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For Immediate Release

Contact: Liesl Hickey 202-225-4835
Matt Leffingwell 202-225-4836

The Suburban Agenda: 50-member Caucus Unveils Family-Focused Agenda for Congress

New legislation responds to concerns voiced by suburban families

Washington, D.C. - Addressing the priorities of suburban families and communities, 50 members of the Suburban Caucus met today to introduce the Suburban Agenda, a set of legislative initiatives developed in response to concerns voiced by suburban families from across the United States.

With over half of Americans living in suburban communities today, members of the Suburban Caucus worked for six months to design an agenda for Congress to meet their key priorities in education, health care, economic growth and conservation.

"Suburban families face a number of critical problems," said Rep. Mark Kirk, Chairman of the Suburban Caucus. "Drug gangs are moving to our suburban communities, thousands of online predators are trying to contact our kids, green and open space is rapidly disappearing from our neighborhoods, and millions of Americans worry that it may be more difficult for their children to enter the middle class than it was for us. Suburban families feel they are under attack and they deserve a voice in the Congress."

The Suburban Caucus introduced seven bills, the first in a series of legislative initiatives the Congress will work to enact in the coming months. The new legislation includes the:

- **School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act** (Jon Porter (NV), H.R. 4894) linking state and national criminal databases to make sure interstate pedophiles are not hired as teachers or coaches.
- **401 Kids Family Savings Accounts** (Clay Shaw (FL), H.R. 5314) establishing savings for kids from birth to pay for education or to purchase first home.

- **Health Information Technology Promotion Act** (Nancy Johnson (CT), H. R. 4157) setting guidelines to establish electronic medical records
- **Deleting Online Predators Act** (Mike Fitzpatrick (PA), H.R. 5319) protecting children from online predators especially on social networking sites such as MySpace.com.
- **Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act** (Jim Gerlach (PA), H.R. 5313) establishing local grant programs to protect suburban open space.
- **Gang Elimination Act of 2006** (Dave Reichert (WA), H.R. 5291) fighting new suburban drug gangs.
- **Charitable Donations for Open Space Act** (Mike Fitzpatrick (PA), H.R. 5056) creating tax easements for charitable donations for open space.

"American families are focused on keeping their kids safe, securing a strong financial future, preserving the natural beauty of their community, and ensuring healthcare coverage. Our Suburban Agenda addresses these critical issues in places like Libertyville, Illinois," said Kirk. "It represents a grassroots, common-sense set of solutions for families in suburban communities. The Caucus will work to move these bills through the House and will welcome Democratic support."

The Suburban Caucus outlined several other legislative initiatives coming this fall including an extension of COBRA family insurance coverage, Superfund program reforms to speed up the clean up of toxic waste sites, and measures to help protect classrooms and students from drugs and weapons.

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The **Suburban** Agenda

Our Families

Our Communities

Our Commitment

To Do -

School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act

Rep. Jon Porter

H.R. 4894

Charitable Donations for Open Space Act

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick

H.R. 5056

The Health IT Promotion Act

Rep. Nancy Johnson

H.R. 4157

401 Kids Family Savings Account

Rep. Clay Shaw

H.R. 5314

Deleting Online Predators Act

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick

H.R. 5319

Gang Elimination Act of 2006

Rep. Dave Reichert

H.R. 5291

Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act

Rep. Jim Gerlach

H.R. 5313

Suburban Agenda Caucus

Judy Biggert (IL)
Jeb Bradley (NH)
Kevin Brady (TX)
Ginny Brown-Waite (FL)
John Campbell (CA)
Mike Castle (DE)
Tom Cole (OK)
Geoff Davis (KY)
Tom Davis (VA)
Vern Ehlers (MI)
Phil English (PA)
Tom Feeney (FL)
Mike Ferguson (NJ)
Mike Fitzpatrick (PA)
Mark Foley (FL)
Vito Fossella (NY)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ)
Jim Gerlach (PA)
Wayne Gilchrest (MD)
Phil Gingrey (GA)
Kay Granger (TX)
Melissa Hart (PA)
Darrell Issa (CA)
Nancy Johnson (CT)
Richard Keller (FL)
Sue Kelly (NY)
Mark Kennedy (MN)
Jack Kingston (GA)
Mark Kirk (IL)
Randy Kuhl (NY)
Steven LaTourette (OH)
Michael McCaul (TX)
Candice Miller (MI)
Tim Murphy (PA)
Marilyn Musgrave (CO)
Jon Porter (NV)
Tom Price (GA)
Deborah Pryce (OH)
Jim Ramstad (MN)
Dave Reichert (WA)
Tom Reynolds (NY)
Mike Rogers (MI)
Joe Schwarz (MI)
Pete Sessions (TX)
Clay Shaw (FL)
Chris Shays (NY)
Pat Tiberi (OH)
Fred Upton (MI)
James Walsh (NY)
Curt Weldon (PA)
Jerry Weller (IL)
Frank Wolf (VA)