

From: Congressman Mike Rogers
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 3:28 PM
To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV
Subject: Legislative Email Update - CIA Officers Deserve Support



Congress Should Treat CIA Officers as Heroes

Last week, the House of Representatives passed an ill-conceived measure which would make it harder for America's intelligence professionals to fight terrorism and protect our security. Worse, Democrat leaders in the House attempted to target CIA professionals who put their lives on the line tracking down foreign terrorists.

This legislation included a provision, added in the dead of night, which would punish CIA officers with up to 15 years in jail for conducting legal terrorist interrogations. CIA and intelligence officers put their lives on the line every day to keep America safe. We owe them a debt of gratitude, not a criminal arrest for doing the job we ask of them - to protect us from terrorists committed to carrying out their acts of terror against Americans and our allies without torture. The very idea of specifically targeting these professionals for prosecution is reckless and dangerous to national security.

After the American people loudly expressed their opposition to this idea, the provision was removed. But the final bill still fails to address the needs of our intelligence professionals and continues to pursue an ineffective law enforcement strategy to combating terrorism. If our strategy is to catch foreign terrorists at the airport, give them a lawyer and tell them they have "the right to remain silent," we are destined to fail in our mission to protect America. We must return to an intelligence-centered approach if we are going to keep our nation and our citizens safe.

I spoke on the House floor regarding the need to support America's intelligence officers. You can watch by [clicking here](#).

I also appeared on Fox News discussing the failures of this intelligence legislation. You can view the video by [clicking here](#).

To read a CNN article on the debate over this issue, please [click here](#).

Crushing National Debt Steals Michigan Jobs

Congress recently voted to increase the nation's debt limit to the highest level in history. I opposed this dangerous plan because I believe it will hurt our economy and kill jobs in Michigan.

Democrat leaders in Washington, D.C. have now maxed out America's credit card. While Michigan families struggle to pay their bills and do more with less, Congress has passed a credit limit increase to fund massive new spending plans. The increase adds a record \$1.9 trillion in new debt, money that will have to be borrowed from nations like China and paid for by our children and grandchildren.

More government borrowing for programs in Washington, D.C. means it will be harder for small businesses in Michigan to get the loans they need to grow and create jobs. Such crushing debt steals jobs. To get America back to work, Congress has to get off its borrowing spree and step back from its out-of-control spending binge.

Promoting Health Insurance Competition

As Congress continues to debate health reform legislation, there is one area where Democrats, Republicans and Independents all agree - the health insurance industry must be reformed.

Today health insurance companies are not forced to actually compete with one another. This has led to near-monopolies in many states, where a single insurance company dominates much of the market. In Michigan, a single insurance company provides coverage to over 60 percent of the state. This leads to fewer choices for families.

Last week, I supported a measure in the House of Representatives which would reform the insurance industry. The House passed H.R. 4626, the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act. The bill repeals a special antitrust exemption that health insurance companies have enjoyed since 1945 and will improve competition in the health insurance market.

I have proposed several additional reforms which would force insurance companies to truly compete - and give Americans more choices and lower health costs. One way to reform the insurance industry is to allow competition across state lines. This would force insurance companies to respond to customer needs and would insert competition into the equation to improve benefits and lower prices.

House Passes Extension for Unemployment Insurance, COBRA Benefits

Michigan families rely on Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to make ends meet during these difficult economic times. With these critical benefits set to expire, the House of Representatives passed legislation last week which would extend UI benefits for another month. The bill (H.R. 4691) also provided additional federal subsidies for COBRA health insurance coverage, which helps laid-off workers keep their health coverage until they find a new job.

I supported this legislation and am hopeful it will soon be passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to contact you. You can follow my efforts online by visiting my [website](#). You can also keep up with me on [YouTube](#) (RepMikeRogers) and [Facebook](#) (Mike J. Rogers). Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



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