



September 25, 2009

The Truth About H.R. 3200: Government-Run Health Care Will Increase Taxes

Although President Obama repeatedly claims that requiring Americans to buy government-approved health care does not constitute a tax increase, the text of the 1,018-page House bill proves otherwise. Specifically, on [page 167](#) of H.R. 3200, the title of section 401 reads: "TAX ON INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT ACCEPTABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE". For those who fail to purchase a government-accepted health care plan, this provision imposes a 2.5 percent tax on the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income. Furthermore, the House bill attempts to plug part of the \$1.5 billion fiscal hole it creates with a \$544 million new surtax on high-earning individuals and small businesses. Specifically, on [pages 197-198](#) taxes would be increased by 1 percent for gross income exceeding \$350,000; 1.5 percent for gross income over \$500,000; and 5.4 percent for gross income over \$1 million. In the end, according to the nonpartisan Joint Taxation Committee and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 3200 contains nearly \$820 billion in tax increases. Due to these outrageous tax increases, as well as other questionable provisions, Congressman Miller continues to oppose this misguided legislation.

Administration Continues to Applaud House-Passed Cap-and Tax Legislation

Earlier this week, the President addressed a United Nations "Climate Change Summit" in New York and touted the narrowly passed House cap-and-trade bill. Signing such legislation into law will ultimately amount to higher energy prices, fewer jobs, and more government intrusion. In fact, according to the Administration's own internal estimates, cap-and-trade will cost American families an average of \$1,700 a year in higher energy costs and other organizations have estimated it will cost up to \$4,000 annually. Rather than enact legislation which amounts to a national energy tax, Congressman Miller has a better solution, the American Energy Production and Cost Reduction Act. In order to make American-made energy more readily available, his bill reduces regulatory burdens that delay advances in domestic energy production; guarantees nuclear power will be a viable option for future generations and supports renewable energy tax incentives for wind, solar, biodiesel, and other forms of energy; ensures that all coastal waters off the United States are open for drilling and creatively uses the earnings from offshore drilling to pay down our skyrocketing national debt; and places Congress on record that it will not enact policies that will increase Americans' energy bills, such as cap-and-tax legislation. While Congressional Democrats and the Administration continue their efforts to raise taxes, grow both government and the deficit, and keep much of our nation's valuable natural resources under lock and key, Congressman Miller will continue to fight for energy solutions that place the American people first.

House Passes One-Month Continuing Resolution

As the 2009 Fiscal Year is set to end on September 30, 2009, today the House passed a continuing resolution to fund our government over the next month while Congress continues to work on the twelve appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2010. To date, the House has passed its twelve appropriations bills but is currently awaiting action by the Senate. While the House-passed appropriations bills represent a whopping twelve percent increase in nondefense spending for Fiscal Year 2010, Congressman Miller will continue to advocate for fiscally responsible funding levels to support our priorities both at home and abroad.

Congressman Miller Endorses Resolution Requesting Information on Czars

To increase the Administration's transparency and accountability, Congressman Miller recently joined nearly 100 colleagues in introducing a concurrent resolution that would request the President to certify the qualifications and responsibilities of certain special advisors known as "czars". Since January 20, 2009, over 30 "czars" have been appointed, each of which are unaccountable to Congress yet tasked with spearheading major policy efforts for the Administration. While the appointment of a few special officers to play a constructive role within the Administration is nothing new, the elevation of so many czars at once is unprecedented. As our nation is founded on a system of checks and balances, placing such broad authority in the hands of people not subject to Senate confirmation and congressional oversight poses some serious concerns. Congressman Miller believes firmly the President has the authority and constitutional privilege to appoint personnel to the Executive Office of the President, but also recognizes that it is Congress' constitutional role to exercise legislative and oversight authority over the Executive Branch. This resolution affirms these constitutional principles as it seeks to certify the czars' roles and credentials within the Administration.

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