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The White House Reveals its Latest Government-Run Health Care Proposal

This week, the White House unveiled its latest health care proposal which is largely based on the Senate Democrats' government-run health care bill. According to the White House's own estimates, the proposal would cost \$950 billion; however, the Congressional Budget Office has not been able to score President Obama's government-run health care proposal because it does not provide sufficient detail on all of the provisions. Like the Senate bill, the Administration's proposal contains cuts to Medicare and tax increases to pay for the expansion and creation of new entitlement programs; creates new bureaucratic boards to dictate what health care choices Americans can and cannot have; and forms a new government-run health care plan. As Congress and the Administration continue to debate the framework of health care reform, Congressman Miller will oppose increased Washington mandates that harm the patient-doctor relationship. Rather, he will continue to focus on efforts to reduce the rising cost of health care, such as medical liability reform, the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, and expand insurance portability.

One-Year Anniversary of the So-Called Stimulus, Still No Tangible Results

In the year since the Democrats' so-called stimulus was enacted, over three million jobs have been lost, billions of taxpayer dollars have been squandered, and the size and scope of the federal bureaucracy has grown. Rather than implement true job-creating mechanisms, millions of taxpayer dollars have been doled out for dubious projects and research studies, including \$3.4 million to build an eco-passage for turtles in Florida and \$1.3 million for government arts jobs in Maine, of which includes \$30,000 for basket makers, \$20,000 for storytelling and \$12,500 for a music festival. Interestingly enough, according to a recent poll only 6 percent of Americans believe the stimulus has created jobs and 7 percent of Americans believe Elvis still may be alive. Furthermore, although only 22 percent of the \$787 billion stimulus has been spent to date, last December the Majority voted for a second \$158 billion stimulus package, thereby admitting that the first stimulus did not create jobs as promised. To get our economy back on track, Congressman Miller believes firmly Washington must reign in wasteful government spending, stop growing the already monstrous federal bureaucracy, and implement tax cuts for hardworking Americans and job-creating small businesses. Moreover, he believes that Congress must put an end to job killing legislation, such as cap-and-tax, government-run health care, and tax increases.

House Passes Outdated and Flawed Intelligence Authorization

On Friday, the House approved legislation setting policy related to our nation's intelligence gathering activities and laying out funding numbers for the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies for Fiscal Year 2010. Provisions in the bill cover everything from general intelligence operations to signals intelligence, clandestine human-intelligence programs, analysis, and covert action capabilities. While the bill contains several important provisions, the bill is outdated and contains several substantive errors. Among its problems, the legislation does not address critical intelligence flaws revealed after the Fort Hood shooting and the attempted Christmas Day bombing, nor the failure by the Administration to fix them. It also contains several provisions that could compromise the safety of intelligence personnel. Furthermore, the bill glosses over the issue of the disposition of the Guantanamo Bay detainees in light of the President's decision to close the facility without a plan and also does not contain an outright prohibition on using intelligence funds to bring the detainees into the United States. Because of these egregious flaws, Congressman Miller was forced to oppose this bill. As such, he will continue working in Congress to provide our intelligence community with the tools needed to protect the homeland.

Unconstitutional Bill Granting Native Hawaiians Recognition Approved by House

The House this week voted to recognize and authorize the creation of a sovereign Native Hawaiian governing entity, essentially making it a federally recognized Indian tribe. This legislation would allow the new Hawaiian government entity to be exempt from state taxes, set their own civil and possibly criminal jurisdictions apart from the State of Hawaii, and take ownership of lands currently owned by the state and potentially the federal government. Congressman Miller opposed this legislation for several reasons. First, Congress does not have the constitutional authority to recognize Native Hawaiians as a sovereign Indian tribe; second, it is unconstitutional to divide American people solely by race or ethnicity; third, it would lead to a racial balkanization in Hawaii and elsewhere, providing for different codes of law to apply to people of different races who live and function as part of one currently homogenous community; and last, only a small portion of Hawaiians support the legislation.

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