



April 1, 2011

### **House Passes Bill to Prevent Government Shutdown**

As a result of the failure of the previous Congress to pass a budget or any of the regular appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2011, the government has continued to operate under a series of short-term funding extensions. Forty-one days ago, House Republicans passed H.R. 1, which would fund the government through the end of the fiscal year, slash over \$60 billion from current spending levels, cut over \$100 billion from the President's FY 2011 budget request, and eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood and implementation of the Democrat health care overhaul. Unfortunately the Senate rejected H.R. 1 and to date has failed to pass an alternative measure for the House to consider. To ensure the continuation of government operations beyond the current CR - which expires April 8<sup>th</sup> - the House of Representatives today passed the Government Shutdown Prevention Act. If enacted, this legislation states that should the Senate fail to pass a funding measure before April 6<sup>th</sup>, H.R. 1 will become law to avoid a government shutdown. The bill also requires that in the event of a future government shutdown lasting longer than 24 hours, or if the U.S. fails to meet its obligations because the debt limit has been reached, no salaries shall be paid to the President or Members of Congress. Congressman Miller supports this legislation and hopes that the Senate will quickly act so Congress may turn its attention to cutting spending and limiting the size of government in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

### **House Votes to Terminate Obama Administration's Failed Foreclosure Mitigation Program**

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed legislation to terminate the Obama Administration's failed federal home loan modification program. The Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), established in 2009, provides payments, using \$30 billion in TARP funds, to mortgage servicers to modify mortgages of struggling borrowers. While the Administration claimed that the program would help as many as 4 million homeowners, to date fewer than 600,000 loans has been permanently modified under HAMP. According to the Special Inspector General for TARP the program "benefits only a small portion of distressed homeowners, offers others little more than false hope, and in certain cases causes more harm than good." As our nation continues to borrow forty cents for every federal dollar spent, Congressman Miller believes we must end costly and ineffective federal programs such as HAMP, and focus on solutions that promote job creation and get our economy back on track.

### **Legislation Restoring School Choice for Low-Income DC Students Passed by the House**

Despite having a rate of spending per student higher than any state, the public education system in the District of Columbia remains one of the poorest-performing in the country. In 2003, Congress passed a law to help ensure D.C. children have the opportunity to receive a quality education by creating the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), which provides vouchers for eligible low-income D.C. parents to send their children to a private school of their choosing. The law also provided federal support in the form of direct payments to the city's traditional school system and charter schools. After several successful years, the OSP was closed to new students in 2009 however federal payments continue to be allocated for DC public and charter schools and previously enrolled OSP participants. This week the House passed legislation to revive and expand the OSP through 2016. The bill retains the three sector approach, authorizing \$60 million each year through 2016 to be shared equally among the scholarship program, D.C. public schools, and charter schools. In keeping with the House Republican pledge to reduce spending, the bill's authorization represents a \$15 million reduction from current federal funding levels for DC schools. Congressman Miller is pleased that the bill was passed by the House, and hopes for its quick enactment into law to restore educational choice for the neediest families in the District.

### **Reauthorization of Federal Aviation Programs Approved by the House**

Today, the House passed legislation to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and programs for four years and save over \$4 billion dollars. This legislation will contribute to job creation and

economic growth by reducing federal spending, streamlining federal aviation programs, creating greater efficiency, reducing waste, improving aviation safety, and ending uncertainty over the future of federal policy governing the air transport industry. As a result of making more responsible use of available revenues, HR 658 does not raise aviation fuel taxes or passenger facility charges above current law levels. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, Congressman Miller strongly supports this bill because it reduces the size of government, provides stability, and improves aviation policy.

### **Deadline Approaching for *Artistic Discovery* Competition**

Congressman Miller would like to remind high school students in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District interested in the *An Artistic Discovery* art competition that submissions are due to his Brea district office by Friday, April 15, 2011. The first place winner, whose artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for one year, will be announced at a reception on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the La Habra Art Association and Gallery. Southwest Airlines will provide two round trip tickets for the first place winner and a guest to attend a reception in Washington D.C. The second and third place winning entries will be displayed in Congressman Miller's Capitol and district offices. Restrictions on size, weight and medium apply. For more information on *An Artistic Discovery*, please contact Sarah Benoit at the Brea district office at (714) 257-1142.

### **L.A. Passport Agency Sponsors "Passport Day in the USA"**

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, is "Passport Day in the USA". United States citizens throughout the country may apply for a passport book or passport card at any regional passport agency, as well as participating passport acceptance facilities, including post offices and clerks of court. Regional passport agencies will be open on April 9th for extended hours, and for this day only no appointment is necessary. If you would like to learn more information about applying for a passport, be sure to attend the Los Angeles Passport Agency's "Passport Day in the USA" from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., located on 1100 Wilshire Boulevard, Room 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90024. For additional assistance log on to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for safety tips and passport information, or call Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.

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