



October 2, 2009

Congressman Miller Supports Responsible and Effective Health Care Reform

Over the past few months, Congressman Miller has been listening to Southern Californians, talking to doctors and patients, collecting input, and studying ideas to improve our nation's health care system. This process has resulted in a broad outline of health care reform ideas. Specifically, he supports the Empowering Patients First Act which expands insurance portability; allows individuals to shop for insurance across state lines; designs innovative insurance policies to make health care coverage more affordable; allows small businesses to band together to purchase high-quality health care for their employees at a more affordable price; enables one stop health care shopping by allowing all health plans to register at a central location, such as a website, and allowing citizens to log-in and search for a plan that best fits their needs; enhances prevention and wellness programs; enacts medical liability reform; stops waste, fraud, and abuse in existing entitlement programs; and expands research for cures and innovative treatments. In the coming month, Congressman Miller's district mailer will provide details on these health care reform principles. While no one doubts that our nation's health care system is in need of reform, he believes firmly that we must strike the right balance that builds on what works and fixes what is broken.

Coalition of California Lawmakers Express Concern About GI Bill Benefit Delays

This week, Congressman Miller joined a bipartisan coalition of California legislators to send a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, expressing concern over recent reports that veterans have been experiencing significant delays in receiving their G.I. Bill benefit checks to pay for their college tuition. When the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill was enacted in July 2008, our nation's veterans were promised up to four years of education benefits at a college or university along with a monthly housing allowance and an annual books and supplies stipend. However, the Veterans Administration (VA) has struggled to process a flood of G.I. Bill claims by veterans who are using these benefits to cover most, if not all, of their college costs. As a result, thousands of veterans have been forced to take out loans or use their savings to pay for tuition and school supplies while they wait for the VA to issue their checks. Currently, there are more than 277,000 veterans who are depending on these education benefits and Congressman Miller believes it is imperative that we keep our promises to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. [Click here](#) to view letter.

Retention of Immigration Measures in FY 2010 DHS Appropriations Bill Sought

Congressman Gary Miller and several of his colleagues this week called on House Appropriators to retain four crucial immigration-related provisions contained in the Senate-passed version of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Specifically, these four provisions will make the E-Verify program permanent, a cost-effective and dependable process to check the work eligibility of employees, and ensures it is mandatory for federal contractors; prohibit funds from being used to rescind the Department's "No Match" rule, which helps employers identify individuals who may be working illegally; allow all employers to use E-Verify to check the work eligibility of current employees; and require the completion of 700 miles of reinforced pedestrian fencing along the southwest U.S. border by December 31, 2010. In the wake of a weakened economy and growing violence along the U.S.-Mexico border, Congressman Miller believes these provisions will help ensure available jobs are reserved for legal workers and protect American communities from the growing drug-related violence along our nation's Southern border. [Click here](#) to view the letter.

Congressman Miller Urges Full FY 2010 Funding for Positive Train Control

This week, Congressman Miller and over 20 of his colleagues urged House and Senate appropriators to maintain the level of funding contained in the Senate-passed version of the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (T-HUD), for the development and installation of Positive Train Control (PTC) technology. PTC is a safety overlay system designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, and casualties or injuries to roadway workers, as well as other train accidents. Last year, following the tragic train collision in Chatsworth, California that killed 25 people and injured another 135 people,

Congress passed and the President signed into law the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 which mandated a large scale implementation of PTC on all rail main lines used to carry passengers or certain highly hazardous materials. While all the affected railroads are aggressively pursuing development of the PTC implementation plans, the likely cost of the mandate to the rail industry is currently estimated at a staggering \$10 billion. In response, the Senate-passed version of the T-HUD bill fully funds the \$50 million authorized in Fiscal Year 2010 for the Rail Safety Technology Grant Program, which is anticipated to be used primarily for the development and installation PTC technology. To prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future, Congressman Miller believes it is critical that Congress fully fund this life-saving program. [Click here](#) to view the letter.

Kimberly Felder Honored as Angel in Adoption

Congressman Miller was honored to nominate Kimberly Felder as his 2009 Angel in Adoption. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute each year administers the Angels in Adoption program which allows Members of Congress to honor the good work of one person or family in their district who has enriched the lives of foster children or orphans. Kimberly Felder has an unparalleled career in adoptive family development, spanning 20 years and two agencies in Southern California. She has shepherded thousands of children into loving adoptive families, giving them the opportunity for a more promising future. Kimberly and her husband Carl have two birth children and seven adopted children who joined the family as infants, toddlers, and adolescents. Congressman Miller commends Kimberly for being a real Angel in Adoption. On Wednesday, Kimberly was honored in a ceremony at the Angels in Adoption Gala in Washington, DC. To nominate an Angel for 2010, please contact his Brea office at (714) 257-1142.