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Dear Friends,

### Healthcare Update

Last Thursday, House democrats unveiled their updated healthcare plan, H.R. 3962, and unfortunately there is little in the 1,990 page bill that appears to be substantially different from the healthcare plan released in July, H.R. 3200. This legislation will eliminate private healthcare insurance, will still tax businesses and individuals who choose not to participate, will cut Medicare Advantage by more than \$150 billion, and does not address tort reform. Furthermore, it will increase the number of Americans who are on entitlement programs and breaks President Obama's promise of "no tax on the middle class." Additionally, one of the administration's main goals of healthcare reform is to cut costs; however, the non-partisan CBO estimates that the healthcare reform bill will increase costs. Since July, I have been a co-sponsor of [H.R. 3218, the Improving Healthcare for All Americans Act](#). I will continue to stand up for reforms that narrowly address what's broken without scrapping the best healthcare system in the world and placing unneeded financial burdens on families and businesses. [Please see my floor speech from last week.](#)

### Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009

Last Wednesday, the Foreign Affairs Committee agreed to H.R. 2194 by a voice vote. This bill seeks to increase sanctions related to Iran's production and export of refined petroleum. However, what we need to ensure the sanctions are actually enforced. I implore the President and the administration to reflect upon whether they are willing to act upon the sanctions provided in this legislation. If the administration is unwilling to enforce the sanctions that will help ensure a nuclear free Iran we run the risk of becoming nothing but a paper tiger. [Please see video from my discussion during the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing.](#)

### Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009

Last Thursday, the House passed and I voted for H.R. 3854, the Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009. I voted for this bill because it will enhance programs and opportunities for small businesses. H.R. 3854 makes permanent a pilot program that allows rural businesses to receive 7(a) loans of up to \$250,000. Additionally, this legislation will solidify the veteran participation program. Under this bill, 90% of loans to veteran-owned small businesses will be guaranteed and will also abolish fees for borrowers and lenders involved with the program. Additionally, this bill authorizes the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program providing \$5 billion in loans for FY '10 to help facilitate growth, development and modernization of qualifying small businesses. The SBIC will also improve upon the disaster loan program.

### Department of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2010

Last Thursday, the House Passed the H.R. 2996 Conference Report. I voted against this bill because it increases discretionary funding by \$4.6 billion dollars or 17% above FY '09. Furthermore, many of the federal agencies that will receive funds from it have already received an additional \$7.2 billion this year through the stimulus bill. The Environmental Protection Agency receives the greatest boost in funding, a 35% increase.

### Survey Question

**Do you believe the government should mandate health insurance coverage on all Americans?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Unsure

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**In The News**

[Congressman McCaul's Interview with KVUE on healthcare Go Green, But Keep Drilling \(Statesman Op-Ed\)](#)

[Katy, Sealy Officials Form BAE Task Force \(Houston Business Journal\)](#)

[Backing BAE: Grassroots task force aims to support plan, workers \(Sealy News\)](#)

[Iran Petroleum Investment Sanctions Approved by Panel \(Bloomberg.com\)](#)

[Some in Congress Fret About Ocean Policy \(San Antonio Business\)](#)

E-mail:



Congressman McCaul meets with American Ambassador Aleman of Panama.



Congressman McCaul meets with doctors from Renaissance Hospital,

pictured are: Larry Safir, MARRISSA Castaneda and Dr. Pareka.

With Warmest Regards,



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

This is an unattended mailbox, if you have additional comments and would like to contact Congressman McCaul, [please email me here.](#)

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