



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42ND DISTRICT



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Rep. Gary Miller's Statement on House Passage of Emergency Border Security Funding

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WASHINGTON, DC – Last night, the House passed legislation to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for border security through the remainder of the year by voice vote. Following House passage, Rep. Gary Miller released the following statement:

"Although I am supportive of this legislation, I am disappointed the bill does not contain critical spending for the overwhelmed district courts along our nation's Southwest border.

"During 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. Consequently, the current workload experienced by the five district courts along the Southwest border is staggering. When combined, border districts handled nearly 75 percent of criminal immigration cases in the nation's 94 districts in fiscal year 2009 and almost 40 percent of all the nation's federal criminal case filings.

"As written, the Border Security Emergency Supplemental provides a total of \$701 million for border security, including critical funding for border patrol agents, Department of Justice programs, Customs and Border Protection, among other items. While this spending is needed to secure our border and protect our communities from the escalating drug-related violence, it must be coupled with adequate resources to the Judiciary in order to keep pace with the anticipated growth in workload.

"Recently, both the Judicial Conference and I requested that \$40 million be included in the border security supplemental in order to ensure the federal government's stepped-up border security plan is full-circle. Unfortunately, this \$40 million is not included in this emergency spending bill.

"Without additional resources, a bottleneck in the judicial system will occur because the courts will lack the resources necessary to process the additional criminal cases brought by the Department of Justice. As Congress continues to debate a comprehensive border security strategy, we must consider the Judiciary. It would be a shame to spend so much money on border security and then fail to provide the Judiciary the resources necessary to ensure justice is met along the border."

NOTE: Earlier this month, Reps. Bartlett (MD-06), Chaffetz (UT-03), Franks (AZ-02), Gallegly (CA-24), Royce (CA-40), and Smith (TX-21) joined Rep. Gary Miller in requesting additional funds for the district courts along the Southwest border. To view the letter, [click here](#).

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