
From: Congressman Mike Rogers <outgoing.mi08@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:15 PM
To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV
Subject: Military Action in Libya




Military Action in Libya

As you know, following United Nations and Arab League resolutions, the United States, France and Great Britain launched military action against Moammar Gadhafi's regime in Libya. NATO has now assumed command and control of the operation. Though I wish it happened earlier, I support President Obama's decision to establish a "no fly zone" and am pleased that America is demonstrating leadership in a region critical to America's national security.

Following a series of classified briefings with our intelligence professionals, I do believe it is in America's interest to support regional stability and to ensure security of Libya's large chemical weapon stockpile, not to mention preventing the slaughter of innocent civilians. That being said, I do not support arming Libyan rebels and believe that we must understand far more about opposition forces before we make a decision which could come back to haunt us. You can watch several news stories on this important issue. For a CNN story, please [click here](#), for ABC News, please [click here](#), for MSNBC, please [click here](#).

You might be interested to know that I am currently scheduled to appear on NBC News' "Meet the Press" this Sunday morning to discuss the conflict in Libya.

Health Care Update

This week I participated in two important proceedings at the Energy and Commerce Committee. On Wednesday, the Committee held a hearing regarding the true impact of the health care law to the budget on employers. To watch me question the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Chief Actuary on the true costs of the health care law, [click here](#). Today, the Subcommittee on Health with my support voted to eliminate the direct mandatory spending created under several sections of the health care law.

This month I also introduced H.R. 1206, the Access to Professional Health Insurance Advisors Act. As you may know, beginning on January 1, 2011 the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) regulation, which mandates how much insurers must spend on medical claims versus administrative expenses, went into effect as part of the Obama Administration's government run health care plan.

The practical effect of this regulation is that insurers are forced to dramatically cut commissions to agents who comply with this MLR rule - some by as much as 50 percent. This means jobs are being cut and agents and brokers, who are essential to acquiring affordable health coverage for small businesses and rural populations, are disappearing. My legislation would protect jobs and preserve the critical role of agents and brokers by removing their compensation from the purview of this regulation.

Rest assured, I will continue to work to replace the health care law with common sense reforms which lower health care costs and not put Washington in charge of our health care system.

Smart Technologies To Reduce Time Stuck in Traffic, Save Money

This week, I introduced the bipartisan Smart Technologies for Communities Act. This legislation would create a competitive pilot program with existing funds for the installation of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technologies. It is estimated that road congestion in metropolitan communities alone results in 4.8 billion hours wasted sitting in traffic and 3.9 billion gallon of wasted fuel - costing our economy an astounding \$115 billion each year. The Smart Technologies for Communities Act aims to tackle this problem by spurring innovation and accelerating the use of ITS technologies. ITS will help communities address their transportation challenges as well as improve safety, mobility, and the environment.

Most importantly, in a time of record budget deficits and a staggering national debt, the very underpinning of this bill is to do more with less. In fact, this legislation uses existing funds to create the ITS pilot programs. It is less expensive and more efficient to use technological solutions than to build more roads and infrastructure and tapping into new technologies allows communities to address their traffic congestion problems in a cost effective manner.

To read more about this legislation in the Detroit News, please [click here](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you. You can also follow my efforts 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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