

Congressman Miller Outlines Legislative Priorities for 112th Congress

Last November, Americans went to the polls and loudly voiced their opposition to the misguided and misplaced priorities of Congress and the Obama administration that have led to increased unemployment, slow economic growth, and record deficits. As our nation, as well as Southern California, continues to face a sluggish economy and high unemployment, I will continue working in Congress to provide solutions to help our nation recover and put Americans back to work.

Last Congress, after numerous backroom deals and sweetheart provisions to secure the votes needed, Democrats passed and President Obama signed into law a nearly \$1 trillion government-run health care bill. The health care law is a dramatic step away from personal, private coverage and choice, to a Washington-controlled healthcare system that rations care, limits choice, and reduces quality, innovation and competition.

In addition, the government-run health care system places job-killing mandates on small businesses and increases premiums for Americans. In the end, the health care law will leave Americans with a monstrous debt, increased taxes, fewer choices, and a bigger government. Because 80 percent of my constituents opposed this Washington takeover, I voted against this piece of legislation. I fought hard against this plan then and will and fight hard now. I believe firmly we need to repeal government-run health care and start over with common sense market solutions to lower the cost of health care and insurance without adding to the monstrous debt.

In 112th Congress, I will also seek to prevent political appointees at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from assaulting U.S. jobs and competitiveness. Over the past two years, the EPA – under the direction of the Obama administration – has sought to regulate everything from farm dust to milk. What is worse, the EPA has sought to institute a backdoor national energy tax that will harm economic growth and will kill jobs. All in all, these misguided EPA policies come at a cost of thousands, if not millions, of U.S. jobs and amount to nothing more than political favors. Congress must monitor the EPA to ensure it does not act outside its authority.

Over the coming two years, I will also work to reclaim the nearly eight million jobs illegal immigrants have stolen from American and legal workers. Under the Obama administration, worksite enforcement efforts have been all but abandoned. However, if we simply enforced immigration laws already on the books, we could create job opportunities for American citizens and legal immigrants who played by the rules to enter the U.S.

To increase job opportunities for the unemployed, I will work with my colleagues to expand use of the E-Verify system that allows employers to validate the eligibility of new hires, enforce workplace immigration laws, encourage attrition through enforcement, and oppose policies that encourage illegal immigration.

Our nation has faced many obstacles over the past few years and the 112th Congress will have its hands full. While the task at hand is difficult, we are a strong nation and can overcome any obstacle we confront. As I will be sworn in for a seventh term this month, I will be focused on getting Americans off of the unemployment rolls and onto the payroll.

Rep. Gary Miller represents California's 42nd Congressional District.