



May 22, 2009

### **Administration Proposes Ending the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program**

Congressman Miller recently joined over twenty of his colleagues in sending a letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership requesting that they include at least \$400 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill. Recently, the Administration announced that it would terminate this important program which reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens. The Government Accountability Office has determined that states spend more than \$1.7 billion each year to incarcerate criminal aliens, and Congress has only reimbursed about twenty percent of these local expenditures over the years. The difference between actual expenditures and the SCAAP reimbursement level is particularly dramatic for California, which has the largest number of incarcerated criminal illegal aliens of any state in the nation and costs the state nearly \$1 billion annually. Congressman Miller is outraged that the Administration is forcing state and local governments to bear the costs of our nation's failed immigration policies and will continue to use his voice and his vote to support this crucial program.

### **Congressman Miller Cosponsors Legislation to Permanently Increase Loan Limits**

Congressman Miller this week joined a colleague in introducing bipartisan legislation to make the current loan limit increases for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, permanent. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the loan limit for both programs was temporarily increased to \$729,750, depending on an area's median home price. The temporary increase, however, is set to expire on December 31, 2009. Unless further action is taken, the ceiling on the GSE and FHA loan limits will fall once again to \$625,500 on January 1, 2010. By permanently increasing the GSE and FHA loan limits, Southern Californians will have access to conforming loans, which can be about 100 basis points lower than if financed through a jumbo loan, thereby making homeownership more attainable. Congressman Miller believes it is imperative that Congress permanently increase the loans limits so that hardworking Americans across the country have equal access to safer, more affordable mortgage products.

### **Bill Introduced to Ensure California Veterans Receive Full Post-9/11 Benefits**

This week, Congressman Miller joined several of his colleagues in introducing the Veterans Educational Equity Act, legislation crafted in response to reports that California veterans may be unfairly denied educational benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill calculates a veteran's educational benefits based on the public tuition charged to an in-state resident. However, under California law public institutions of higher education may not charge tuition to in-state residents and instead charge students through a variety of fees. Because of this distinction, the State of California reported to the VA that the highest tuition at a State public school is \$0.00, thereby denying veterans any tuition reimbursement to attend private schools in California. In addition to cosponsoring legislation, Congressman Miller also joined sixteen of his colleagues in sending a letter to the VA Secretary to express concern about California veterans not receiving their full benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. He believes firmly that denying educational benefits to veterans due is unacceptable and tarnishes this landmark legislation's intent.

### **Legislation Aiding Small Businesses Clears House**

As our nation observes "National Small Business Week", the House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009, bipartisan legislation designed to give small businesses additional resources to flourish and create American jobs. The bill reauthorizes the Entrepreneurial Development programs of the Small Business Administration which educate entrepreneurs on starting and maintaining a small business. The legislation also includes important changes to better assist small business owners and entrepreneurs to keep and start their businesses. Further, the measure establishes survival tools which can be accessed online and offers expert consulting and education. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and create seven out of every ten jobs in our nation. Congressman Miller is proud to have supported this legislation and will continue working in Congress to see that small businesses have the resources needed to ensure jobs are preserved and created.