



July 24, 2009

Government-Run Health Care Will Mandate and Fund Abortion Coverage

As several House Committees have begun to mark-up the Democrats' 1,018-page government-run health care bill, one of the most alarming provisions is that the legislation will force taxpayers and private insurance companies to subsidize abortions. Unless Congress explicitly excludes abortion from mandated coverage and funding in the government-run health care bill, history has demonstrated that abortion on demand will be included. In a 1996 ruling upholding the Hyde Amendment, a Medicaid prohibition of abortion funding, a federal appeals court clearly stated that abortion would be included as a covered medical service if Congress did not prohibit the inclusion because abortion fits within many of the mandatory care categories, including family planning, outpatient services, inpatient services, and physicians' services. What is even more disconcerting is that several amendments to prevent mandated coverage and taxpayer funding of abortions in the bill have been voted down in the Committees of jurisdiction. Among his many concerns with the bill, Congressman Miller is deeply troubled about the bill's silence on abortion and will continue to fight in Congress to protect the lives of the unborn.

Congressman Miller Joins Several Colleagues to Reintroduce the SAVE Act

Congressman Miller this week joined a bipartisan group of 75 lawmakers in reintroducing the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act to strengthen border security and dramatically improve interior enforcement. The SAVE Act would increase the size of the Border Patrol, employ more interior enforcement officers, expand detention capacity, and increase the number of immigration judges. Crucially, the bill also cracks down on the hiring of illegal aliens by making participation in the E-Verify program mandatory. This important program provides employers with an inexpensive, quick, and accurate way to verify worker eligibility. He is proud to serve as an original cosponsor of this commonsense proposal. He will continue working aggressively with his colleagues in the Immigration Reform Caucus to close our porous borders and remove the financial incentives for illegal aliens to remain in the United States in violation of our country's laws.

Congressman Miller Urges Immediate Action on California Water Crisis

Following the Department of the Interior Secretary's recent visit to Fresno to talk about the California water crisis, Congressman Miller this week joined over a dozen colleagues in sending a letter to the Secretary urging immediate action to provide relief to the man-made water crisis that continues to plague communities across the Golden State. California's current water crisis is partly due to limited water supplies in the Delta because of Endangered Species Act protections for the California Delta Smelt, which is a three-inch minnow. Rather than provide immediate relief by authorizing critical water pumping projects, the Administration continues to delay the advancement of these projects, thereby holding California's farmers, businesses, and families hostage to the interests of a small fish. While Congressman Miller understands that we must focus on a long-term comprehensive Delta solution, he believes firmly that California must have immediate relief from the economic and social hardship imposed by stringent environmental regulations.

House Approves PAYGO Legislation Under Guise of Fiscal Discipline

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives approved Democrat Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) legislation, a façade of fiscal responsibility that will ultimately allow for an explosion of spending, deficits, and debt. Rather than bring true fiscal discipline to Washington, the Majority has engaged in political exercises that are high on rhetoric yet fail to bring real relief for the American people. The PAYGO legislation is full of loopholes that will make controlling the federal budget impossible. Specifically, the plan for 'fiscal responsibility' does not apply to discretionary spending, about forty percent of the budget, which the Administration is increasing by eight percent alone this year. Instead of voting for the PAYGO scam, Congressman Miller supported an alternative that would have brought real and enforceable fiscal spending discipline back to Washington by putting caps on federal deficits and requiring across the board spending cuts when the federal budget grows faster than our nation's economy. Although the alternative plan was defeated, Congressman Miller will continue to support commonsense solutions to get our economy back on track and the American people back to work.

House Approves Two Fiscally Irresponsible Appropriations Bills

This week, the House passed two appropriations bills that dramatically increase government spending at a time when our national debt continues to skyrocket. Specifically, the House passed a \$730.5 billion Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2010, representing a seven percent increase above last year's enacted levels. In addition to this large spending increase, the bill contains some controversial provisions. Specifically, the bill goes against a long-standing practice by not including funding for abstinence education and also makes changes to the prohibition on needle exchange programs by now allowing federal funds to be used for such programs. In addition, the House passed a \$123.1 billion Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010, which is a thirteen percent increase from last year's funding levels. While Congressman Miller is supportive of many of the programs contained in these bills, the excessive increases in spending is unwarranted during these economic times of hardship. As Americans across the nation are already saddled with a massive debt, he opposed both pieces of legislation because they fail to make tough fiscal decisions and prioritize spending.

Cap-and-Tax Raises Creates the Largest Welfare Program in Our Nation's History

Among the cap-and-tax bill's numerous provisions, which narrowly passed the House in June, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide monthly cash payments, or "energy stamps", to low-income households for their estimated loss in purchasing power resulting from the Democrats' national energy tax. The bill establishes a national standard of eligibility which covers everyone under 150 percent of the poverty line. Under the bill, energy stamps would reach an estimated 65 million individuals, which is about 20 percent of all U.S. residents, thereby making it a larger program than welfare, food stamps, or even Medicaid. Despite the massive scope of this program, more than 200 million Americans will not receive benefits but will bear the brunt of this massive national energy tax. Currently, 14.7 million Americans are unemployed and it is estimated that 2.3 to 2.7 million jobs would be lost due to this national energy tax. During these times of economic hardship, Congressman Miller believes it is simply unacceptable to slap another tax on hardworking Americans. He will continue to oppose cap-and-tax legislation and will continue to fight to lower energy costs for all Americans.