



June 19, 2009

House Passes Amendment to Maintain SCAAP Funding for FY 2010

This week, Congressman Miller and fourteen of his colleagues secured a bipartisan amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to increase funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) by \$100 million. This important program reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating illegal criminal aliens. Earlier this year, the Administration proposed to terminate SCAAP, thereby saddling local communities with the costly burden of our nation's failed immigration policies. Although House appropriators went against the will of the Administration by including \$300 million for SCAAP in the bill, this amount is \$100 million less than last year's level of \$400 million. To remedy this, the amendment Congressman Miller and his colleagues offered will increase SCAAP funding by \$100 million, which will fund the program at a grand total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2010, equal to last year's levels. The House passed this amendment by voice vote. At a time when California is experiencing unprecedented budget challenges, Congressman Miller will continue to work with his colleagues to ensure that SCAAP funding is maintained and increased in coming years.

War Funding Conference Report Straps Global Bailout on the Back of Our Troops

The House on Tuesday passed a \$105.9 billion Conference Report on the Supplemental Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2009 to cover the costs relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the larger war on terrorism, foreign aid, and various domestic programs. However, rather than pass a clean troop funding bill, this conference report cuts money for our military in order to include the Administration's \$108 billion request for the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) borrowing authority from the U.S. Treasury. While Congressman Miller is strongly committed to supporting our military, intelligence, and civilian personnel acting in defense of our country, he opposed the Supplemental Conference Report because he believes firmly that an emergency war funding bill should be clean and not strap a global bailout on the backs of our troops.

Congressional Gold Medal to Be Awarded to Women Airforce Service Pilots

This week, the House passed a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II. More than sixty years ago, the WASP were the first women in history to fly American military aircraft, including fighter, bomber, transport, and training aircraft in defense of America's freedom. In order to serve their country, the WASP faced overwhelming cultural and gender bias for their nontraditional roles, but through their actions they eventually were the catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the Armed Services. As a proud cosponsor of this legislation, Congressman Miller is pleased that the House and Senate have passed this bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the WASP in recognition of their pioneering military service and exemplary record.

House Committee Approves Resolution to Engrave Pledge and National Motto in CVC

The Committee on House Administration this week approved a concurrent resolution cosponsored by Congressman Miller which directs the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the national motto of "In God We Trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC). The CVC, which officially opened to the public in December 2008, is the most extensive addition to the Capitol since the Civil War, containing 580,000 square feet on three levels and is approximately three-quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The center contains space for exhibits, two theatres, an auditorium, as well as additional storage and office space for the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. While the CVC offers better opportunities for citizens to learn about their Congress and their Capitol, Congressman Miller and many of his colleagues have voiced concern that the CVC excludes significant references to the nation's religious history, such as the Pledge of Allegiance and our national motto, "In God We Trust". Congressman Miller will continue to work in Congress to ensure that America's religious heritage is properly reflected in the United States Capitol.

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