



September 24, 2010

Sixth-Month Anniversary of ObamaCare: Seniors' Health Care Jeopardized

As Thursday marked the sixth-month anniversary of the government-run health care bill being signed into law, several egregious flaws have come to light since its enactment. Among its many problems, the government-run health care overhaul jeopardizes seniors' health care. Specifically, the Obama administration's own actuaries at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimated the Medicare cuts contained in the Democrats' health law could threaten seniors access to care and cause providers to stop treating Medicare patients. In addition, 7.4 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been enrolled in a Medicare health plan will lose their plan because of the \$206 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage (MA) contained in the law. Next year alone, 1.2 million seniors will be forced out of their MA plan or prescription drug plan. Administration officials also predict nine out of ten seniors will lose their employer-sponsored retiree drug coverage and seniors enrolled in a MA plan can expect to see their benefits slashed in just a few short years. Because the government-run health care law hurts seniors, Congressman Miller will continue his fight to repeal the bill.

Congressman Miller Introduces Ensuring Justice Along the Southwest Border Act

On Wednesday, Congressman Miller introduced legislation, the Ensuring Justice Along the Southwest Border Act, to address chronic judgeship shortages in the Southwest border states' district courts and to authorize the appointment of Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute border-related crimes. Over the last several years, stepped up enforcement and prosecution efforts in Southwest border jurisdictions have resulted in a significant increase in the number of drug, immigration, and weapons cases being filed in courts along the border. As a result, the district courts in Southwest border states are overwhelmed with immigration cases and are lacking the necessary resources to address their increased workload. To address this issue, Congressman Miller's bill contains a two-fold approach to making sure our border security plan is full-circle. First, the bill contains the Judicial Conference of the United States' recommendations for increased judgeships in the Southwest border states' district courts. Adding additional judgeships will ensure that important border-related cases are not turned away. Second, the legislation authorizes the Attorney General to appoint Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute border-related crimes, such as illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and human smuggling. As our nation is spending more money on border security, Congressman Miller believes we need to make sure the Judiciary has the resources needed to deal with their increased workload and to ensure criminals do not go unpunished.

Senate Refuses to Take Up DREAM Act Amendment

Earlier this week, a motion to proceed with debate on the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Authorization bill failed in the Senate by a 56-43 vote, and the controversial amendment known as the DREAM Act died with it. While the FY 2011 Defense Authorization bill is controversial for a variety of reasons, the bill became even more contentious when Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced his intention to attach the DREAM Act to the legislation. Under the DREAM Act, illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 would be granted amnesty if they attend a U.S. college or join the U.S. military. At the same rate, these illegal immigrants would also be granted in-state college tuition. Under the bill, it is estimated that over two million illegal immigrants would be eligible for citizenship. This would present a huge cost to the American taxpayer because illegal immigrants would be eligible for a wide array of federal benefits, including more educational benefits. Rather than reward those that have broken our nation's immigration laws, Congressman Miller believes that we should enforce our nation's immigration laws to the highest extent and close loopholes that encourage illegal immigration.

IRS to Host Nationwide Open House to Veterans and Persons with Disabilities

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will open their doors for a special nationwide Open House. This Saturday, September 25, 2010, about 100 IRS offices will be open from 9 am to 2 pm local time for either walk-in or telephone inquiries to help taxpayers – especially veterans and people with disabilities – work through any tax issues they may have. IRS locations will be equipped to handle issues involving notices, payments, return preparation, audits and a variety of other issues. Taxpayers requiring special services, such as interpretation for the deaf or hard of hearing, should check local listings and call the local IRS Office/Taxpayer Assistance Center ahead of time to schedule an appointment. To receive more information on the Open House or to find the phone number and location of the nearest location, contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142 or you can contact the IRS by phone at (800) 829-1040 or visit them on the web at www.irs.gov.

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