



Let Me Get This Straight: Most Members of Congress Aren't Required to Have Ethics Training?

That's right. Ethics training is currently NOT a requirement for Congressmen or Congresswomen elected prior to 2014. And it's only required of the new Members of the House because the House adopted a proposed rule Congressman Rigell offered to make it so. **This is not right.**

One of Scott's top priorities is to change the institution of Congress and restore the public's faith and trust in Congress. That's why Scott and his colleague Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-RI) introduced H.R. 1037, the Ensuring Trust and Honorability in Congressional Standards (ETHICS) Act of 2015. This bipartisan legislation requires **ALL Members** of the House of Representatives to undergo **annual ethics training**. This common sense reform will ensure that all Representatives meet that obligation. Learn more at Rigell.house.gov



Also in this issue:

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- ⇒ **Taking action to help our veterans**



(Left) Recently, Congressman Rigell had the opportunity to sit down with a group of Gold-Star families from VA-02 and across the country who lost loved ones in service to our country.

Those who died deserve our deep gratitude for their sacrifice and our commitment to care for their families. More photos at [Facebook.com/RepScottRigell](https://www.facebook.com/RepScottRigell)

Our Mission

Meet our deep obligation to pass on to the next generation of Americans the Blessings of Liberty and Freedom.

Respect, listen to, and provide exceptional constituent service to the People of the 2nd District.

Defend those who wear our nation's uniform; Speak boldly on behalf of our veterans; Honor and remember the fallen, and care for their families.

How Congress Works... Kids' Edition!

When Congressman Rigell visits schools, he likes to play a game with students to help them understand how Congress works. He tells them they have to work together to decide where to go to dinner. Everyone has to work together to pick one restaurant — even though some people prefer pizza, some don't eat meat, some only eat blue foods... you get the picture. The whole class has to achieve a principled compromise. Not always an easy task, but a great lesson on how Congress works!



Above: Congressman Rigell visits with students from Plaza Middle School to talk about the legislative process and what it's like to be a representative of the people. Check out more pics from this event and others on our Facebook page!

[Facebook.com/RepScottRigell](https://www.facebook.com/RepScottRigell)

Seeing the Impact of Energy First-Hand



In March, Congressman Rigell visited the Gulf Coast with business and community leaders from Hampton Roads. Their mission? See first hand how the energy industry has changed the region. What they saw: a **booming economy, clean and fishable waters, and the promise of replicating this success in our area.**

Denise, pictured here with Rigell, lives in Abbeville, LA. Her husband works at Port Fourchon and she frequently makes the three hour drive to fish there. She showed Rigell a photo of her husband's catch from the previous day at the Port - a 20 pounder!

Visit our Facebook page to see more photos from this trip: [Facebook.com/RepScottRigell](https://www.facebook.com/RepScottRigell)

Understanding the Immigration Funding Drama

Hint: it wasn't really about immigration

Dear Friend,

In March, an important legislative drama unfolded in Washington, and the outcome was not as I would have desired. Specifically, Congress considered the funding of the Department of Homeland Security and also attempted to address the immigration executive order issued by President Obama that would effectively grant amnesty to more than 5 million illegal immigrants.

Though immigration reform is an important topic and we must honor our long commitment of legally welcoming people to our shores, the legislative battle that unfolded recently was about far more than that. It was about the balance of power among the three branches of the federal government, and specifically between the Legislative and Executive branches.

Before he issued his order last November, the President had said on 22 occasions that he did not have the authority to change immigration policy by executive order. Yet he has done so regardless, and this unlawful executive order has created a constitutional crisis and degraded the rule of law in our nation.

No President can sidestep the Constitution, which makes clear in Article 1, Section 8 that Congress maintains the authority 'to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers,' including the power to 'establish a uniform Rule of

Naturalization,' while Article 2, Section 3 states that the President 'shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'

In an attempt to undo the President's orders, the House of Representative agreed to fund the Department of Homeland Security (the agency responsible for enforcing our immigration laws) so long as the President's immigration orders were not enacted. In following what is called 'regular order,' or the proper way Congress should do business, the House extended a good-faith offer to the Senate to meet and work out our differences, a process referred to as going to 'conference.' The Senate – and specifically Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid – rejected this and forced the House to consider a bill that did nothing to dismantle the President's immigration order. I voted against that bill because I felt the fight was not over.

Thankfully, the states are standing up to the President. A coalition of 26 states sued the President in order to stop his newest immigration executive

order. A federal judge has already issued a preliminary injunction stopping it (though the Administration is appealing this ruling). This is encouraging, and I will continue to fight against the President's executive overreach.

Mindful that I work for you, I remain

Yours in Freedom,



Wait, What Just Happened?

Understanding the DHS Funding/Immigration Issue and How We Got Here

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o **Nov. 20, 2014** – President Obama issues controversial executive order on immigration granting amnesty to nearly 5 million illegal immigrants.
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o **Dec. 11, 2014** – Congress approves funding for all government agencies except the Department of Homeland Security (which enforces immigration laws), vowing to address the issue in 2015 when Republicans control House and Senate.
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o **Jan. 14, 2015** – House approves full funding for Department of Homeland Security with defunding language for President's Executive Order.
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o **Feb. 16, 2015** – Federal District Court in Texas orders a 'stay' or temporary block on President's Executive Order. 26 states also file suit against the action.
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o **Jan. 30, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 25** – Senate Democrats cause delays by using procedural rules to prevent a vote on the House funding bill.
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o **Feb. 27, 2015** – FUNDING DEADLINE: House calls on Senate to meet on both versions of bills (this is called "going to conference"). Senate refuses.
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o **Feb. 27, 2015** – House and Senate agree to one week extension of DHS funding.
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o **Mar. 3, 2015** – House is forced to consider weakened legislation that fails to stop President's executive order. **Rigell votes AGAINST it.**



Agree? Disagree? Tell us: [Facebook.com/RepScottRigell](https://www.facebook.com/RepScottRigell)



Fighting for Our Veterans

“Our veterans deserve not only our deep respect and gratitude, but action to ensure that we meet our obligation to defend those who have defended us. We have a duty to protect those who wear our nation’s uniform and speak boldly on their behalf.” -Congressman Scott Rigell



Recently the House of Representatives has worked to honor our commitment to our nation’s veterans:

- Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (H.R. 203) enhancing VA recruiting efforts for psychiatrists and mandating evaluations of existing prevention programs to ensure their effectiveness. **SIGNED INTO LAW!**
- Veterans’ Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (H.R. 3230) allowing veterans to seek treatment at non-VA facilities. **SIGNED INTO LAW!**
- Modification to the 40-mile rule of the Veterans’ Choice program to use ‘driving distance’ rather than ‘as the crow flies’ for private care. **RULE CHANGED AFTER PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS!**

If you need assistance with a federal agency, including working with the VA for claims, please contact us.

We are here to help.

Our phone number: (757) 687-8290



Congressman Rigell visits with patients at the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. (right)

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