
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



November 16, 2007

Bill Introduced to Block Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Driver's Licenses

Congressman Miller this week joined more than 150 Members of Congress in coauthoring legislation to prevent driver's licenses from being issued to illegal aliens. Currently, ten states do not require license applicants to demonstrate that they are lawfully present in the United States. A recent proposal, which has since been abandoned, would have made New York the eleventh such state. In order to put a halt to this misguided practice, Congressman Miller was proud to support a commonsense proposal that would allow the federal government to seek an injunction in federal court to prevent a state from issuing licenses to illegals. The Prevention of Unsafe Licensing Act is particularly important because driver's licenses have become the de facto national identification card. They are accepted for a variety of purposes including travel, conducting financial transactions, opening bank accounts, renting vehicles, and purchasing homes. Congressman Miller remains firmly committed to eliminating this benefit which enables illegal aliens to easily live and remain in the United States.

House Passes Bill to Address Subprime Lending Crisis

This week, the House passed the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act to address some of the abusive lending practices that have been occurring in the mortgage market. Congressman Miller commended the House for addressing this issue, but because he was concerned that some provisions were overly broad, he warned that Congress needs to proceed cautiously to make sure they consider the long term effects of the bill. As the bill is considered by the Senate, he will continue working to eliminate abusive lending practices while preserving and promoting access to affordable mortgage credit.

Veterans Funding Now Two Months Overdue and Counting

Another week has passed without legislation containing critical funding for our nation's veterans being sent to the President. Congressman Miller once more joined his conservative colleagues this week in asking Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to keep the House of Representatives in session to vote on sending veterans funding to the President. Instead, the Speaker has chosen to place the House in recess for two weeks for the Thanksgiving holiday. As a result, the earliest possible date our nation's veterans would see this funding is in December, more than two months after the start of the fiscal year. Congressman Miller believes that the Veterans Appropriations bill should be considered as a stand alone measure without delay to show appreciation for the dedication of our nation's servicemembers, past and present.

Reminder: Congressman Miller to Host Service Academy Night

Interested in attending one of our nation's military colleges? Join Congressman Miller for a Service Academy Night on Monday, November 26 at 6:30 P.M. in the Saddleback Room at Mission Viejo City Hall. Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will be present to provide information and answer questions about the application and admissions process. This event gives students, parents, and counselors the opportunity to learn about and speak with representatives from the five Service Academies. To R.S.V.P. or request more information about attending a U.S. Service Academy, please call the Service Academy Coordinator at (714) 257-1142.