



October 16, 2009

### **Government-Run Health Care Will Overwhelm State Medicaid Rolls**

As the health care debate continues in Congress, one alarming implication of both the House and the Senate's government-run health care bills is that it will place a severe financial burden on states through the dramatic expansion of Medicaid. Specifically, health care reform bills advancing in the House and Senate would expand Medicaid by making the government-run program available to all adults with incomes at or below 133 percent of the poverty line. According to one study, this change will multiply eligible recipients, with over 30 states seeing increases of at least 30 percent. In fact, California alone would see an increase of 34.2 percent on its Medicaid rolls. As California has already slashed benefits in its existing Medicaid program because of its dire fiscal crisis, an expansion would heap additional costs on our cash-strapped state and would most likely result in another series of cuts to benefits under the program. Congressman Miller believes it is foolish to place such a disastrous mandate on states and will continue working in Congress to bring real health care solutions to the table that build upon what works and fixes what is broken.

### **House Overwhelmingly Approves the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act**

As the Iranian regime continues to pursue the development of nuclear weapons and has repeatedly made threats to our nation and allies, the House this week overwhelmingly approved the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act. Although Iran is the fourth largest oil producer in the world, it needs substantial new foreign capital investment to modernize its petroleum infrastructure in order to keep up with its national demand for gasoline and maintain its revenue-producing oil exports. In fact, because of its lack of refining capacity Iran has to import roughly 40 percent of its gasoline from abroad. While companies based in the United States are already barred from doing business with Iran, these sanctions do not extend to foreign companies. To address this issue, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act will provide federal authority to state and local governments to divest their assets from, or prohibit investment of their assets in, any company that invests \$20 million or more in the energy sector in Iran; provides products used to construct or maintain oil or natural gas pipelines in Iran; or extends \$20 million or more in credit to be used for investment in the energy sector in Iran. Congressman Miller is pleased the House has passed this legislation to address the growing Iranian threat and will continue working in Congress to prevent this regime from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

### **House Passes Bay Area Water Recycling Bill, Fails to Address Man-Made Drought**

On Thursday, the House passed the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act to authorize funding for the Department of the Interior to participate in the planning, design, and construction of six local water use facilities in Northern California. Despite the importance of this bill, it fails to address the man-made water crisis that continues to plague communities across the Golden State. California's current water crisis is partly due to limited water supplies in the San Joaquin Delta because of Endangered Species Act protections for the California Delta Smelt, which is a three-inch bait fish. Although the crisis could be alleviated by authorizing critical water pumping projects, the bill does nothing for the advancement of these projects, thereby holding California's farmers, businesses, and families hostage to the interests of a small fish. While Congressman Miller is supportive of the intent of the Bay Area Water Recycling Expansion Act, he is disappointed the measure does not address a more timely and urgent problem afflicting California residents.

### **Homeland Security FY 2010 Appropriations Conference Report Clears House**

The House this week passed a \$42.8 billion Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2010, which will fund the Secret Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. At a time when threats to our national security and violence along the U.S.-Mexico border are ever increasing, these funds will be used to prevent and deter threats along the U.S. borders and ports of entry, including stopping terrorists, weapons, drugs, and other contraband from entering the United States. Also included in the bill is \$137 million for the E-Verify program, a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility, as well as a three-year reauthorization. While the report does not contain four critical immigration measures that Congressman Miller and several of his colleagues requested to be retained earlier this month, he supported this legislation because he is committed to providing our nation's defenders with the resources they need to carry out their vital mission of protecting the American people from both current and emerging threats.

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