the news media has focused not on these issues that matter to the future of our nation, but instead has consistently sought to ridicule, demean, and condescend to anyone who tries to challenge the status quo.

The politics of personal destruction is the reason we so seldom see legitimate "change agents" running for office.

I won the Republican primary by a large margin, despite being outspent because voters identified with my message. I feel like I'm losing my country and too few we've sent to D.C. are doing anything about it.

Here are the facts: I am not a wealthy man -- I never have been. We have lived the past couple of years on a salary that averages \$40K year, and which is more in line with the average family in the 8th. I believe that public service, including elective office, should be accessible to people of all income levels, not just the wealthy. Frankly, I believe that one of the reasons we have so many problems and we see so many bad policy choices made is because Congress is a millionaires' club. Too many of our elected officials are insulated from the devastating financial impacts of the rules and regulations they impose on us.

I know all too well what 8th district families are going through to make ends meet because I've experienced some of the same difficult and humbling financial challenges. Like so many others in Illinois in recent years, and 1 in 9 Americans nationally, I know what it's like to lose a home to foreclosure.

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 1991 with a Master's Degree in Public Policy, I chose a career in public service, knowing that the salary levels would never make me wealthy. Instead, I got satisfaction from working as a social worker in inner city Chicago, teaching American history and government at community colleges, and running the non-profit Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund. After my first marriage ended in divorce, I purchased a condominium in Evanston to be my primary residence. This was back in 2004.

In 2006 I remarried and realized that with our combined family of five children we needed a larger home. In 2006, I put the Evanston condo up for sale. By 2008 with no buyers in a down real-estate market, I found myself struggling to keep up with two homes, and five children. I accepted responsibility for the situation and worked with my bank to foreclose on the condo. It was my problem and I didn't ask anyone to bail me out. Additionally in 2008, I tried to improve my financial situation by changing careers to work with a Chicago-based boutique banking group focusing on helping new and small businesses raise investment capital. I took responsibility for my circumstances and have endured the financial consequences while working diligently to abide by my obligations.

This experience helped me gain a better appreciation for the very real economic anxieties felt by 8th district families, many of whom are just a paycheck or two away from facing similar difficulties. Frankly, the perspective I gained from this challenge helped me grow as a person and I believe will make me a better representative of working people's interests in Washington.

I knew getting into this race that the local media would do Melissa Bean's dirty work for her. And the Daily Herald has now lived down to my expectations. The media elites are part of a dysfunctional political establishment that has destroyed our economy in pursuit of reshaping America into a country working people don't even recognize and cannot afford.

I got in this race to represent the people I grew up with, the people who go to work every day and who try to make ends meet. While Melissa Bean hides from her constituents for fear that she would have to defend her radical left-wing votes for cap-and-trade and a government takeover of health care, I stand before the electorate in the light of day ready to present my views and answer all inquiries.

If enduring the ridicule of a few media types is the price I have to pay to demonstrate that a regular guy can stand up to the political establishment on behalf of middle class, working families, so be it.

The issues facing our country are too serious to allow a couple of cheap shots to get me off my message. I'm grateful for the support of fellow Republicans, specifically Gene Dawson, who told me this morning, "I'm behind you 100%." I'm going to keep doing what I've been doing since the day I started this race -- talking to real voters about bringing real change to Washington D.C. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), LTE, 3/04/10]

Walsh's Health Care Plan

In January 2010, Walsh presented his plan for health care reform which included selling insurance across state lines, tort reform, and medical savings accounts. The following is Walsh's response to a candidate survey in the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) when asked to define his view of reform:

I am opposed to a government-sponsored health care system. As Ronald Reagan said in his first inaugural address, “In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government IS the problem.”

Part of the problem with our current health care system is the cost shifting necessitated because Medicare and Medicaid cover such a small portion of actual costs. Forcing more Americans into a universal Medicare system only exacerbates this problem. Study after study has indicated that the programs currently being debated in Congress will force more Americans off their private health insurance programs and into the government program. This will drive up costs for private insurance plans and eventually bankrupt them. In the end, the result would be a bloated government entity rife with bureaucrats and paperwork that could only meet its goals of reducing costs by rationing and providing an inferior product. We need only look to the health care systems in Canada or Great Britain to see evidence of this.

I support Republican proposals such as allowing insurance companies to compete across state lines, tort reform, and Medical Savings Accounts to reduce costs.

Health insurance costs vary dramatically from state to state, largely because of state mandated coverage required in many locales. Allowing competition across state lines and eliminating these costly mandates will reduce costs for most people. Why should a healthy, young, single person be required to purchase an insurance package that covers such items as marriage counseling and hair replacement if they do not want these items? In many states, folks have no choice. People should be able to shop for the insurance that meets their needs and budgets with catastrophic care included to meet unforeseen events.

Tort reform will also reduce costs. Limiting jury awards to actual damages and eliminating outrageous punitive damages for pain and suffering will dramatically lower malpractice insurance costs. An additional benefit will be the reduction in cost achieved by the elimination of unnecessary testing associated with defensive medicine. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/28/10]

Top 3 Priorities

In January 2010, Walsh said his top three priorities in Congress would be to reduce spending, reform entitlements, and extend Route 53 into Lake County. The following is Walsh’s response to a candidate survey in the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) when asked what his top three priorities would be:

1. Reduce Spending

The most urgent priority for our nation today is halting and reversing the unprecedented explosion in government spending. I will fight to cut spending, reduce taxes and return to a balanced budget. Residents of the 8th Congressional District will benefit most from my efforts to lower taxes and eliminate the crushing debt that is being passed onto our kids and grandkids.

2. Reform Entitlements

Entitlement reform. Medicare and Social Security are both well-loved but ill-conceived programs. As our population ages and retirees live longer, beneficiaries are putting increased strains on those paying into the system far beyond any-thing that was originally anticipated.

The unfunded liabilities of both programs dwarf the official national debt, and unless some changes are made, these programs will soon gobble up our country's capacity to spend on anything else.

The problem, of course, is that special interest groups have prevented any meaningful reform of either of these pro-grams and both parties pillory political opponents who even propose any changes. I'll try to avoid that trap here.

These issues can only be solved when members of both parties recognize the magnitude of the problem and agree to work in a bipartisan way to address them. I think that time is near, but events playing out in Congress demonstrate that we are not there yet. The President's health care proposals effectively perpetuate the Ponzi scheme-like character that epitomizes both Social Security and Medicare.

Ultimately, the answer will require some mechanism for individuals to set aside a portion of their own income for their own retirement and health care. Only when individuals have some responsibility for their own well-being will we be able to get a handle on skyrocketing costs.

In the meantime, we must guarantee benefits to those already in these programs or nearing retirement. Eventually, younger workers will need a new program to replace these existing entitlements.

3. Extend Route 53

Additionally, I will provide federal leadership to extend Route 53 into Lake County. This project has been on the drawing board for over 40 years and government inaction has saddled residents of Lake and McHenry counties with some of the longest commute times in the nation. We need some Congressional leadership to move this public need forward. [[Chicago Daily Herald](#), 1/15/10]

Education Reform

Reform-Minded?

In a recent letter ("Not the culprit," Voice, March 30), reader Gerald Adler of Evanston presents columnist David Broder with the most astounding dare I have ever seen in print. He challenges Broder to name one educational reform in the past 20 years that has been stifled by the teachers unions.

I, too, live in Evanston. Perhaps Mr. Adler and I should discuss over coffee sometime the self-interested history of the teachers unions. For now, let me list just a few reforms the unions have attempted to stifle:

- Performance pay (rewarding teachers and principals when students do well).
- Tenure reform (believing instead that seniority counts more than competence).
- Easier dismissal of corrupt and/or bad teachers.
- Tougher licensing standards for potential teachers.
- Regular competency tests for practicing teachers.
- Alternative routes to certification (which would allow a working chemist with a Ph.D. but no teacher certification to teach high school chemistry).
- Charter schools (enabling groups of teachers and business people to start up schools free of many bureaucratic man-dates).
- Public school choice.
- School vouchers (letting low-income parents choose their children's school).
- Back to basics, direct instruction and phonics.
- Computers (the unions opposed using them in the classroom).

To put it bluntly, the teachers unions have opposed every reform that would make themselves and the schools more accountable for their performance. The unions fight for what's good for teachers--not necessarily for what's good for students, parents and even the schools themselves. [[Chicago Tribune](#), LTE, 4/18/96]

Note: Walsh was Executive director of the Prairie State Initiative when this LTE was written.

School Choice

Families Should Make School Choice

The March 13 story on the pilot school-voucher bill approved on March 8 by the Illinois Senate ("School voucher plan still faces a tortuous route") offered a one-sided analysis of the constitutionality of vouchers. I was dismayed that the Tribune would give such prominent attention to the fallacious analysis of the anti-voucher lobby.

The 1st Amendment says that the coercive force of government will not be used to establish a state religion; it does not say that public funds may never pass from parents to religiously affiliated schools. The words "separation of church and state" never appear in the U.S. Constitution, and indeed strict separation was not the practice during the nation's first 100 years.

Government funding of religiously affiliated schools was commonplace until the mid-19th Century, when Irish immigration triggered a wave of anti-Catholicism and, consequently, the now-fashionable doctrine of opposition to public funding of religiously affiliated schools.

The Supreme Court, in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971), established a three-part test in establishment clause cases to determine if school voucher plans are constitutional: The program must serve a secular purpose; its “primary effect” must neither advance nor inhibit religion; and it must not foster an “excessive entanglement” between government and religion.

The school choice program that passed the Illinois Senate passes this test. It places the decision of where the funds are spent in the hands of students and parents and does not discriminate in favor of religious schools.

Despite the disingenuous reporting of the Tribune, vouchers are anything but radical. The government provides Pell grants to students at religiously affiliated schools and the GI Bill even covers tuition at seminaries. Public school teachers themselves receive government assistance to attend religious schools to further their training. President Clinton has proposed voucherizing employment training programs and hundreds of thousands of families receive vouchers to finance day care for their children.

The 1st Amendment exists to guarantee religious freedom to all. I can think of no more important aspect of this freedom than the freedom to control and guide the education of one’s child, in whatever religious or non-religious setting the parent deems appropriate. We give this freedom to parents in this country only if they can afford to pay both private school tuition and education taxes. By denying public funds to private schools, we deny middle- and low-income parents the same freedom exercised by the wealthy.

Opponents of school choice cannot defend the performance of our urban public schools and they cannot deny that choice in education is a parent’s right and responsibility. Having lost the substantive debate, they are left in their final refuge: They throw up the anti-religion attack, the plaintive wail of church and state.

The intellectual debate is over. Parents and families-not governments, bureaucrats or teachers unions-should be responsible for the education of our children. [[Chicago Tribune](#), LTE, 3/22/95]

Note: Walsh was Executive director of the Prairie State Initiative when this LTE was written.

Appendix IV –Headlines and Editorials

New York Times: G.O.P. Freshman’s Fiscal Message Clashes with His Finances

[New York Times, [10/17/11](#)]

Chicago Daily Herald: “Party, PAC cash flowing more freely into Walsh’s war chest”

PDF saved on drive. [Chicago Daily Herald, [2/09/11](#)]

Northwest Herald: Walsh in Washington: Doing it his way

PDF saved on drive. [Northwest Herald, 2/25/11]

Slate: “What Did He Just Say? Meet Rep. Joe Walsh, the biggest media hound in the freshman class.”

PDF saved on drive. [Slate, [5/26/11](#)]

Huffington Post: Freshman Republicans Lobby Federal Agencies For Millions Amid Spending Critiques

PDF saved on drive. [Huffington Post, [7/05/11](#)]

Chicago Sun Times: Sen. Dick Durbin, negotiator, Rep. Joe Walsh, screamer

PDF saved on drive. [Chicago Sun Times, [7/22/11](#)]

Politico: Joe Walsh, cable catnip

PDF saved on drive. [Politico, [7/22/11](#)]

Chicago Sun Times: Tea Party Rep. Joe Walsh sued for \$100,000 in child support

[Chicago Sun Times, [7/27/11](#)]

Politico: Walsh's ex seeking \$117K in child support

PDF saved on drive. [Politico, 7/28/11]

Chicago Tribune: Ex-Wife: Ill. Congressman Owes \$117K Child Support

[Chicago Tribune, [7/28/11](#)]

Chicago Business: Crazy or crazy like a fox? Hypocrite or victim? Meet U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh

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Washington Post: Joe Walsh a new star—for better or worse

PDF saved on drive. [[Washington Post](#), [7/28/11](#)]

CNN: Hardliners in debt talks have debt problems of their own

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The Hill: Joe Walsh: Just your average, regular deadbeat dad kind of a guy

[The Hill, [8/01/11](#)]

Roll Call: Freshman Walsh Urged to Move to Illinois' 14th District

PDF saved on drive. [Roll Call, [7/28/11](#)]

Roll Call: Some GOP Members Hit Own Debt Limit

[Roll Call, [8/01/11](#)]

Grayslake Patch: Democrats, Catholics Protest Outside Walsh Office

[Grayslake Patch, [7/31/11](#)]

Barrington Courier Review: Protesters gather at Walsh headquarters

[Barrington Courier Review, [8/02/11](#)]

Chicago Sun Times: Rep. Joe Walsh wants ex-wife sanctioned in child support case

A PDF is saved on the drive. [Chicago Sun Times, [9/07/11](#)]

Chicago Sun Times: Judge scolds Rep. Joe Walsh in child-support case with ex-wife

A PDF is saved on the drive. [Chicago Sun Times, [9/14/11](#)]

NBC Chicago: "Walsh Attended SOTU, Sits Out Jobs Speech"

A PDF is saved on the drive. [NBC Chicago, [9/08/11](#)]

Huffington Post: Joe Walsh Among Congress' 'Most Corrupt' Members in New Report

A PDF is saved on the drive. [Huffington Post, [9/20/11](#)]

New York Times: G.O.P. Freshman's Fiscal Message Clashes with His Finances

[New York Times, [10/17/11](#)]

Chicago Sun Times: "Joe Walsh has a loud voice, but nothing to say"

In July 2011, a [Chicago Sun Times](#) editorial declared, "Joe Walsh is what's wrong with Washington." It continued, "The Republican freshman congressman from Chicago's northwest suburbs is the poster child

for the uncompromising and vitriolic style of politics that's about to send our nation over a cliff." [[Chicago Sun Times, 7/27/11](#)]

Appendix V – Bill Sponsorships

CONGRESS	BILL	BILL TITLE	STATUS
112 th	H.R.1501	To withhold United States contributions to the United Nations until the United Nations formally retracts the final report of the “United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict”.	Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
112 th	H.J.RES.54	Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.	Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
112 th	H.J.RES.56	Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.	Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
112 th	H.R.2457	Palestinian Accountability Act	Referred to the Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia.
112 th	H.R.2945	Capital Gains Inflation Relief Act of 2011	Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
112 th	H.R.3372	Dairy Pricing Deregulation Act	Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
112 th	H.R.3396	To abolish the Office of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes.	Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education.
112 th	H.R.3403	Save Christmas Act	Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture.
112 th	H.R.3594	Second Amendment Protection Act of 2011	Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
112 th	H.RES.394	Supporting Israel's right to annex Judea and Samaria in the event that the Palestinian Authority continues to press for unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations.	Referred to the Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia.

[thomas.loc.gov, accessed 1/23/12]

Appendix VI – 28 Founding Principles

On his campaign website, Walsh listed the “28 Founding Principles of the United States.” The principles were taken from a book by W. Cleon Skousen called The Five Thousand Year Leap which dedicates a chapter to examining each of the principles.

The principles are featured on the 9-12 Coalition’s website and the latest version of the book has a forward written by Glenn Beck. [amazon.com, accessed [4/19/11](#); the912coalition.org, accessed [4/19/11](#)]

- Principle 1 - The only reliable basis for sound government and just human relations is Natural Law.
- Principle 2 – A free people cannot survive under a republican constitution unless they remain virtuous and morally strong.
- Principle 3 – The most promising method of securing a virtuous people is to elect virtuous leaders.
- Principle 4 – Without religion the government of a free people cannot be maintained.
- Principle 5 - All things were created by God, therefore upon him all mankind are equally dependent, and to him they are equally responsible.
- Principle 6 - All mankind were created equal.
- Principle 7 - The proper role of government is to protect equal rights, not provide equal things.
- Principle 8 - Mankind are endowed by God with certain unalienable rights.
- Principle 9 - To protect human rights, God has revealed a code of divine law.
- Principle 10 – The God-given right to govern is vested in the sovereign authority of the whole people.
- Principle 11 - The majority of the people may alter or abolish a government which has become tyrannical.
- Principle 12 - The United States of America shall be a republic.
- Principle 13 - A Constitution should protect the people from the frailties of their rulers.
- Principle 14 - Life and liberty are secure only so long as the rights of property are secure.

- Principle 15 - The highest level of prosperity occurs when there is a free-market economy and a minimum of government regulations.
- Principle 16 - The government should be separated into three branches.
- Principle 17 - A system of checks and balances should be adopted to prevent the abuse of power by the different branches of government.
- Principle 18 - The unalienable rights of the people are most likely to be preserved if the principles of government are set forth in a written Constitution.
- Principle 19 - Only limited and carefully defined powers should be delegated to government, all others being retained by the people.
- Principle 20 - Efficiency and dispatch require that the government operate according to the will of the majority, but constitutional provisions must be made to protect the rights of the minority.
- Principle 21 - Strong local self-government is the keystone to preserving human freedom.
- Principle 22 - A free people should be governed by law and not by the whims of men.
- Principle 23 - A free society cannot survive as a republic without a broad program of general education.
- Principle 24 - A free people will not survive unless they stay strong.
- Principle 25 - “Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations – entangling alliances with none.”- Thomas Jefferson, given in his first inaugural address.
- Principle 26 – The core unit which determines the strength of any society is the family; therefore the government should foster and protect its integrity.
- Principle 27 - The burden of debt is as destructive to human freedom as subjugation by conquest.
- Principle 28 - The United States has a manifest destiny to eventually become a glorious example of God’s law under a restored Constitution that will inspire the entire human race. [walshforcongress.com, accessed 3/01/11]