



September 14, 2012

Congressman Miller Calls on Congress to Finish its Work

On Thursday, the House passed a government funding bill that would extend current funding levels through March 2013. Congressman Miller opposed the continuing resolution (CR) which funds government programs at the \$1.047 trillion level agreed to under the 2011 Budget Control Act because it does nothing to rein in our country's out-of-control spending. In addition, the CR will extend our assistance to Libya and Egypt, despite the recent violent and deadly attacks on our diplomatic personnel and facilities. The Congressman also strongly opposes the CR because it allows Congress to continue to delay making the tough decisions needed to get our fiscal house in order. With the national debt exceeding \$16 trillion and massive tax hikes and defense cuts that will weaken our national security looming, he firmly believes lawmakers should not wait for the next Congress to act. While the House has voted to reduce spending, replace sequestration's arbitrary across-the-board cuts that will weaken our nation's defense, and prevent taxes from rising on all American families and small businesses, the Senate has failed to do the same. Congressman Miller will continue to urge his colleagues to address the challenges that are facing our economy during the remaining days of the 112th Congress.

Time is Running Out To Replace Damaging National Security Cuts

Unless action is taken, the budget sequester scheduled to go into effect on January 2, 2013 will cut our nation's defense programs by \$55 billion in Fiscal Year 2013 and by nearly \$500 billion over ten years. These cuts are in addition to \$490 billion worth of reductions that have already been planned. While serious concerns have been raised from both sides of the aisle about the impact of sequestration's across-the-board cuts - \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years, half of which comes from our nation's defense – only the House has acted to replace these arbitrary cuts with targeted spending reductions. The House furthered its efforts on Thursday, by passing legislation that requires the President to submit to Congress by October 15th a plan to replace sequestration's automatic cuts. The measure also authorizes repeal of the FY 2013 sequester upon enactment into law of the House-passed sequestration plan or similar legislation that offsets the cost of the cuts. Congressman Miller will continue to support efforts that reduce federal spending while ensuring that the men and women of our armed forces have the resources they need to fulfill their mission.

No More Solyndras Act Passes House

In 2009, the Obama Administration's so-called stimulus law increased funding for an energy loan guarantee program within the Department of Energy (DOE). It was through this program that Solyndra was able to secure a \$535 million federal loan guarantee, despite serious concerns in the Administration about the company's long-term viability. These concerns were well-founded as the solar panel company filed for bankruptcy and was raided by the FBI in September 2011. Unfortunately, in early 2011 the Administration restructured Solyndra's loan, putting private investors in front of taxpayers for repayment. H.R. 6213, the No More Solyndras Act was introduced to phase out the flawed program that enabled the Solyndra boondoggle. Specifically, the bill would prohibit the Department from issuing any loan guarantees for applications submitted for the loan program after December 31, 2011. Applications submitted prior to that date may still be considered, however H.R. 6213 would prohibit any loan guarantee from being made until the Treasury Secretary submits a recommendation in writing to the Department of Energy on the merits of the guarantee. While Congressman Miller would like to see an immediate end to the loan guarantee program, he supported the No More Solyndras Act to further the goal of ending the flawed program.

Reauthorization of FISA Clears House

On Wednesday, the House cleared a five-year reauthorization of the law which primarily governs the surveillance of foreign terrorists and spies outside of the United States. In 1978, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) was enacted to govern when and how U.S. intelligence agencies can intercept foreign communications. FISA was amended in 2008 to adapt to changes in technology which shifted how overseas communication is transmitted and enhance civil liberties protections for U.S. citizens. Specifically, the 2008 FISA amendments require individual court orders for any surveillance conducted on U.S. citizens overseas. The bill passed by the House on Wednesday simply extends the 2008 FISA amendments, including the civil liberties protections, through 2017. Congressman Miller supported the reauthorization because he believes it strikes an appropriate balance between individual liberties and national security.

Rep. Miller Praises Committee Passage of Bill to Help Wounded Veterans Meet their Housing Needs

This week, the House Financial Services Committee passed legislation that Congressman Miller co-sponsored to ensure that those injured while serving their country aren't coming back to the U.S. without a place to live. Currently, service-related disability benefits and expenses for veterans' in-home care and aid is considered 'income' for calculating eligibility for Department of Housing and Urban Development housing and rental assistance programs. As a result, many veterans who require in-home care are denied access to these housing programs. The Congressman believes it is outrageous that our wounded warriors are forced to worry about finding a roof over their head because they were injured during their service. He stated, "The men and women of the armed services give up so much to protect our freedoms. It is our duty to care for them when they return home."

The Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act would exclude benefit payments from the calculation of a veteran's income for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal housing and rental assistance programs. Congressman Miller commends the House Financial Services Committee for passing this important legislation, and as a co-author of the bill, he will work to move this needed reform to the House floor as soon as possible so we can meet our promise to those who have given up so much to serve our country.

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