



November 19, 2010

Lame Duck: Congress May Consider Amnesty, Needs to Halt Looming Tax Increases

Following the November mid-term elections, this week Congress came back to Washington, DC for a lame duck session. While there is a laundry list of must-pass items for the lame duck, including legislation to keep our government running past December 3, 2010, it remains uncertain if the Democrat Majority will take up pet projects and special interest legislation. One of the items both the Obama administration and the Majority would like to consider is the controversial DREAM Act, which would essentially grant amnesty to illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 and would also grant in-state college tuition to these individuals. While Congressman Miller strongly opposes this and other amnesty legislation, he believes firmly that Congress must consider legislation in the coming weeks that will prevent the largest tax hike in American history from taking place beginning January 1, 2011. Without such action, every American will see their taxes increase next year. Congressman Miller and his Republican colleagues will keep pressing the Democrat Majority to bring up legislation for a vote that will effectively prevent these tax hikes.

Congressman Miller Seeks to End Subsidization of Sanctuary Cities

Recently, the Center for Immigration Studies released a new memorandum finding that the Department of Justice, under the direction of the Obama administration, awarded over \$62 million in grants to 27 sanctuary cities in 2010. This grant program, known as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens. Under the law that created SCAAP, the federal government is required to take all criminal aliens into federal custody. If that is not possible, which has been the case since the program was created, the law calls for compensation of state and local government incarceration costs. While Congressman Miller has been a stalwart advocate of fully reimbursing state and local governments for the cost of jailing illegal immigrants, it is wrong to give SCAAP funds to jurisdictions that deliberately prevent their police officers from cooperating with federal immigration law. Rather than award limited SCAAP funds to those that make a mockery of our nation's immigration laws, Congressman Miller believes these funds should only be allocated to those local law enforcement agencies that cooperate with the federal government. To this extent, he has authored legislation – the LEAVE Act – that would prohibit sanctuary cities from receiving both Departments of Justice and Homeland Security funds.

House Passes Senate Amendment to Bill Banning Animal Crush Videos

On Monday, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate-amended legislation that Congressman Miller has cosponsored to prohibit knowingly selling or offering to sell an animal crush video in interstate or foreign commerce for commercial gain. Crush videos are defined as any visual depiction, including any photograph, motion-picture film, video recording, or electronic image, which depicts animal cruelty. This legislation comes in response to the Supreme Court's recent ruling in *United States v. Stevens*, a case charging the seller of dogfighting videos under a 1999 law prohibiting the sale of "crush" videos and other depictions of illegal acts of animal cruelty. In its 8-1 ruling, the Court nullified the law in question citing that it was too broad. The bill passed this week is designed to address the Court's concerns and would effectively prevent animal crush videos. As the loving owner of two dogs, Congressman Miller believes firmly that violence is not a First Amendment issue but is a law enforcement issue. He is pleased Congress has passed this legislation and looks forward to President Obama signing it into law.

Medicare Open Enrollment Season is Here

Every year, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to make changes to their Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage plan for the following year. The Annual Coordinated Election Period began November 15, 2010 and runs through December 31, 2010. During the open enrollment season, Medicare beneficiaries can add, drop, or change their prescription drug coverage and are also able to select a health plan for their 2011 coverage. Medicare beneficiaries should soon be receiving a copy of MEDICARE AND YOU 2011 which has all the information needed. For the latest information about changes to Medicare, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). For issues concerning Medicare or any federal agency, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea office for assistance at (714) 257-1142.

The Capitol Connection Newsletter is published at the end of every week in which Congress is in session. As the House is scheduled to adjourn for the Thanksgiving holiday, the next edition of Capitol Connection will appear on December 3, 2010. Please send correspondence to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov with your name and residential address. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter send an email to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov or call (202) 225-3201.