

IL-17 Overview Backup

Joe McGraw is weird and out of touch with the voters of Central and Northwestern Illinois. Meanwhile our neighbor Eric Sorensen has deep roots here. In Congress he's stood up to both parties to do what's best for our part of Illinois, including lowering costs of basic necessities and prescription drugs; protecting Social Security; and standing up for a women's right to choose by fighting against MAGA extremists trying to pass a national abortion ban.

...Our Neighbor Eric Sorensen Has Deep Roots Here

Sorensen Was A Rockford Native, Boylan High School Graduate And Former 13 WREX Meteorologist.

“The forecast calls for a dramatic change in longtime television meteorologist Eric Sorensen’s career path. The Rockford native, Boylan High School graduate and former 13 WREX meteorologist has declared his candidacy to represent Illinois’ 17th Congressional District.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/10/21](#)]

In Congress He's Stood Up To Both Parties To Do What's Best For Our Part Of Illinois, Including Lowering Costs Of Basic Necessities And Prescription Drugs...

Sorensen Sponsored The STOP GAMES Act. [H.R. 3030, [4/28/23](#)]

- **The Bill Would Crack Down On Petitions Used By Big Pharmaceutical Companies To Slow Down The Food And Drug Administration’s Approval Process For Competing Generic Drugs.** “The bill cracks down on ‘sham’ citizen petitions, which big pharmaceutical companies file to slow down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process for competing generic drugs. While citizen petitions are intended to provide a voice to patients and consumer groups, the process is often co-opted by drug manufacturers to keep prices high.” [Rep. Sorensen, Press Release, [5/11/23](#)]
- **Citizen Petitions Were Often Filed By Pharmaceutical Companies To Fight Off Competitors Cheaper Generic Drugs.** “In practice, many citizen petitions are filed by none other than pharmaceutical companies themselves—as a way of fighting off a competitor’s cheaper generic drug.” [The Atlantic, [3/8/17](#)]


HEADLINE: “Eric Sorensen Visits Peoria In Hopes To Lower The Prices Of Prescription Medicines.” [CIProud, [12/18/23](#)]

...Protecting Social Security...

Sorensen Said He Supported Expanding Social Security. [Project Vote Smart, accessed [8/6/24](#)]

Yes



Budget, Spending, and Taxes: Do you support expanding federal funding to support social safety net programs such as Social Security and Medicare? 

[Project Vote Smart, accessed [8/6/24](#)]

Sorensen Said That He Was Working To “Protect And Expand Social Security.” “In Congress, I’m working to protect and expand Social Security benefits for seniors to ensure they can maintain a good quality of life. I’m also using my position to advocate for the stability of Medicare, and for solutions to lower prescription drug costs that burden so many in our elderly community.” [Rep. Eric Sorensen, Seniors, accessed [8/6/24](#)]

And Standing Up For A Women's Right To Choose By Fighting Against MAGA Extremists Trying To Pass A National Abortion Ban

Sorensen Co-Sponsored The Women's Health Protection Act, Which Would Federally Protect Abortion Access. "To protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services." [H.R. 12, [3/30/23](#)]

IL-17 Message #1 Backup

Sorensen is helping our communities replace deteriorating water infrastructure and lead pipes. He is working across the aisle for more funding for police training and has led legislation to lower the costs of groceries and prescription drugs.

Sorensen Is Helping Our Communities Replace Deteriorating Water Infrastructure And Lead Pipes

Sorensen Secured \$7,894,008 In Community Project Funding To Bolster Water Infrastructure And Address Lead Water Lines. [WRAM, [3/7/24](#); Rep. Eric Sorensen, Press Release, [7/19/23](#)]

Sorensen Sponsored The Low-Income Water Assistance Program Establishment Act, Which Would Provide Federal Grants For Clean Drinking Water And Wastewater Services. "Congressman Eric Sorensen (IL-17) along with Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-05), Congresswoman Jenniffer González-Colón (PR-AL), Congresswoman Kim Schrier (WA-08), and Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) introduced the bipartisan Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act. This legislation will provide states with federal grants to help working families afford clean drinking water and wastewater services." [Rep. Eric Sorensen, Press Release, [4/17/24](#)]

He Is Working Across The Aisle For More Funding For Police Training...

Sorensen Worked Across The Aisle To Secure \$847,000 For A State-Of-The-Art Police Training Center In Winnebago County. "Congressman Eric Sorensen (IL-17) secured nearly \$847,000 for a new state-of-the-art police training center in Winnebago County to support officers in Northern Illinois and reduce crime...Sorensen worked across the aisle to request and secure this funding in the FY2024 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill that is now law. Sorensen worked with local leaders to secure this investment as part of the Community Project Funding process, which allows members of Congress to receive funding for critical initiatives in their communities." [Rep. Eric Sorensen, Press Release, [3/15/24](#)]

Sorensen Sponsored Bipartisan Legislation To Increase Staffing And Technology That Would Detect Illicit Drugs, Including Fentanyl, Weapons And Other Contraband. "A bipartisan House trio are introducing a bill Thursday aimed at reducing the flow of fentanyl at the U.S. southern border. The Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act, a House companion to an existing bipartisan Senate bill, is being unveiled by Reps. Gabe Vasquez, D-N.M.; Eric Sorensen, D-Ill.; and Lori Chavez-DeRemer, R-Ore...The bill would allocate more than \$5 billion to increase staffing and technology that would detect illicit drugs, weapons and other contraband being smuggled across the border shared by the U.S. and Mexico." [NBC News, [7/11/24](#)]

- **This Bill Would Also Increase Funding For More Law Enforcement Officers And Border Personnel.** "In addition to deploying the Non-Intrusive Inspection Systems, the bicameral bill would fund more law enforcement officers and border personnel." [NBC News, [7/11/24](#)]

Sorensen Voted For The Disapproving The Action Of The District Of Columbia Council In Approving The Revised Criminal Code Act Of 2022. [H.J. Res. 26, [2/9/23](#)]

- **This Bill Sought To “Block The D.C. Council’s Attempts To Lessen Penalties For Some Violent Crimes” Like Dropping Maximum Sentences For “Car Jackings And Gun Possessions.”** “Wielding the authority that Congress has final say over the capital city, Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.) is leading the charge with a bill that would block the D.C. Council’s attempts to lessen penalties for some violent crimes... Opponents locally and in national conservative media alike have criticized the council’s reforms for dropping maximum sentences for carjacking and gun possession.” [Axios DC, [1/25/23](#)]
- **Washington DC Experienced An Increase In Murder And Car Jackings.** “The new Republican interest in D.C. coincides with back-to-back years of more than 200 murders and five years of increasing carjackings.” [Axios DC, [1/25/23](#)]

And Has Led Legislation To Lower The Costs Of Groceries And Prescription Drugs

Sorensen Sponsored The STOP GAMES Act. [H.R. 3030, [4/28/23](#)]

- **The Bill Would Crack Down On Petitions Used By Big Pharmaceutical Companies To Slow Down The Food And Drug Administration’s Approval Process For Competing Generic Drugs.** “The bill cracks down on ‘sham’ citizen petitions, which big pharmaceutical companies file to slow down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process for competing generic drugs. While citizen petitions are intended to provide a voice to patients and consumer groups, the process is often co-opted by drug manufacturers to keep prices high.” [Rep. Sorensen, Press Release, [5/11/23](#)]
- **Citizen Petitions Were Often Filed By Pharmaceutical Companies To Fight Off Competitors Cheaper Generic Drugs.** “In practice, many citizen petitions are filed by none other than pharmaceutical companies themselves—as a way of fighting off a competitor’s cheaper generic drug.” [The Atlantic, [3/8/17](#)]

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Sorensen Sought To Pass A Farm Bill To “Produce More Food In America, Lower Prices And Increase Market Competition” To Decrease Food Costs. “Sorensen’s plan includes priorities that address rising costs and supports the middle class through: Using his seat on the House Agriculture Committee to pass a Farm Bill that produces more food in America, lowers prices, increases market competition, empowers farmers and rural communities, incentivizes climate-smart practices, and suspends trade barriers that limit the supply of food.” [Rep. Eric Sorensen, Press Release, [9/20/23](#)]

IL-17 Message #2 Backup

McGraw has taken a quarter million dollars from and campaigned with anti-abortion leaders who support a national abortion ban, and would back radical measures that could put doctors in jail for providing reproductive health care.

McGraw Has Taken A Quarter Million Dollars From And Campaigned With Anti-Abortion Leaders Who Support A National Abortion Ban, And Would Back Radical Measures That Could Put Doctors In Jail For Providing Reproductive Health Care

McGraw Received \$159,254 From Grow The Majority. [FEC.gov, accessed 7/30/24]

- **Grow The Majority Was Speaker Johnson’s Joint Fundraising Committee.** “Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) announced the creation of a joint fundraising committee, called Grow the Majority, that will be his principal fundraising apparatus to support Republicans running for House seats.” [The Hill, [11/20/23](#)]
- **Johnson Co-Sponsored The Life At Conception Act.** [H.R. 431, [1/20/23](#)]
- **Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.”** “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]
- **Johnson Voted For HR 26.** In January 2023, Johnson voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to provide the same care to a child that is ‘born alive’ after an abortion or attempted abortion as they would for a child born at the same gestational age and to ensure the child is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital; require hospital and clinic practitioners and employees to report any knowledge of failures to provide such care; and impose criminal fines and penalties for failures to meet these requirements. It would state that a child born alive under these conditions is a legal person under U.S. law, entitled to the protections of U.S. law, and it would specifically make any act that kills or attempts to kill such a child punishable as murder or attempted murder. The bill would also prohibit the prosecution of the mother of a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion and permit such mothers to seek relief through civil action against any person who violates the bill’s requirements, including monetary and punitive damages.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-210. [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]
 - **Under This Bill, Health Care Practitioners Who Fail To Provide The “Required Degree Of Care” Would Be “Subject To Criminal Penalties” Including “Up To Five Years In Prison.”** “A health care practitioner who fails to provide the required degree of care, or a health care practitioner or other employee who fails to report such failure, is subject to criminal penalties—a fine, up to five years in prison, or both.” [H.R. 26, [1/11/23](#)]

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

- **Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw.** “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

McGraw Received \$150,225 From Candidates Who Supported The Life At Conception Act. [FEC.gov, accessed 7/30/24]

- **Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.”** “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In

addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act			
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Congressional Session(s) Member Co-Sponsored Life at Conception Act	Amount(s)
Concerned Americans For Freedom & Opportunity PAC (CAFO PAC)	Adrian Smith (NE-03)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th ,	\$2,000
Building America’s Republican Representation PAC	Andy Barr (KY-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th	\$1,500
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$4,000
Fight On PAC	Ashley Hinson (IA-02)	118th , 117th	\$1,000
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	118th , 117th	\$2,000
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$1,000
Upper Hand Fund	Bill Huizenga (MI-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Guthrie for Congress	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,500
Bringing Republican Excellence to Town PAC	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$3,300
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$3,000
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
CMR Political Action Committee	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,500
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	117th , 116th	\$1,000
LaHood for Congress	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$2,000
Abraham Lincoln PAC	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$5,000
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$3,000
David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$4,000
Vitoria PAC	David Valadao (CA-21)	117th	\$2,500
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$3,000
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Buddy PAC	Earl “Buddy” Carter (GA-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$1,000
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$1,500

Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Bilirakis for Congress	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$3,000
Hal Rogers For Congress	Hal Rogers (KY-05)	117th , 116th , 115th 114th ,	\$1,000
Jake Ellzey for Congress	Jake Ellzey (TX-06)	118th , 117th	\$2,000
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$4,000
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Volunteers for Shimkus	John Shimkus (IL-15)	116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Armstrong for Congress	Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL)	117th , 116th	\$3,125
Bucshon for Congress	Larry Bucshon (IN-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,000
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	118th , 117th	\$3,300
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$2,500
Miller-Meeks for Congress	Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01)	117th	\$2,000
Texas Republicans United Political Action Committee (Tru Pac)	Michael McCaul (TX-10)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th ,	\$2,000
Support Taxfighters & Elect Effective Leaders PAC	Michelle Steel (CA-45)	117th	\$3,500
American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$10,000
Pete Sessions For Congress	Pete Sessions (TX-17)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th ,	\$2,000
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th	\$5,000
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 112th	\$4,000
Latta for Congress	Robert E. Latta (OH-05)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
America's First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	117th , 116th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$3,000
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Republicans United To Defend You PAC	Rudy Yakym (IN-02)	118th	\$1,000
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,000
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	113th , 112th	\$4,000
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	113th , 112th	\$10,000
Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	113th , 112th	\$4,000

Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	118th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Emmer for Congress	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$2,000
Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans (EMMER PAC)	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$5,000
Your Ohio Republican Team	Troy Balderson (OH-12)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$1,000
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	118th , 117th	\$2,500
		TOTAL:	\$150,225

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

- **219 Republicans Voted For HR 26, With Three Not Voting Who Were Not McGraw Donors.** [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]
- **Under This Bill, Health Care Practitioners Who Fail To Provide The “Required Degree Of Care” Would Be “Subject To Criminal Penalties” Including “Up To Five Years In Prison.”** “A health care practitioner who fails to provide the required degree of care, or a health care practitioner or other employee who fails to report such failure, is subject to criminal penalties—a fine, up to five years in prison, or both.” [H.R. 26, [1/11/23](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Grateful To Converse With [LaHood] Today In Rockford About His Ongoing Work In Congress, And The Path Ahead For Our Nation On A Variety Of Meaningful Issues.” “Grateful to converse with @DarinLaHoodIL today in Rockford about his ongoing work in Congress, and the path ahead for our nation on a variety of meaningful issues. Looking forward to serving the families of Northwest and Central Illinois with Congressman LaHood! #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]

 Judge Joe McGraw @judgejoemcgraw · Mar 28
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[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]

- **LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act.** [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]
- **Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.”** “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life

of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

McGraw Supported H.R. 26. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “1 | H.R. 26 ...” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

New York Times: The Bill Would Establish Criminal Penalties For Doctors Who Did Not Follow Existing Federal Law Requiring Medical Care Be Given To Infants In The Very Unlikely Event Of A Failed Abortion. “Live births during an abortion procedure are exceedingly rare, experts said, and federal law already requires that a baby who survives an attempted abortion receive emergency medical care. The new bill would clarify the standard of care to which doctors are held and lay out penalties for violators. Policy organizations supporting abortion rights said the measure was an effort to discourage women from seeking abortions and doctors from performing them.” [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

The Bill Would Penalize Doctors Who Violated It With A Fine And/Or Up To Five Years In Prison. “(b) Penalties.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.” [Congress.gov, HR 26, Text, introduced [1/9/23](#)]

- **New York Times Headline: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors To Prosecution”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

HuffPost: The Bill Could Deprive Parents Of Holding Infants Who May Not Live Much Longer Or Limit Their Options For Medical Interventions. “This legislation could take away a pregnant person’s power to decide what medical interventions they want to receive during an already-emotional time, possibly forcing physicians to prolong an infant’s life for a short period of time before it dies. In certain cases, this could take away parents’ opportunities to hold their infants.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]