



November 18, 2011

Balanced Budget Amendment Considered by the House

This week, the national debt climbed to an all-time high of \$15 trillion. Since President Obama took office, the national debt has increased 34%, the fastest increase in the debt in history. This staggering debt is stifling economic growth and the job creation that we need to get millions of Americans back to work. To put our nation on a fiscally sustainable path and restrain out-of-control spending, the House considered H.J.Res.2, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The BBA would have required a supermajority vote of 3/5 of both the House and the Senate to allow the government to spend more money than it takes in, as well as to raise the debt ceiling. Unfortunately, this common-sense amendment – which has 242 bipartisan cosponsors - was defeated on the House floor. Congressman Miller is extremely disappointed by the outcome of today's vote, and will continue to fight for the adoption of a constitutional amendment to force Washington to finally do what millions of American households and businesses must do – balance the budget.

Right-to-Carry Legislation Passes House

On Wednesday, Congressman Miller voted to pass bipartisan legislation that will protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners. H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Act, would allow gun owners with valid state-issued concealed firearms permits or licenses to carry a concealed firearm in any state that also allows the practice. The bill does not require or authorize any further government action or the implementation of bureaucratic regulations. Just as states recognize the driver's licenses from another state, H.R. 822 simply requires states that allow concealed carry to accept a concealed carry permit from another state. The bill does not preempt a state's ability to set carry requirements for its own residents, and individuals must still abide by the concealed carry laws of the state in which they are in. As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, Congressman Miller will continue to fight to ensure that law-abiding citizens may fully exercise their constitutional right to bear arms.

Bill to Provide Assistance to Veterans and Repeal Withholding Mandate Sent to the President

On Wednesday, the House approved legislation to help our nation's businesses and veterans. The bill, which passed the House on a 422-0 vote, repeals the requirement for federal, state, and local governments to withhold three percent of payments to contractors for goods and services. While it was intended to improve tax compliance, there are serious concerns about the negative impact the withholding would have on honest taxpaying businesses, which could use the capital to reinvest in their companies, as well as the compliance burdens that would be placed on government entities. The bill also establishes a new veteran retraining assistance program and provides tax credits to employers who hire veterans who have been seeking work for over six months. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill, which is fully paid for by modifying the Democrat health care law's faulty calculation for determining eligibility for Medicaid and health insurance subsidies, will reduce the deficit by \$1.9 billion over ten years.

Appropriations Process for FY 2012 Moves Forward

On Thursday, the House approved the final conference report on the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture, Commerce/Justice/Science (CJS) and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill. The non-emergency discretionary funding contained in the report is in line with the \$1.043 trillion spending cap agreed upon by the Budget Control Act. To prevent the shutdown of other government departments and agencies, the measure also contains a temporary extension of current funding

levels through December 16th. While Congressman Miller believes more could have been done to reduce spending, the report does force the Democrat-led Senate and President Obama to accept spending levels far below what they would like, eliminates 20 unnecessary or duplicative government programs, and avoids a costly government shutdown that would further weaken our ailing economy. The measure also reinstates the higher limit for loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration. On October 1st, the loan limits were reduced by \$144,650 in San Bernardino County, and \$104,250 in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, increasing the cost of buying a home in the region and exacerbating current problems in the housing markets. Reinstating the FHA limit will help ensure that qualified borrowers in high-cost areas such as Southern California will be able to obtain affordable mortgage credit and stabilize the housing market, which is essential to our nation's economic recovery.

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