



EMBARGOED until  
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## **Coulson supporters called out by polls, residents on misleading phone calls: Incumbent's supporters' questionable tactics result in groundswell of support for Democratic challenger Daniel Biss**

For the last two weeks, supporters of Republican incumbent Elizabeth Coulson have been lying to voters about Democratic candidate for Illinois State Representative Daniel Biss on the issue of choice.

As indicated on his Web site and in mail pieces sent by the campaign to 17th District voters, Daniel is pro-choice. In fact his campaign is endorsed by pro-choice elected officials such as U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and State Reps. Julie Hamos, Karen May and Elaine Nektritz. Fay Clayton, who successfully argued the landmark case *National Organization for Women v. Scheidler* before the Supreme Court in 1994, has also endorsed Daniel Biss.

So why is someone spending thousands of dollars on paid phone calls to claim that Republican incumbent Elizabeth Coulson is the only pro-choice candidate on the ballot?

The Daniel Biss for State Representative headquarters fielded more than a dozen reports over the last two weeks about the misleading calls. Karleen McAllester, of Wilmette, said she received the phone call on Wednesday, September 10.

According to Ms. McAllester, she "received a "push poll" call regarding the 17th District race for State Representative. The caller asked if I was pro-choice, and if so, did I know that Elizabeth Coulson was the only pro-choice candidate."

In response to the misleading phone calls, Citizens for Choice and Integrity wrote an open letter condemning these smears against Daniel Biss' record. The letter is signed by 40 women, including Schakowsky and Madigan. It will appear as an ad in tomorrow's Pioneer Press and the Sun-Times News Group's publications in Northbrook, Wilmette, Winnetka, Glenview, Morton Grove and Skokie.

The ad lists the names of all 40 women and reads in part:

**We strongly urge the Republican incumbent and her supporters to take the same high road** that Mr. Biss has taken in his campaign and immediately put an end to the false statements. It takes more than simply denying responsibility. The Republican incumbent should take action to prevent these kinds of false and misleading tactics used by her supporters, now and in the future, and publicly acknowledge Daniel Biss's commitment to women's reproductive freedom.

Susan Wellek, a Daniel Biss supporter who received the phone call and is a signatory to the letter, said she's fed up with the Republicans constantly twisting the truth and misleading voters.

"We have come to expect this on the national stage and in the city, but we will not tolerate it in the 17<sup>th</sup> District," Wellek said.

Nancy Pred, a Biss supporter, 17<sup>th</sup> District resident and signatory to the letter, said Daniel Biss is not only right on the issues, including choice, he's committed to changing the way politics is done in Illinois.

"I am astonished at the lengths some people will go to maintain the status quo. Springfield has been broken for far too long and politicians need to be held accountable for the embarrassing mess we have down there," Pred said.

Julie Sweet, Daniel Biss for State Representative campaign manager, said the push poll has resulted in a groundswell of energy among Daniel's supporters.

"We have a great volunteer team, but local voters are so upset about these phone calls they are now giving even more of their money and their time to the campaign. Whatever nasty trick they were trying to pull with these phone calls, it's backfired," Sweet said.

While it may be noteworthy that supporters of Coulson, the Republican incumbent, have already turned to tactics generally reserved for city politics, the race in the 17th District is shaping up to be one of the most unique election season battles in the Chicago suburbs.

Daniel Biss, of Evanston, is a mathematics professor at the University of Chicago.

He is running a campaign independent of traditional powerbrokers, relying instead upon a network of hundreds of grassroots supporters. Because of that support, Daniel Biss has outraised his opponent every filing period since the race began, according to documents filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections in June.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# SOMEONE'S PLAYING POLITICS WITH CHOICE

**As longtime active supporters of reproductive freedom**, we are gratified that both candidates for the Illinois State Legislature in the 17th District – the Republican incumbent as well as Democratic challenger Daniel Biss – are staunchly pro-choice.

**Unfortunately, this luxury is somewhat rare.** The Republican ticket is headed by John McCain and Sarah Palin, avowed opponents of reproductive freedom. Here in Illinois, there are over a dozen legislative districts this year alone where a pro-choice candidate has the opportunity to unseat an anti-choice legislator. It is our feeling that the pro-choice movement should focus its resources on those critical races.

**We are therefore dismayed that some pro-choice advocacy groups** have not only endorsed the 17th District's Republican incumbent, but are already working hard to defeat pro-choice Democrat Daniel Biss. An unidentified group or individual has even gone so far as to pay for a push poll, a false and misleading survey, that claims he is not pro-choice.

We are surprised the Republican incumbent Elizabeth Coulson would allow herself to benefit from such tactics.

**We strongly urge the Republican incumbent and her supporters to take the same high road** that Mr. Biss has taken in his campaign and immediately put an end to the false statements. It takes more than simply denying responsibility. The Republican incumbent should take action to prevent these kinds of false and misleading tactics used by her supporters, now and in the future, and publicly acknowledge Daniel Biss's commitment to women's reproductive freedom.

**We further believe that women's reproductive health issues go beyond the choice issue.** Over the course of her career, the Republican incumbent voted to allow anesthesiologists to deny indigent women epidurals during labor<sup>1</sup> and twice opposed the Family and Medical Leave Act which would have provided 12 weeks off to care for an infant child or family member stricken by serious illness.<sup>2</sup>

**For these reasons and many others, we proudly and enthusiastically support Daniel Biss for State Representative.\***

*Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky*

*Attorney General Lisa Madigan*

*Marjorie Craig Benton  
Sue Berghoef  
Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins  
Catherine Caporusso  
Fay Clayton  
Adeline Cohn  
Doris Conant*

*Cathleen Costello  
Judith S. Cottle  
Arlene Cuynar  
Nancy Eisenberg  
Abbey Fishman Romanek  
Adrienne Furniss*

*Lauren Beth Gash  
Audrey & Paul Gaynor  
Judy Gaynor  
Roberta Goldberg  
Marilyn Katz  
Ruth Krugly*

*Frances Lehman  
Lucy Lehman  
Carole Levine  
Karleen McAllester  
Marcia Melamed  
Nancy Pred*

*Jo Cohn Sawyer  
Gail Schechter  
Debra Shore  
Lois Solomon  
Donna M. Stone  
Kim Stone*

*Mary Stowell  
Lali Watt  
Anne Wedner  
Bernice Weissbourd  
Susan Wellek  
Lois Zoller*

\* List in formation. <sup>1</sup> [HB 143, 2/18/99, Passed 114-1]. <sup>2</sup> [HB 2, 3/24/99, Third Reading, Passed 62-50-1]; [HB 2487, 3/30/01, Third Reading, Passed 60-56].

Paid for by Citizens for Choice & Integrity.