

# SENATOR DONNELLY'S 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, Joe worked to grow the economy, expand opportunity, improve mental health care for servicemembers and veterans, and address crime and drug epidemics impacting Hoosier families and communities. Joe partnered with Republicans and Democrats to get things done and was recognized as the fourth-most bipartisan U.S. Senator between 1993-2014, according to an analysis by The Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, and its new Bipartisan Index.

Joe led and supported bipartisan legislative efforts — many of which were passed and enacted into law — and pursued every avenue to advance priorities important to Hoosiers. He and his staff also worked to provide Hoosiers across the state with top-notch customer service and assistance in resolving issues such as obtaining Social Security, Medicare, or veterans' benefits, or requesting passports or visas.

Among Joe's accomplishments in 2015:

- Joe visited 92 counties, and hosted or participated in 327 events in 107 cities and towns over 165 days in Indiana.
- Joe's office responded on average in less than two weeks to constituents' calls, emails, letters and faxes.
- His staff worked with Hoosiers seeking assistance with a federal agency on 2,000 cases of which 1,964 have been closed, resulting in more than \$2.2 million in federal benefits being returned to constituents.
- Joe partnered on legislative efforts with 21 different Republican senators in 2015. These efforts included:
  - **Improved Military Mental Health:** Introduced and got signed into law provisions from his "Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package" that will improve access to mental health care for servicemembers and their families;
  - **Reauthorized the Export-Import Bank:** Helped author a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank — which is important to small businesses and for expanding exports — and helped secure its inclusion in legislation that was signed into law; and
  - **Suspended the Medical Device Tax:** Pushed to reduce the impact of the medical device tax and helped pass a two-year suspension of the tax, which was signed into law. Joe has been a longtime supporter of bipartisan efforts to repeal the medical device tax and reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would eliminate the device tax.
- Joe played a leadership role in significant accomplishments across Indiana, including:
  - **Army Land Transfer to River Ridge:** Helped resolve a longstanding dispute with the Army that resulted in River Ridge Commerce Center acquiring high-value property that is expected to create more jobs and opportunity;
  - **Gary Airport Runway Expansion:** Brought together key stakeholders to resolve issues that had stalled and threatened to derail the Gary/Chicago International Airport runway expansion, and helped ensure the project's completion.
  - **St. Joseph County VA Health Care Center:** Worked to expand health care for veterans and participated in the ground breaking of the St. Joseph County VA Health Care Center. He has worked since 2007 to make this center a reality and helped secure congressional authorization and funding for the new facility;

- **Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Grant for Indianapolis:** Worked to help make our communities safer by supporting the City of Indianapolis' successful application for a federal grant that that will provide federal resources to support crime reduction and prevention efforts in the city's Northwest district; and
- **Major Federal Grant for Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville:** Supported and helped secure the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville's \$10 million federal grant that will spur economic development and create more opportunities in southeast Indiana.

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