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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



May 11, 2007

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## **This Week on the House Floor**

### ***Democrats Vote to Weaken Border and Homeland Security***

On Wednesday, House Democrats stripped strong border security and immigration reform provisions from a bill that authorizes funding and policies for the Department of Homeland Security. During floor consideration, several crucial provisions were stripped from the bill that would have: required employees at high-risk critical infrastructure sites (like airports and nuclear power plants) to undergo immigration checks; allowed the biometric identification of illegal aliens; and strengthened efforts to catch illegal alien smugglers. Congressman Miller voted against this bill because he believes it is an irresponsible approach to securing our border and leaves America vulnerable to terrorist attack. Americans and our many law enforcement officers and agents deserve better. The President has announced his intention to veto the bill in its current form.

### ***House Votes on Three “National Security” Bills***

In the span of just a few hours on Thursday, the House voted on three bills that could have serious and lasting repercussions for our national security. The first of these bills, which would have ordered an immediate retreat from Iraq, failed on the House floor by a large bipartisan majority. The other two bills, which narrowly won House approval, would fund the needs of our troops for only an additional two months in addition to slashing human intelligence programs supported by the 9/11 Commission. Congressman Miller vehemently opposed all three measures. He believes that if we are going to properly support our troops, we cannot do so on an installment plan, funding their needs only sixty days at a time. Additionally, Congressman Miller believes that we must continue to fully support the intelligence programs that have been successful in preventing another terrorist attack on American soil. Should they reach his desk, the President has threatened to veto all three bills.

## **This Week in Committee**

### ***Oversight Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Suspicious Financial Transactions***

This week, the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the effectiveness of measures designed to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing. Since 1970, banks have been required to file reports when an individual engages in suspicious activity or makes a cash transaction over \$10,000. The number of these reports has grown dramatically over time to the point where banks filed over 17 million such reports last year alone. As the Ranking Republican on the oversight panel, Congressman Miller stressed the need to ensure that what we are requiring to be reported is necessary and valuable to the detection of criminal activity through our financial system. He cautioned that requests for information by the government should not be unreasonably burdensome because ultimately the costs of compliance are borne by American consumers in the form of more expensive banking services and credit options.

## **This Week in the District**

### ***42<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Art Contest Winners Named***

Congressman Miller is proud to announce his 2007 art competition, *An Artistic Discovery*, was a huge success. High school students from across the 42<sup>nd</sup> District submitted artwork for the opportunity to have their masterpiece displayed in the Capitol. The “Best in Show” winner is Diana Ahn from Walnut High School. Her touching colored pencil drawing depicts a veteran saluting an American Flag. Miss Ahn will be honored in late June in Washington, D.C. where her artwork and those of students from across the nation will be unveiled. Joab Gonzalez and Ruth Schmalenberger from Don Lugo High School won second and third place, respectively. Stephanie Shih from John Rowland High School received an honorable mention for her artwork. Congressman Miller congratulates all the winners and thanks those students who participated in this year’s competition.