
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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House Includes Miller Housing Provisions in Economic Stimulus Package

On Tuesday, the House overwhelmingly approved an economic stimulus package that includes housing provisions long championed by Congressman Miller that stand to save Southern California homeowners as much as \$1,600 per year on their mortgage. Specifically, the measure includes language that will expand eligibility for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to high-cost areas of the country like Southern California. Currently, these vital programs can only support mortgages up to \$362,000 and \$417,000, which is far below the actual cost of housing in our region. Both will now rise to a maximum of \$730,000. This means homeowners in high-cost areas like Southern California will soon have access to safer, less expensive loans. Following passage by the House, Congressman Miller joined the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee in calling on the Senate to quickly pass a similar measure. He will continue to urge for this long overdue change, which comes at no cost to taxpayers and will help revive the housing market in Southern California.

House Moves to Stimulate Economy by Approving Tax Rebate Checks

Rising costs of energy, health care, college, retirement, housing, and taxes have put a real strain on family budgets. With these Americans in mind, this week the House passed an economic stimulus package that will help get the economy moving again by putting money back in the pockets of middle class families. Under the House-passed bill, these rebate checks would vary in size, beginning with a minimum amount of \$300 for an individual and \$600 for a married couple that earned at least \$3,000 last year. If signed into law, individuals who owe more than \$300 in income tax would collect up to a maximum of \$600 for a single taxpayer or \$1,200 for married couples. Those that qualify would receive an additional \$300 per child with no cap on the number of children. The Senate is expected to take up the measure this coming week.

Rebate Checks Will Not Go to Illegal Immigrants

Following House passage of the economic stimulus package, some have suggested the bill contains language enabling illegal immigrants to receive a tax rebate. The bill contains no such provisions. An illegal immigrant who files taxes based on stolen or fraudulent information in order to attempt to receive a rebate check is committing tax fraud. In fact, the economic stimulus package includes language similar to the provisions included in previous tax relief bills to prevent illegal immigrants from receiving any benefits. Additionally, before sending the bill to the President the House plans to take legislative action to further clarify and underscore this prohibition in order to expedite the delivery of tax rebates to millions of eligible Americans. With this tax rebate or any other government benefit, Congressman Miller firmly believes that illegal immigrants should not be rewarded for their unlawful behavior.