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THE McCaul Minute



HEALTH CARE REFORM INFORMATION

Links to the Democrats' health care bill are available on the home page of our [website](#). See Rep. McCaul's priorities for health care reform [here](#).

July 24, 2009

Dear Friends,

H.R. 3218- Improving Health Care for All Americans

This week, I co-sponsored [H.R. 3218](#), the Improving Health Care for All Americans Act, a common-sense, cost-effective alternative to the proposed government-run system. This alternative preserves patient choice, quality of care and does not impose new taxes. This bill strikes the right balance of expanding availability of affordable care without jeopardizing patient choice or quality of care, and without penalizing small businesses. Under this [plan](#), Americans can keep employer-provided care without changes. [Those](#) who don't have employer-sponsored care or those not satisfied with their employer-sponsored plan to buy their own plan on the same tax-advantaged basis their employer enjoys. This bill also expands insurance pools [to](#) allow churches, alumni associations, trade associations and other civic groups to offer affordable health care packages for their members. In addition, the sick and those with chronic conditions will be able to buy coverage at competitive rates through high-risk pools and reinsurance mechanisms.

I oppose any plan that creates a government-run healthcare system, increases taxes on small businesses and individuals, and burdens employers with mandates and payroll tax increases. Such provisions will kill jobs when the economy can least afford it. We adjourned today for the August work period without taking a vote on the government-run plan.

Please view my [One Minute speech](#) on the House Floor regarding Health Care reform.

Texas Drought Conference Call

After a lengthy discussion with farmers and ranchers from across our District I sent a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack urging him to accelerate relief approved in the 2008 Farm Bill that was delayed until this fall. The situation in several areas is dire. Ranchers are on the brink of selling off their cattle and going out of business because they have nothing to feed their herds and can't afford the skyrocketing prices of hay due to its scarcity. I have also asked the USDA to alter the way it determines land value so more people can qualify.

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H.R. 3326 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

On Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 3326 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 which totals \$636.3 billion. I supported these appropriations because they include procurement for aircraft, missile, weapons, tracked combat vehicles, ammunition, shipbuilding and conversion, National Guard and reserve equipment that is vital to our military personnel and Department of Defense as a whole.

H.R. 2749 - Food Safety Enhancement Act

This week, the House passed H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act. This bill increases the FDA's role in the regulation of fruits and vegetables increases requirements for tracing food-borne illnesses which will enable the FDA to impose civil penalties for the first time. I oppose this bill on the grounds that it would give the FDA unprecedented authority over agriculture and would increase farm costs.

H.R. 3269 - Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act

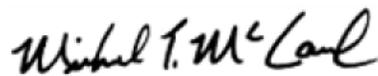
On Friday, the House passed H.R. 3269, the Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act. I opposed this bill for several reasons. This bill restricts freedom by empowering the government to determine the compensation practices for all private sector employees. This measure potentially gives the government the authority to determine the compensation practices at any firm that is within the jurisdiction of the FTC. This bill also undermines competitiveness by discouraging some private firms from going public and encouraging others to list on foreign exchanges.

In The News

Job Fair to be held at Merrell Center in Katy, August 18th, 9:00am – 3:00pm

We continue to look for employers interested in participating in the Job Fair hosted by Congressman McCaul. The Job Fair will feature employers from across the district, state, and nation. Twenty-five employers, listing close to 1,000 job openings, have already registered. The deadline to register is August 7th. If you are an employer looking for workers, please download the [registration form](#) from our website or contact our Austin district office at (512) 473-2357.

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

**** If you would like to register to receive the McCaul Minute click [here](#)**