



June 17, 2011

House Approves FY 2012 Funding for America's Veterans and Military Construction

On Monday, the House passed the Fiscal Year 2012 Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations bill to provide needed funding to our nation's retired military servicemembers and their families. The bill contains a total of \$72.5 billion in non-mandatory discretionary spending - representing a decrease of \$615 million below last year's spending level. Specifically, the measure contains \$14 billion for military construction projects, a \$2.6 billion decrease from current funding levels. It also provides \$58 billion in discretionary funds and \$69 billion in mandatory spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans' compensation and benefits, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation, and housing loan programs. Congressman Miller supported the legislation because he believes that while we must exercise fiscal responsibility, we also have a duty to deliver on our promises to our nation's veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedom.

FY 2012 Funding for Agriculture Department, FDA Passes House

On Thursday, the House passed legislation appropriating \$125.5 billion in mandatory and discretionary spending for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration, and other related programs and agencies for the next fiscal year. The bill appropriates \$17.2 billion in non-mandatory spending—cutting \$2.7 billion from last year's level and \$5 billion below the President's request. This also brings discretionary budget authority for these programs back to 2006 levels. The bill strikes a careful balance to ensure that our nation's food safety, nutrition, and agricultural programs receive adequate funding, while making significant cuts to save taxpayer dollars. Congressman Miller also supported an amendment to the legislation that would reduce spending by nearly \$2 billion. While this amendment was not adopted, he will continue to work with his colleagues in Congress to reduce wasteful and unnecessary government spending as the appropriations process moves forward.

Legislation to Make E-Verify Permanent Introduced in the House

This week, Congressman Miller joined a number of his colleagues in introducing legislation that will strengthen enforcement of our nation's worker eligibility laws. E-Verify is a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility. Today, over 250,000 American employers voluntarily utilize E-Verify to check the legal status of their employees, while an average of 1,300 new businesses sign up each week. The Legal Workforce Act was introduced to improve and expand this program to ensure that American jobs are reserved for citizens and legal residents. The bill phases-in mandatory E-Verify participation in six month increments for all new hires, with a 36 month transition for employees performing agricultural labor or services. Employers that willfully violate the bill's worker verification requirements would be subject to thousands of dollars in fines, however protection is granted for employers who use E-Verify in good faith and through no fault of their own receive an incorrect eligibility confirmation. Congressman Miller will continue working aggressively in the Reclaim American Jobs Caucus to turn off the employment magnet that attracts illegal workers and steals jobs from Americans and legal immigrants.

California Citizens Redistricting Commission Accepting Comments on First Draft Maps

Late last week, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission released its first round of draft maps for new Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization districts. The Commission is now accepting public comments on the proposed maps and will be conducting several input hearings throughout the month. The hearing schedule and the draft maps can be found at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov. Residents may submit their input by e-mail at votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov, by mail to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P Street, Suite 154-A, Sacramento, CA 95814 or by FAX at 916-651-5711.