



For Immediate Release  
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## **Seals Calls for Real Leadership as Kirk Focuses on Protecting Pets**

**Wilmette, Ill.** – Dan Seals today called on his opponent, Congressman Mark Kirk (R-10), to change his priorities and start focusing on the tough issues facing our nation. This past weekend, Mark Kirk held a press event about legislation regarding pet protections.

“This is another small-bore issue that everyone agrees with. Kirk would like to distract us from his votes with the Bush Administration and the other Bush Republicans – votes that fail to address the significant problems facing ordinary Americans,” Seals said. “Given all of the challenges that our nation faces, I have trouble understanding why a member of the congressional leadership would focus on this issue right now.”

“This district and this country are looking for real leadership to deal with the glaring problems facing our nation. My opponent is spending the day tackling the easy stuff – who doesn’t want to protect our pets? We need a leader who will face up to the crisis in Iraq. We need a leader who will face the fact that we have 4 million more Americans below the poverty line since 2001. We need a leader who is committed to lowering prices at the gas pump. We need a leader who will face the fact that our federal deficit is approaching \$9 trillion.” Seals continued, “This is a question of priorities – not whether or not we love our pets and want to care for them. Where are Mark Kirk’s priorities?”

“There is more to being a politician than taking pictures with babies and puppies. There are tough decisions to be made and hard work to be done finding solutions to the problems facing our nation,” Seals said. “As Congressman, facing those problems will be my focus.”

### **The 10<sup>th</sup> District Race**

The *Cook Political Report*, a nonpartisan Washington political publication, recently upgraded the 10<sup>th</sup> District race between Dan Seals and Mark Kirk to its Competitive House Race chart. In a district that has voted for a Democrat in every presidential race since 1996, incumbent Congressman Mark Kirk votes with his party 91.49% of the time (from the nonpartisan *Congressional Quarterly*). Additionally, Kirk holds the Republican leadership position of Assistant Majority Whip, which gives him the responsibility of enforcing party discipline and lining up members on critical party votes.

### **About Dan Seals**

Seals lives in Wilmette with his wife, Mia, and three young daughters. Born in Chicago, he received a master’s in public policy from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and served as a Presidential Management Fellow during the Clinton Administration in

both the Department of Commerce and Sen. Joseph Lieberman's office. Seals went on to earn his MBA from the University of Chicago. He is currently on leave from his position as Director of Marketing at GE Commercial Finance while he campaigns full time.

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