



April 30, 2010

CMS: 50 Percent of Seniors Will Lose Their Medicare Advantage Plans

Last week, the chief actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) concluded that under Obamacare half of all seniors who have Medicare Advantage plans will lose their coverage. Created in 2003, Medicare Advantage (MA) makes Medicare payments to private insurers seeking to provide health insurance to America's seniors as a substitute to traditional Medicare coverage. Under Medicare Advantage, the beneficiary pays traditional Medicare premiums and sometimes an additional premium for the extra benefits that may be provided under their new plan. Under the new government-run health care system, CMS estimates that in 2017 – when the MA provisions will be fully phased in – enrollment in MA plans will be lower from its projected level of 14.8 million under the prior law to 7.4 million under the new law. This will greatly affect seniors across the country. In fact, in California's 42nd Congressional District, over 31,000 seniors rely on MA plans to meet their health care needs. Although President Obama claimed "if you like your health care plan, you can keep it," this promise clearly does not apply to seniors who receive health care through MA. Because the government-run health care bill fails our nation's seniors, Congressman Miller will continue fighting to repeal the bill and replace it with a real solution.

Congressman Miller Debates Immigration Reform on Fox News

Following the enactment of the Arizona immigration law Congressional Democrats are renewing their call for 'comprehensive immigration reform,' which would essentially place an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants on a path to U.S. citizenship. Although both sides of the aisle agree that the federal government has failed to address our nation's illegal immigration and border security problems, granting amnesty to those that have recklessly disregarded our nation's immigration laws is the wrong approach to solving this crisis. Rather than reward those who have broken the law, Congressman Miller supports an 'attrition through enforcement' strategy to solve the illegal immigration crisis. Contrary to short-sighted amnesty legislation, this approach – embodied in his bill, the LEAVE Act – would essentially close the loopholes and end the benefits that drive illegal immigrants to the United States, as well as close the gaps in our nation's border security policies that facilitate this ongoing problem. By simply enforcing immigration laws and closing loopholes, eight million jobs for citizens and legal workers would be created and illegal immigrants would lack the incentive to illegally enter the United States. To view Congressman Miller's recent interview on Fox News regarding amnesty legislation, [click here](#).

House Passes Legislation to Reform Defense Acquisition Process

On Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly passed legislation to reform the organization and processes used by the Department of Defense (DoD) to manage service contracts and information technology, which account for approximately 80 percent of the Pentagon's procurement spending. This legislation is a result of a year-long comprehensive review of the defense acquisition system by the House Armed Services Committee. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation to reform the major weapons acquisition process, which accounts for the other 20 percent of DoD's procurement spending. Among its provisions, the bill passed this week requires annual performance assessments be conducted for each element of the defense acquisition system and use these results to better manage the workforce. In addition, the bill creates a consistent process for each military department to review and establish acquisition requirements. Because this legislation will maximize the use of taxpayer dollars within DoD, Congressman Miller was proud to support this legislation.

House Passes Legislation To Set Up a Vote on Potential 51st State

The House on Thursday passed the Puerto Rico Democracy Act to authorize a federally-sanctioned vote of the people of Puerto Rico regarding their political future. While under current law, Puerto Rico can conduct a vote anytime to determine their voting status, under the legislation, a two-step voting process would occur. The first vote would allow the people of Puerto Rico to choose between selecting a "different political status" or maintaining their "present political status" as a U.S. territory with commonwealth status. If the majority of the people vote in favor of a "different political status", then a second vote would be held allowing Puerto Ricans to choose between four options: independence, commonwealth, free association with the U.S., or statehood. While Congressman Miller believes the people of Puerto Rico should be able to go to the ballot box to express their views on their future political status, he opposed the bill because it contains serious flaws. Among these flaws, the bill does not require a majority in the second vote, meaning that the "winner" could be an option that receives as little as a quarter of the vote.

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