



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

## PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 3, 2010

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### **Reclaim American Jobs Caucus: Amnesty Would Further Increase Unemployment for Americans**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Department of Labor today reported that unemployment in America rose to 9.8%. Joblessness has now topped 9.5% for 16 straight months, the longest stretch since the Great Depression.

Chairmen of the Reclaim American Jobs Caucus issued statements criticizing efforts by the Democratic-controlled Congress to pass the DREAM Act, a bill that could grant amnesty to more than two million illegal immigrants.

**House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-Texas):** “The number of Americans struggling to find work continues to rise. Yet in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Democrats are attempting to pass legislation that would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. The DREAM Act means more competition for American workers who are in need of jobs. And it undermines the American Dream for millions of American families.”

**Representative Gary Miller (R-Calif.):** “As joblessness has now topped 9.5% for 16 months straight, the Democrats have once again displayed the height and breadth of their misplaced and misguided priorities by planning to vote on the DREAM Act next week. By granting mass amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, Americans will face even more competition for scarce jobs. Americans don’t want amnesty for those who have broken our nation’s immigration laws; they want an opportunity to go back to work.”

**Representative Sue Myrick (R-N.C.):** “The DREAM Act is amnesty, plain and simple. Once given citizenship, illegal immigrants who have broken our laws will be able to compete with legal, hardworking Americans for jobs. With 14.5% of Americans under the age of 35 currently looking for work – and nationwide unemployment numbers hovering at record highs – we cannot pass a bill that will take more jobs from people who deserve them.”

There have been no hearings on the bill in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and Members have yet to see the text of the legislation.

The Reclaim American Jobs Caucus is a 40 Member, bipartisan caucus, headed by Representatives Lamar Smith, Sue Myrick and Gary Miller. As the national unemployment rate remains near 10%, the Reclaim American Jobs Caucus works to highlight the link between illegal immigration and record unemployment in the U.S.

#### **Background on the DREAM Act:**

- The DREAM Act gives illegal immigrants amnesty, encourages more illegal immigration and inevitably takes jobs from American workers.
- Estimates that the bill only applies to 875,000 illegal immigrants are misleading.

- Once amnesty recipients become citizens and turn 21, they can sponsor their illegal immigrant parents for legalization.
- This kind of chain migration only encourages more illegal immigration, as parents will bring their children to the U.S. in hopes of receiving citizenship.
- The bill also is a magnet for fraud. Many illegal immigrants will falsely claim that they arrived in the U.S. before age 16.
- Once an application is filed, no matter how fraudulent, the federal government is prohibited from deporting the applicant.
- Meanwhile, they will be given work authorization to compete for jobs with the 14.5% of Americans under age 35 who are currently unemployed.

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