



January 27, 2012

President Calls for More of the Same Failed Policies in State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, President Obama delivered his third State of the Union address. Once again, rather than seriously address the root problem of our nation's fiscal crisis and weak job growth, the President continued his call for more government spending and higher taxes on job creators. While he also spoke about the importance of creating jobs, recent actions by his Administration have run counter to his rhetoric. Just last week, the Administration blocked the Keystone XL pipeline project because it does not "serve our national interest." Congressman Miller strongly disagrees, as he firmly believes that the project, which would create thousands of jobs, increase our energy security by working with one of our strongest allies, and help ease the burden of high gas prices on American workers and families is certainly in our national economic and security interests. Rather than continue to spend more money we don't have and raise taxes on families and small businesses, the Congressman believes we need to take measures now to establish a better economic environment for job creation, including paying down our national debt, eliminating wasteful spending, and removing unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses, a key driver of job creation. He will continue to work with his colleagues to make the tough decisions needed to get our fiscal house in order and help give job creators the certainty they need to expand and put more Americans back to work.

Despite Health Care Overhaul, Costs, Number of Uninsured Continue to Rise

Despite its massive implications on our nation's health care system, President Obama made only two passing references to his major health care overhaul during Tuesday night's speech. That could be because data continues to come out showing that, like many of the President's domestic policy initiatives, the health care law is failing to fulfill the Administration's promises. A new Gallup survey released this week shows that more Americans are now without health insurance than when the law was enacted in 2010. Meanwhile, despite claims that the so-called Affordable Care Act would help rein in health care costs, a recent Kaiser Family Foundation study found that in 2011 – after some of the earliest provisions of the law went into effect – premiums have gone up by 9 percent, or over \$1,200 for an average American family. Instead of government mandates and regulations that restrict patient choice, Congressman Miller will continue to work in Congress to reign in the cost of health care and improve access to care by pursuing common-sense, free market solutions, such as allowing the purchase of insurance across state lines, that will give consumers more options to meet their health care needs.

More Stalling on a Budget for the Federal Government

This week, the Administration announced that it will once again miss its statutory deadline for submitting its budget request to Congress. Under the 1974 Budget Act, the President is required to submit a budget proposal to Congress by the first Monday in February every year, however, the President failed to meet this deadline in 2009 and 2011. As the Administration announced it will miss this important deadline, Tuesday marked the 1,000th day since the Senate last passed a budget. Congressman Miller hopes that the President and the Senate will work with House Republicans in the coming weeks and months to set funding priorities, ensure that we meet our nation's most pressing needs, and make the federal government smaller, smarter, and more effective.