



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Seals Joins Recently Unemployed 10<sup>th</sup> District Worker to Condemn Kirk for Out-of-Touch Votes Against Unemployment Insurance**

*While Kirk Turns His Back on Constituents, Seals Pledges to Fight for Economic Policies to Turn Our Economy Around*

VERNON HILLS—Today, Democratic Congressional Candidate Dan Seals joined Peter Long, an Arlington Heights resident and engineer who was recently laid off from AT&T after working 20 years in the wireless industry, to discuss Congressman Mark Kirk's recent votes against extending unemployment insurance. Just days after the largest one-month increase in our nation's unemployment rate since 1986 and the largest quarterly increase in home foreclosures in history, Kirk's votes showed a lack of concern for his constituents who are struggling.

“When Mark Kirk had an opportunity to give our families a break, he refused, siding once again with President Bush and the failed economic policies that have gotten us to this point,” Seals said. “Congressman Kirk and I have different priorities. I believe that it is important that we do everything we can to turn our economy around and help those who are struggling. What I'm offering is a wholesale change from the indifference of the Bush administration and a focus on making our economy work for more Americans.”

Last week, Kirk voted twice with the Bush administration to oppose the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, which would provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to workers exhausting the 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits. When asked why he opposed the bill, Kirk said, “I know that others think this is a big issue, but I've heard very little. I have a very high-income district.” Kirk cited the district's 5.5% unemployment rate as proof. Kirk's statement shows once again how out-of-touch he has become with both the district and our nation, as the 5.5% unemployment rate he cites is the same as the national average that precipitated the recent push for unemployment benefits. Long said Kirk's comments showed how out-of-touch he is with the 10<sup>th</sup> district. [HR 5749, House Vote 403, 6/11/08; HR 5749, House Vote 412, 6/11/08]

“Mark Kirk's comments are wrong not only in their accuracy, but also in the attitude they display,” Long said. “A Congressman should never forget who he is sent to Washington to represent. Mark Kirk's comments show that he's done worse- he's completely dismissed his constituents. In November, I will be voting for the best candidate to fight for the 10<sup>th</sup> district and the commonsense economic policies we deserve. That is why I will be voting for Dan Seals.”

Kirk's votes against extending unemployment insurance were just the latest in a string of votes he has taken against economic relief for his constituents. In May, Kirk voted against the Housing Assistance Tax Act, which would provide a refundable \$7,500 to first time homebuyers and offer tax relief to non-itemizers by increasing the standard deduction for property taxes, and the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, which would cut taxes for millions of middle-class families. [HR 3221, House Vote 302, 5/8/08; HR 6049, House Vote 344, 5/21/08]

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