

ILLINOIS
 SENATE
 CANDIDATES
 ON MENDING
 THE GAPS



TAMMY DUCKWORTH



MARK KIRK

Mending the Wealth and Income Gap

TAX JUSTICE



No tax policy change should exacerbate the income gap, especially the racial/ethnic and gender wealth gaps.

About 525,000 workers in Illinois would benefit from the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include childless workers.¹

Tammy Duckworth supports closing tax loopholes for big corporations. "I do not believe we can ask working and middle class families, Veterans and low-income seniors to pay more taxes while the wealthiest...pay at only the 15% tax rate. We must let...tax breaks for the super wealthy expire and ensure that giant corporations...pay their fair share."² She also voted for an appropriations bill that made permanent the 2009 expansions to the EITC and the Child Tax Credit.³

Mark Kirk voted for an appropriations bill that made permanent the 2009 expansions to the EITC and the Child Tax Credit.³ He has also signed the Americans for Tax Reform "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" for no new taxes.⁴

¹<http://apps.cbpp.org/3-5-14tax/?state=IL>
²<http://primaries2012.elections.chicagotribune.com/editorial/tammy-duckworth/>
³http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=1&vote=00339
⁴<http://www.atr.org/pledge-database>

Mending the Wealth and Income Gap

LIVING WAGES



National legislation should move from adjusting a minimum wage to creating a living wage.

The minimum wage in Illinois is \$8.25 and has not been raised since 2010.¹

Tammy Duckworth supports raising the federal minimum wage because it "will increase the pay of at least 25 million hard working men and women across the country. Our workers deserve better; no one who works a full time job should have to live in poverty."²

Mark Kirk does not support raising the minimum wage because "I think if we raise the cost of labor, we will get less of it. We need more and more labor and more and more jobs."³ He voted to raise the federal minimum wage in 2006, but voted not to in 2014.⁴

¹<http://www.epi.org/minimum-wage-tracker/>
²<http://duckworth.house.gov/index.php/issues/poverty>
³<http://peoriapublicradio.org/post/kirk-durbin-opposite-minimum-wage-changes#stream/0>
⁴<https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/33502/mark-kirk/67/unemployed-and-low-income#.V2mHsvkrK70>

Mending the Wealth and Income Gap

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY
 WORKPLACES**



The needs of women and families should be integrated into federal workplace policies.

50% of working parents in Illinois are not eligible to take unpaid, job protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.¹

Tammy Duckworth cosponsored the Federal Employee Paid Parental Leave Act and the FAMILY Act, both of which would provide paid family and medical leave.² She also introduced the Military Parental Leave Modernization Act which would expand paternity leave for military personnel.³

Mark Kirk voted in favor of paid sick time for federal employees, as long as it didn't increase the deficit.⁴

¹<http://www.diversitydatakids.org/data/map/>
²<http://duckworth.house.gov/index.php/media-center/press-releases/803-duckworth-it-s-time-for-america-to-lead-on-leave>
³<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/03/22/lawmaker-proposes-bill-expand-military-paternity-leave-12-weeks.html>
⁴<https://votesmart.org/bill/21396/56131/33502/deficit-neutral-reserve-fund-for-legislation-to-allow-americans-to-earn-paid-sick-time#.V2mJTPkrK70>

Mending the Access Gap DEMOCRACY



No individual or community of color should be disenfranchised by federal policy.

In 2011, Illinois passed a law making voter registration more difficult by requiring completed voter registration materials to be returned by first-class mail within two business days.¹

Tammy Duckworth cosponsored the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, which would restore the Voting Rights Act and require states with a history of discrimination to get federal approval before changing their voting laws.²

Mark Kirk voted to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006, but has not cosponsored the aforementioned Voting Rights Advancement Act.³

Mending the Access Gap HEALTHCARE



Racial and economic disparities in healthcare should be eliminated.

Since Illinois enacted the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, 572,000 more low-income residents have health insurance.¹

Tammy Duckworth supports the Affordable Care Act, saying that it “made many significant improvements to our healthcare system by giving patients more control over their healthcare coverage and by holding insurance companies accountable.”² She also has said, “In fact, I believe that [the ACA] didn't go far enough. Ultimately, I favor a move towards single-payer and will work in that direction while protecting the ACA.”³

Mark Kirk does not support the Affordable Care Act. He voted against it in 2010 and voted twice to repeal it in 2011.⁴

Mending the Access Gap CITIZENSHIP



Immigrants should be welcomed into the country.

Undocumented immigrants in Illinois already pay \$743 million in state and local taxes and, if comprehensive immigration reform is passed, they will pay \$154 million more.¹

Tammy Duckworth calls for a “long-term plan that will secure our borders, include a responsible path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented individuals who are living in the shadows...[and] allows families to stay together. Comprehensive immigration reform is right for our families, our businesses and for our future global competitiveness.”²

Mark Kirk voted for comprehensive immigration reform in 2013.³ In 2015 he voted for a bill that would prohibit funds from being used for implementation of President Obama's executive actions on immigration.⁴

Mending the Access Gap HOUSING



Everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing.

Illinois has a shortage of 306,252 housing units that are affordable and available for extremely low-income renters.¹

Tammy Duckworth voted in support of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, which passed unanimously.²

Mark Kirk voted against a 2010 bill that proposed an additional \$200 million in project-based vouchers and other supports to provide housing for low-income households.³

¹<http://familiesusa.org/product/50-state-look-medicaid-expansion>

²<http://duckworth.house.gov/index.php/issues/health-care>

³<http://primaries2012.elections.chicagotribune.com/editorial/tammy-duckworth/>

⁴<https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/33502/mark-kirk/38/health-and-health-care#.V2mLifrK70>

¹<http://www.itep.org/immigration/#map>

²<http://duckworth.house.gov/index.php/issues/immigration>

³http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=113&session=1&vote=00167

⁴http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=1&vote=00063

¹<http://nlhlc.org/library/SHP>

²<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2016/roll052.xml>

³<https://networklobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Connection2010.01.pdf>

¹<https://www.brennancenter.org/voting-restrictions-first-time-2016>

²<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2867>

³<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll374.xml>