
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



August 1, 2008

Congressman Miller Introduces the LEAVE Act

Today, in order to address our nation's immigration crisis, Congressman Miller introduced the Loophole Elimination and Verification Enforcement Act, also known as the LEAVE Act. This sweeping legislation takes an enforcement first approach by removing the incentives and loopholes in our current laws that encourage illegal aliens to come to the United States to live, work, and overstay their visas. In addition, the LEAVE Act gives law enforcement the tools they need to protect our nation and communities. Among its provisions, the bill dramatically tightens the forms of identification that may be accepted by the federal government and financial institutions; expands the E-Verify program to require all employers to confirm the work eligibility of their employees; and prevents illegals from receiving Social Security credit for illegally working in the United States. The LEAVE Act would also end birthright citizenship, exclude illegals from receiving in-state college tuition, require the completion of the border fence, and mandate the hiring of 8,000 new Border Patrol agents by 2012. Congressman Miller is proud to introduce the LEAVE Act because he believes it is critical that we reduce our nation's illegal immigrant population. Each year, California households pay an average of \$1,183 to provide health care, education, and incarceration to illegal immigrants. In these economically challenging times, there is no reason that hard-working California families should be forced to bear these costs.

With Gas Prices Near Record Highs, Congress Leaves Town

With gas prices hovering near record levels, Congress this week voted to adjourn for the entire month of August without taking any action to reduce prices at the pump. Congressman Miller believes it is deeply irresponsible for Congress to leave for its annual district work period while American consumers continue to struggle with high fuel prices. Because congressional leaders have so far refused to allow a vote on increased drilling, Congressman Miller this week also joined more than 100 of his colleagues in signing a pair of discharge petitions to force immediate consideration of two bills to allow energy exploration offshore and in the Arctic coastal plain. Once signed by 218 Members of Congress, these parliamentary petitions would force congressional leaders to hold an immediate up-or-down vote on both bills. Rather than leave town for the next five weeks, Congressman Miller believes strongly that the American people deserve a Congress that is working as hard as they are to put fuel in the tank.

House Approves Record Level of Veterans Funding

By an overwhelming margin, the House on Friday passed legislation appropriating \$93.7 billion for veterans' programs, a record level of funding for our returning warriors. Included in the bill are substantial increases in the funds available for mental health and substance abuse; advanced prosthetics; and quality of life improvements for our troops and their families. Congressman Miller strongly supported passage of the veterans' funding bill when it came to the House floor. He believes our brave men and women returning from battle deserve our deepest respect and he will continue working to ensure they receive the honor and support they deserve.

Congressman Miller Urges President Bush to Pardon Border Patrol Agents

Congressman Miller again this week urged President Bush to pardon Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean. The two agents were wrongly imprisoned early last year for shooting an illegal alien drug smuggler as he fled arrest along the Southern border. In a letter signed by 75 Members of Congress, Congressman Miller urged the President to use his constitutional authority to pardon these brave agents. In a separate letter signed by 33 Members of Congress, he called on the President to commute their sentences to time served if the President is unwilling to grant a full pardon. To date, Agents Ramos and Compean have served nearly two years behind bars. Without presidential intervention, they will remain in prison for nearly another decade. Congressman Miller believes that it is unjust for these two brave agents to be imprisoned simply for doing their duty and he will continue to advocate for their immediate release.

Earthquake Shakes the 42nd Congressional District

On Tuesday, a magnitude 5.4 earthquake shook Southern California. With an epicenter located just a few miles southwest of Chino Hills, an area in the heart of the 42nd Congressional District, Congressman Miller would like to remind all residents of the proper safety precautions to take during an earthquake. The standard procedure during an earthquake is to duck, cover, and hold. However, there are a few circumstances in which this may not be possible. If driving when an earthquake strikes, please remember to pull over to the side of the road away from overpasses and power lines, stay in the vehicle, and wait for the shaking to stop. If outdoors when a quake hits, please move to a clear area away from trees, signs, buildings, or power lines. More information on how to stay safe in an earthquake can be found by visiting the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Preparedness website at: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/preparedness.php>. Those who might be interested in participating in the Great Southern California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in American history, can find more information online at: www.shakeout.org.