



December 18, 2009

Mass-Amnesty Legislation Unveiled This Week

House Democrats on Tuesday unveiled mass-amnesty legislation, once again highlighting their misguided and out-of-touch policies. Among its provisions, the bill would grant illegals—including their spouses and children—amnesty, thereby allowing them to work and travel freely within the United States and provide for eventual citizenship. The legislation would also grant in-state college tuition and accelerate the amnesty process for illegals brought to the United States before the age of 16. Among its egregious worksite enforcement provisions, the bill repeals a program that permits local law enforcement to participate in carrying out our nation's immigration laws and requires excessive mandates for worksite enforcement activities. With over 15 million Americans unemployed and seven million illegals employed, amnesty legislation is an affront to American citizens and legal residents. Congressman Miller believes firmly that it is wrong to award citizenship to those that have recklessly disregarded our nation's immigration laws and instead supports an enforcement-first approach to solving the illegal immigration crisis.

As Son of Stimulus is Birthed, House Raises Debt Limit

Prior to adjourning for the year, the House passed a \$150 billion second stimulus package and also raised the debt limit by \$290 billion, from \$12.104 trillion to \$12.394 trillion. As a result of the Democrats' borrow-and-spend philosophy, government spending grew by 24 percent in 2009 and unfortunately the second stimulus follows this disturbing trend. Rather than use repaid bailout funds to pay down the monstrous national debt, the Majority unilaterally decided to use these funds for a second so-called stimulus package. Rather than extend tax relief to small businesses, the second stimulus pours billions into the very same programs included in the original stimulus. In many cases, very little of the money from the first stimulus has even been spent and in other cases, where the money from the first stimulus has been spent, it has failed to create or save private sector jobs. While it is estimated that another \$1.5 trillion of borrowing authority will be needed in two months, Congressman Miller opposed the second stimulus because it continues the trend of runaway spending and fails to implement job-creating solutions.

House Passes Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill with Attachments

On Wednesday, the House passed a \$636.3 billion troop funding bill which contains vital resources for our men and women in uniform and their families. Among its provisions, the bill contains \$350 million for a 3.4 percent military pay increase; \$29.2 billion for Defense health programs to provide care for our troops and military families, including an additional \$1.2 billion for medical care for active duty forces and mobilized Reserve troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families; and \$472.4 million for family support and advocacy programs. Although this legislation includes funding for critical national security needs, it also was used as a vehicle to carry several non-defense legislative items, including several temporary extensions to existing domestic programs. While these unrelated provisions should have been considered separately and on their own merits, Congressman Miller supported the legislation because he is committed to our troops and ensuring the safety of the American people.

House Overwhelmingly Approves the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act

As the Iranian regime continues to pursue the development of nuclear weapons and has repeatedly made threats to our nation and allies, the House this week overwhelmingly approved the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act. Although Iran is the fourth largest oil producer in the world, it needs substantial new foreign capital investment to modernize its petroleum infrastructure in order to keep up with its national demand for gasoline and maintain its revenue-producing oil exports. In fact, because of its lack of refining capacity Iran has to import roughly 40 percent of its gasoline from abroad. While companies based in the United States are already barred from doing business with Iran, this bill will limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products by requiring the president to impose sanctions on companies helping Iran in these areas. As a cosponsor of this important legislation, Congressman Miller is pleased the House has passed this legislation to address the growing Iranian threat and will continue working in Congress to prevent this regime from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The Capitol Connection Newsletter is published at the end of every week in which Congress is in session. As Congress adjourns for the year, the next edition of Capitol Connection will appear January 15, 2010. Please send correspondence to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov with your name and residential address. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter send an email to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov or call (202) 225-3201.