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Future of Government-Run Health Care Unsure, Senate Abortion Provision in Question

This week, the future of a Washington takeover of our nation's health care system became increasingly uncertain as the American people upped their disapproval of the Administration's agenda. Although the majority of Americans do not support a \$1 trillion takeover of the American health care system, Democrat Leadership and the Administration continue to weigh the options available in order to ram a bill through Congress. One of these options includes the House of Representatives taking up the Senate-passed version of the health care bill. Like the House bill, the Senate legislation raises taxes, cuts Medicare, creates myriad new bureaucracies and programs, and stymies patient choice. However, the Senate bill, unlike the House bill, does not include the Stupak-Pitts amendment, which means that it will force taxpayers and private insurance companies to subsidize abortions. As today marks the 37th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, Congressman Miller will continue to oppose a massive government takeover of the health care system and will fight hard to ensure the lives of the unborn are protected.

House of Representatives Responds to Tragic Situation in Haiti

The House on Thursday passed a resolution to express deep condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss of life and the physical and psychological damage caused by the recent earthquake in Haiti. Centered near the capital of Port-au-Prince, the earthquake is estimated to have affected nearly three million people, which is nearly one-third of the country's population, and hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives due to this catastrophic event. As an unknown number of individuals remain trapped under collapsed buildings, the United States has deployed thousands of first responders and troops to assist in recovery efforts. Congressman Miller commends the brave men and women in uniform and countless volunteers for their efforts to help Haiti recover from this devastating natural disaster and expresses his heartfelt condolences to those that have lost loved ones. To aid to the relief effort, the House this week also passed legislation to enable individuals making charitable donations to the Haiti earthquake recovery effort to claim an itemized deduction on their 2009 tax returns, instead of having to wait until next year. The bill allows those who texted their donations to qualify by using their phone bill as proof of a donation.

House Passes Several Water Rights Bills But Continues to Neglect California

This week, the House of Representatives passed three water rights bills in order to ratify and approve several pending water use agreements with Native American tribes. Despite the merits of these bills, all fail to address the man-made water crisis that continues to plague communities across the Golden State. California's current water crisis is partly due to limited water supplies in the San Joaquin Delta because of Endangered Species Act protections for the California Delta Smelt, which is a three-inch bait fish. Although the crisis could be alleviated by authorizing critical water pumping projects, the bills considered this week do nothing for the advancement of these projects, thereby holding California's farmers, businesses, and families hostage to the interests of a small fish. Congressman Miller is disappointed both Congress and the Administration continue to ignore the California man-made drought and believes firmly Californians must have immediate relief from the economic and social hardship imposed by stringent environmental regulations.

Tax Law Changes Provide Saving Opportunities, Tax Prep Assistance for Elderly

In 2009, numerous new and expanded deductions and tax credits were made available for a broad cross-section of taxpayers. These potential tax breaks or credits include college tax benefits for students and parents, energy credits for homeowners who are going green, and tax credits for home and car buyers. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers local volunteer assistance programs for qualified individuals to receive free income tax preparation assistance. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) also offer free help for those who qualify. VITA/TCE sites are generally located in community and senior centers throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties. In addition, VITA and the Armed Forces Tax Council offer free tax preparation assistance for service members and their families. To receive more information on these programs, contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142. You can also contact the IRS by phone at (800) 829-1040 or visit them on the web at www.irs.gov.

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