
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



May 25, 2007

Congress Finally Passes Responsible Troop Funding Bill

After more than a hundred days of delay, the House on Thursday finally passed a responsible troop funding bill to meet the needs of our men and women in uniform. The measure funds ongoing combat operations in the War on Terror and protects members of our military from harm by providing added funds for body armor and mine resistant vehicles. Congressman Miller was proud to support this bill because, unlike previous legislation, it does not tie the hands of our commanders on the ground or set a date for surrender. Following passage by the Senate, the bill now heads to the President's desk where it is expected to be signed into law shortly.

Lobbying Reform Bill Approved: Redundant and Five Months Late

The House this week finally considered a much promised and long overdue lobbying reform bill. However, five months after the current Congress convened and despite all the political rhetoric from Democratic leaders, the proposal is virtually identical to a lobbying reform bill passed last year by House Republicans. The proposal bars retired Members of Congress from lobbying their former colleagues for one year. It also mandates that quarterly electronic disclosures of lobbyist activity be made available in a public database. While Congressman Miller supported the bill, he believes that Congress can and should do more to rebuild public trust in our government.

House Votes to Reform America's Housing Finance System

On Tuesday, the House approved legislation coauthored by Congressman Miller that would enact landmark reforms to the regulation of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. These housing government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) are chartered by Congress to provide access to mortgage credit, thereby helping more American families purchase homes. The bill creates a strong regulator for the GSEs to ensure that they operate in a safe and sound manner and fulfill the missions of their charters. In addition to barring illegal aliens from securing mortgages purchased by these GSEs, the bill also substantially increases the mortgage options available to the residents of our region by increasing the GSE mortgage loan limit in high-cost areas. This means that fewer Southern California homebuyers would be forced to select riskier or costlier mortgages. As a result of this provision inserted by Congressman Miller, the bill stands to reduce the average Southern California homebuyer's mortgage payment by as much as \$135 per month. After passing by an overwhelming margin, the bill now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

Congressman Miller Cosponsors Bill to Deny Citizenship to Anchor Babies

Currently, babies born on U.S. soil to illegal aliens automatically become U.S. citizens. Congressman Miller has joined more than 40 of his colleagues in again cosponsoring the Birthright Citizenship Act, which would deny citizenship at birth to children born in the United States to parents who are not citizens or legal permanent resident aliens. Specifically, this bill requires a child to have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident alien, or an alien performing active service in our armed forces in order to gain birthright citizenship. As Congress debates immigration reform, Congressman Miller will continue fighting to ensure that only those who have entered our country by lawful means are given the privilege of becoming a United States citizen.

Mission Viejo Honors Fallen Local Heroes

Monday marks our nation's observance of Memorial Day, a day of honor and remembrance for those who have died serving our nation. For Memorial Day, Congressman Miller will attend the City of Mission Viejo's Memorial Day ceremony. USMC Colonel S.C. Baker, the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Battalion, First Marine Division, which is based at Camp Pendleton, will be the keynote speaker. Colonel Baker's Battalion was adopted by the City in March 2006. At the event, the City will unveil three bronze plaques in remembrance of Major Ricardo Crocker, Major Megan McClung, and Lance Corporal Daniel Santee, three of Mission Viejo's hometown heroes who died in Iraq while serving our nation. The event will be held at the Mission Viejo Civic Center on Monday at 8:30 A.M. For more information please visit the City of Mission Viejo's website at: www.cityofmissionviejo.org.

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