



December 10, 2010

House Passes DREAM Act, Grants Amnesty to Over Two Million Illegal Immigrants

On Wednesday, the Democrat-controlled House passed controversial legislation known as the DREAM Act. This version of the DREAM Act was introduced the night before and no committee hearings or mark-ups were held. In summary, the DREAM Act subsidizes education for illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States before age 16 and grants them mass amnesty, thereby encouraging more illegal immigration and inevitably taking jobs from America workers. According to a recent study, the DREAM Act could mean mass amnesty for over two million illegal immigrants. Once the DREAM Act's amnesty recipients become citizens and turn 21, they can sponsor their illegal immigrant parents for legalization. While granting amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is already bad enough, the bill contains several loopholes that will lead to fraud and abuse. The DREAM Act makes it possible for almost any illegal immigrant to evade the law. Once they file an application, no matter how fraudulent, the federal government is prohibited from deporting them. Widespread fraud will likely drive the number of those given amnesty much higher as many illegal immigrants falsely claim that they arrived in the United States before the age of 16. Congressman Miller opposed this legislation.

President Announces Bipartisan Tax Compromise

This week, President Obama and Congressional Republicans announced a framework to prevent tax increases from taking place beginning January 1, 2011. In summary, the compromise extends the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all income levels for two years; provides a patch for the alternative minimum tax through 2011; minimizes the estate tax with a 35 percent top rate and a \$5 million exemption; cuts the Social Security payroll tax by 2 percent for one year; and provides a 13-month extension of unemployment insurance benefits. Although Congressman Miller is concerned the unemployment benefits contained in the proposal are not paid for, it is imperative Congress act to prevent a job-killing tax increase from hitting American families and small businesses. Without such action, more Americans would be added to the unemployment rolls and small businesses will continue to face an increasingly uncertain economic climate, which will consequently hamper economic growth and job creation.

Congressman Miller Named Chairman of International Monetary Policy Subcommittee

This week, Financial Services Chairman-Elect Spencer Bachus named Congressman Miller as Chairman of the International Monetary Policy Subcommittee for the 112th Congress. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over international monetary policy; international finance and banking; international financial and monetary organizations, including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank; and promotion of international trade in financial services. In his new capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee, Congressman Miller will advocate for taxpayer-friendly and fiscally responsible solutions to unfreeze credit and restore confidence to the financial markets. Along with Chairman-Elect Bachus, he is also committed to going through the overreaching Dodd Frank Act to correct, replace, or repeal the job killing provisions that unnecessarily punish small businesses and community banks that did nothing to cause the financial crisis. To prevent future crises, Congressman Miller will work with his colleagues to increase the oversight, accountability, and transparency of financial institutions.

House Passes Bloated Spending Bill with Misguided Food Safety Bill Attached

The House on Wednesday passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund federal government agencies and programs at 2010 levels throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Because the Majority failed to enact a budget resolution and any of the 12 appropriations bills this year, this CR will be a last ditch effort to avoid a government shutdown while continuing to fund many of the Democrats' political priorities. In addition, the CR contains a controversial food safety bill. Specifically, the bill allows the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to act on suspicion to require a producer to cease distribution of food. No consideration is given to indemnification for economic damages, particularly if the FDA is wrong. The issue of indemnification can be illustrated with the example of what happened to tomato crops in 2008. FDA mistakenly attributed an outbreak of Salmonella to tomatoes. It was later discovered that contaminated peppers were the source of illnesses. However, that discovery came after a large part of the 2008 tomato crop was destroyed and the tomato industry suffered an estimated \$100 million loss as a result. Because the bill maintains bloated government spending through the remainder of the fiscal year and misguided food safety policies, Congressman Miller opposed the bill.

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