



June 11, 2010

Health Care Update: More Than 9 in 10 Seniors Won't Receive a Rebate Check

This week, President Obama embarked on a public relations offensive hoping to convince skeptical Americans that the Democrats' health care overhaul is good for them. First up, the President held a nationally televised question-and-answer session with seniors to highlight the one-time, \$250 rebate check that relatively few seniors will receive if they reach the Medicare Part D donut hole this year. In fact, more than 9 in 10 Medicare beneficiaries will never receive one of these checks. Despite the PR campaign, the problem remains in the policy. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the \$250 one-time check pales in comparison to the \$8,980 per senior cut in Medicare spending under the law over the next ten years. Because the new health care law harms seniors by slashing Medicare, Congressman Miller and his Republican colleagues will continue to fight to repeal the law.

House Approves the Hoover Power Allocation Act

This week, the House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation cosponsored by Congressman Miller to enhance California's water supply. This legislation, the Hoover Power Allocation Act, updates the statutory allocation of electric power generated at the Hoover Dam, located on the Colorado River, to its various users in California, Arizona, and Nevada. This hydroelectric generation – which provides a renewable, affordable, and accessible resource to the American Southwest – will now be made available to additional users. In addition, the Western Area Power Administration, which administers the water, has committed to implement a full and transparent process in the allocation of this resource. As California is faced with the formidable task of providing reliable and safe water resources for a rapidly increasing population, Congressman Miller is pleased the House has passed this important legislation to provide water to Californians.

FHA Reform Act Passed by the House

The House of Representatives on Thursday approved the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Reform Act by 406-4. As increased delinquencies and foreclosures across the nation have had a detrimental effect on the financial health of the FHA program, this legislation makes changes to the National Housing Act designed to improve the insurance fund's financial condition and enhance certain enforcement tools to keep fraudulent or poorly-underwritten loans out of the FHA program. What is more, the legislation incorporates a majority of the provisions of a bill Congressman Miller has cosponsored that will strengthen the health of the fund and protect taxpayers from yet another bailout. Specifically, these provisions will shore up revenue for the FHA and prevent an impending taxpayer bailout by increasing examination of borrowers and lenders. Furthermore, it gives the FHA the ability to increase premiums and use outside credit risk experts.

Congressional Art Competition Winners Announced

Congressman Miller is pleased to announce Matthew Lee, a senior at Don Lugo High School in Chino, as the 42nd Congressional District's winner of the Artistic Discovery 2010 Congressional Art Competition. Matthew's pencil on paper entry entitled "The Smallest Actions" depicts two hands dipping into a puddle of water causing a ripple effect, symbolizing the various effects of the smallest actions. As the winner of the competition, Matthew will receive travel to Washington D.C., courtesy of Southwest Airlines, to see the unveiling of his artwork, which will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year. In addition, Joey Levine of Placentia has been awarded second place and Nicholas Stortroen of Chino has been announced as the third place winner. Joey's "Spring Awakening" photograph will hang in Congressman Miller's Washington D.C. office and Nicholas's "Reflections" colored pencil drawing will be displayed in the Brea district office, both for one year. Congressman Miller is proud of the creative talents of the 42nd District and would like to encourage aspiring student artists to participate in next year's competition.