



REPRESENTATIVE HARRY BENTON

Illinois House 97th District



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agent of change

2023 LEGISLATIVE WALKING PROGRAM

(6/7, 6/22, 7/13, 7/26, 8/3)
5-7:30 PM

This summer, kindly help us inform people about the actions taken in Springfield this spring and give them the chance to voice their opinions.



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Illinois House 97th District

Email: info@repharrybenton.com
to register.

Legislative Walking Program

May 5, 2023

I'm Happy to announce a new summer volunteer program created by my district office staff! This program will serve as an opportunity to learn about state legislation and interact first hand with local residents. Please feel free to reach out with any questions by email info@repharrybenton.com or phone at 815-254-0000.



Car Seat Safety Event

May 5, 2023

Our car seat safety event was extremely informative! We began at the Plainfield Fire Protection District and ended at the Plainfield YMCA. I am happy we were able to properly reinstall multiple car seats. Thank you again to all those who helped put on this event.



American Red Cross Month

March 13, 2023

I was able to donate a double red blood cell contribution in honor of American Red Cross Month. Countless lives are positively impacted through this organization. The American Red Cross was founded over 140 years ago by Clara Barton, who served as a nurse during the American Civil War in 1881.



Small Business Week & Advisory Council

May 5, 2023

In honor of National Small Business Week, some of my district office team and I visited Uptown Plainfield for lunch. Small businesses fuel our local economy and I am a proud supporter. We will launch our Small Business Advisory Council this summer on June 8th.



Lewis University Plane Pull

April 29, 2023

I had so much fun participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Lewis Plane pull presented by United Airlines! we pulled in the rain and our team took the third best time (5.736 and missed second by .002 secs) pulling 48,000 lbs, not bad for the first time! I pulled with State Representative Dagmara Avelar and Will County Board Member Joe VanDuyne, staff, Dagmara's family, and two that pulled for me that ran a marathon (4 miles through the mud with 40lbs of sandbags on their shoulders) the same morning. I also enjoyed rooting on the Shorewood Coppers (Shorewood Police Department) team Phillip Arnold.



YMCA Day of Service

May 5, 2023

It was a big day for the C.W. Avery Family YMCA. It was the organization's Annual Day of Service. Ajara, our Director of Constituent Affairs, was able to lend a hand before heading to our car seat event. The Y is such a staple in our community, providing unparalleled services for health, wellness, and development. Everyone's efforts to keep the operations in top shape are so incredible to see.



Midwestern University Presentation

April 10, 2023

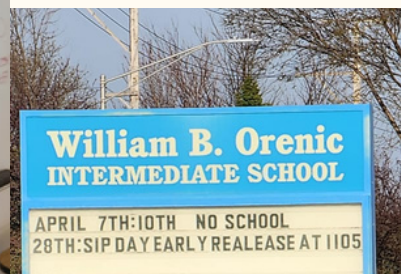
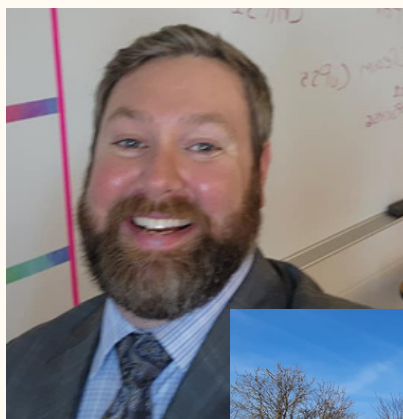
I gave a presentation to Midwestern University College of Pharmacy to Milena Murray, PharmD, MSc, BCIDP, AAHIVP, FCCP class. I had the pleasure of meeting the class in Springfield during their trip down for their Legislative Day. They sat in on the Prescription Drug Affordability Committee, which I am a member, and saw how bills are presented and passed. My presentation was on pharmacy, policy and how they can make a difference. Their honesty, passion, determination, and advocacy affirmed to me that this dialog for prescription drug affordability/access, mental health, dependency and addiction, and overall affordable living will be an ongoing conversation toward change, and I am confident they are going to be large part of the solution!



William B. Orenic School Visit

April 13, 2023

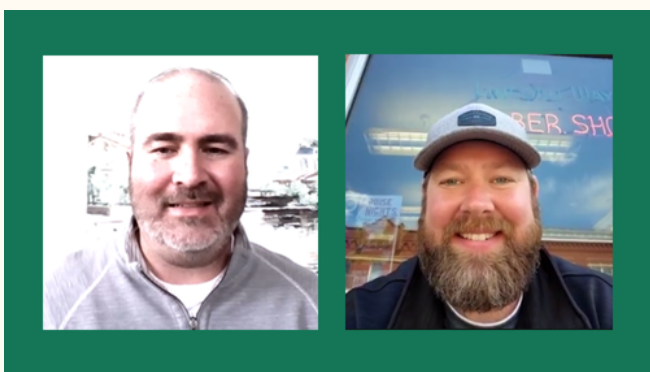
I had a good time talking to the William B. Orenic Intermediate student council, what a treat! The students were engaged and excited to ask questions, with a packed classroom. They seemed just as eager to ask me questions about ironworking as they did state rep. I look forward to doing that again!



Conversation With ReadyNation

May 5, 2023

I had the pleasure of engaging in a wide-ranging discussion on child care, education and its workforce with ReadyNation IL and Mike Paone, Vice President of the Joliet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Children are our future, and it is essential that we invest in them.





Wolf's Crossing Ribbon Cutting

April 3, 2023

I attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Village of Oswego, Illinois for the Wolf's Crossing Improvements, with Village President Troy Parlier, village Trustees, Leader Rep. Lauren Underwood, State Senator Linda Holmes, Village Administrator Dan Di Santo, Public Works Director Jennifer Hughes, Former Kendall County Board President Scott Gryder, Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce and many others.



Pictured: U.S. House Representative Lauren Underwood



Apprenticeship Tax Credit

April 29, 2023

I presented a bill to help establish a \$1,000 apprenticeship tax credit for apprentices' equipment and material costs, as they work their way through training.

(Photo: WAND TV)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Remote Office Hours - Saturday May 20, 2023, 9 - 10AM
- Coffee & Conversations Saturday June 3, 2023, 8AM-11AM
- Small Business Advisory Council Meeting Thursday June 8, 2023, 7PM
- Youth Advisory Council Meeting Saturday June 24, 2023, 9AM-10AM
- Car Show - Every Tuesday from June 6 - August 22, 2023, 5:30 PM - 8 PM
- End of Session Party June 22, 2023, 5:30PM - 8PM

Coming soon!

- Property Tax Appeal Event -July 2023
- Senior Fair - August 2023
- Shred Event in collaboration with Rep. Walsh - September 2023





Noah's Arc Foundation

April 22, 2023

I met former Chicago Bulls Center, Joakim Noah in Springfield! After making me feel really short, we spoke about his foundation, Noah's Arc. He and the foundation are working to build community and prevent violence.

Pictured: Former Chicago Bulls Player Joakim Noah



St. Jude Joliet

April 21, 2023

What an incredible opportunity it was to learn from the change makers at St. Jude in Joliet. It was a joy to be able to team up with my colleagues for this experience. Fun fact: St. Jude was the church that I made my first holy communion.

Pictured: State Representative Natalie Manley, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, St. Jude Joliet.



In our "Spill the Bills" series, we highlight pieces of legislation with recent activity. This section serves as a legislative update from Rep. Benton while in Springfield.

Sponsored Legislation

- **SB2005 - Passed House & Senate**
Requires housing authorities to develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless.
- **HB3295 - Passed House & Senate**
Provides that a department shall waive any application, examination, or licensure fee for a service member or the service member's spouse.
- **HB3680 - Passed House & Senate**
Ensures if extra accommodation during emergencies is needed for a student, then that accommodation shall be taken into account when developing the IEP plan.

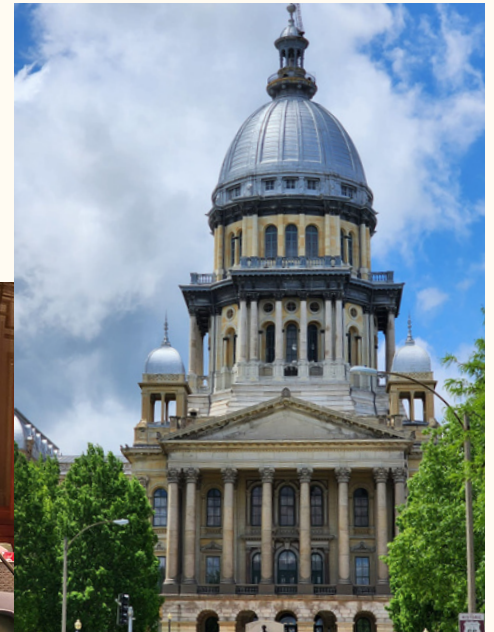
Legislation Continued

- **HB3957 - Sponsored by Rep. Nabela Syed, Co-Sponsored by Rep. Benton**

This bill, in an effort to hold drug companies accountable and make prescription drugs more affordable, provides that a manufacturer or wholesale drug distributor shall not engage in price gouging in the sale of an essential off-patent or generic drug.

- **HB3676 - Child Care Qualifications**

This piece of legislation is a multi-year project that is working to address the child care affordability issue.



Pictured: State Representative Nabela Syed

Ribbon Cutting Shorewood Public Works Building

March 26, 2023

I attended the ribbon cutting of the amazing, new Village of Shorewood Public Works building! The staff over at the Village of Shorewood, including Mayor CC Debold and the board, are doing great things to improve efficiency in their services, and help to stabilize taxes.



97th District Youth Advisory Council



97TH DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL AGES 14-22

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND
BECOME INVOLVED IN STATE GOVERNMENT!

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH AT 9AM
WHERE: 24047 LOCKPORT ST. PLAINFIELD, IL 60544

WE WILL MEET EVERY OTHER MONTH ON A SATURDAY AT
REP. HARRY BENTON'S OFFICE. FOR ADDITIONAL
QUESTIONS EMAIL INFO@REPHARRYBENTON.COM

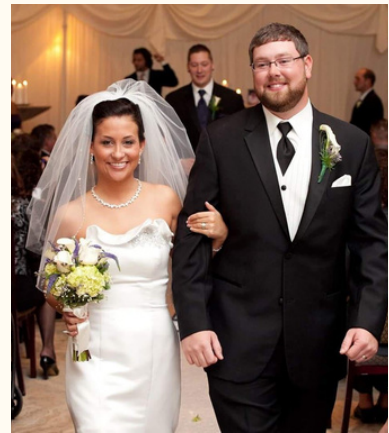


Meet Ajara, our Director of Constituent Affairs for the 97th District.

Ajara has lived in Plainfield for most of her life. She attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale where she received a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Sociology. She spent the last semester of her undergraduate degree interning in the Illinois State Capitol. She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. She also has two cats, Pokie and Zola.

Welcome to the team!

Happy 5th Birthday to my daughter, Evelyn!



Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful wife, Erin.



Feel that someone deserves recognition? Fill out our Recognition Certificate form. **Borrow our museum pass!** It provides free access to Chicago area museums up to four people! (Both forms are located on our website).



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LinkedIn: Harry Benton
Website: repharrybenton.com



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