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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views  
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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March 6, 2009

## **Congressman Miller Co-Authors Legislation to Permanently Extend Tax Relief**

To permanently extend the tax relief measures passed by Congress in 2001 and 2003, Congressman Miller recently co-authored the Economic Stimulus Enhancement and Tax Relief Permanency Act. Without this important legislation, American families and small businesses will soon see a \$400 billion tax increase as popular tax relief measures for married couples, families, and students are scheduled to expire in 2010. By releasing the resources and creativity of the American people through fast acting tax relief to struggling families and small businesses, jobs will be preserved and protected and the economy overall will be strengthened. During these economically challenging times, he believes it is important that Americans are able to keep more of their hard-earned money. As this important legislation is considered by the House, he will continue working with his colleagues to permanently reduce the tax burden on American families and allow them to keep more of their hard-earned money.

## **House Passes Mortgage Cram-Down Legislation**

On Thursday, the House passed mortgage cram-down legislation which effectively will allow bankruptcy judges to restructure the terms of home mortgages. At its heart, the plan gives bankruptcy courts the power to alter contracts by reducing mortgage principal, adjusting interest rates, extending maturity dates, and limiting recovery of mortgage-related creditor fees. By allowing judges to modify the amount and terms of troubled mortgages, this will result in increased risk for lenders and in turn will provoke higher interest rates and down payment requirements throughout the mortgage market. Tighter credit will hurt all future borrowers, thereby putting homeownership out of reach for many Americans. While Congressman Miller believes firmly that it is important to keep families in their homes during these economically challenging times, he opposes this legislation because it will restrict the flow of capital into the housing markets, make it more expensive for potential homebuyers to obtain a mortgage, and will hinder the broader housing sector's ability to fully recover.

## **Congressman Miller Urges Long-term E-Verify Reauthorization**

This week, Congressman Miller joined over 70 of his colleagues in sending a letter to Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner urging a long-term reauthorization of the E-Verify program. The E-Verify program, a commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility, is currently set to expire this month. Although the economic stimulus package originally contained provisions to reauthorize and strengthen E-Verify, these provisions were stripped without discussion or debate before final passage. It is estimated that by removing these provisions, the stimulus will create as many as 300,000 jobs for illegal aliens using taxpayer dollars. Currently, the House version of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 includes a short-term extension of the E-Verify program through the end of the fiscal year. If this extension does not become law, the E-Verify program will expire and hundreds of thousands of potential jobs for American workers will be compromised. Congressman Miller is outraged that the Democrat Leadership has failed to reauthorize this important program and will continue to work in Congress to see that it is expanded and made permanent.

## **Applications Sought for U.S. Military Service Academies – Class of 2014**

Congressman Miller is now seeking applications from qualified high school juniors who wish to attend a service academy beginning the summer of 2010. Each year, he has the opportunity to nominate a select group of high school seniors to attend one of five U.S. military service academies. Although securing a nomination is highly competitive, those selected have the opportunity to attend a top rated college free of charge in exchange for military service following graduation. All graduating military students are commissioned as officers in their respective branches of the service. Application for the class of 2014 must be submitted by November 2, 2009. To learn more about the service academies and the admissions process, please contact Congressman Miller's Service Academy Coordinator at (714) 257-1142.