

From: Congressman Mike Rogers

Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 9:43 AM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - America's Next Declaration of Independence



I write today to update you on recent legislative activities in the United States Congress. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you.

[My Plan for Energy Independence by July 4, 2015](#)

After celebrating our nation's birthday this July 4th, we are reminded again why America must take action to become energy independent. Record prices at the gas pump, higher costs at the grocery store, and pay checks that don't always stretch through the week are symptoms of our dependence on foreign oil.

This problem requires action here in Congress. That is why I have introduced legislation to establish July 4, 2015 as America's Energy Independence Day - the day Americans would no longer need to import overseas oil and the day our actions begin to give us a stronger economy, more secure nation, and cleaner environment. If we came together and began taking action today, we could stop importing overseas oil by 2015 and begin protecting America's national security, lowering gas and home heating prices, creating jobs and protecting the environment.

To learn more about my energy independence plan, please [click here](#) to view my recent interview on Detroit's Channel 7 *Spotlight on the News*.

[Extending Unemployment Benefits for Michigan Workers](#)

Many Michigan families are struggling as the state's unemployment rate has skyrocketed to 8.5 percent, by far the highest in the nation. I believe extending unemployment benefits is crucial for these families as they deal with job losses tied to Michigan's economic situation. Michigan workers need this boost to help them provide for their families under these extraordinary circumstances. That is why I was pleased to support an emergency spending bill, recently signed into law, which included an extension of unemployment benefits. This measure will provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits for Michigan workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment compensation.

Given Michigan's stunning 8.5 percent unemployment rate, I was disappointed not to get a full 26-week benefit extension, but laid off workers need these benefits now. The 13-week extension is good news for workers and their families. While every American would

prefer a job over an unemployment check, unemployment insurance is an important part of our safety net. It allows workers to meet their families' basic needs while conducting a job search and undergoing job retraining.

To read a *Detroit Free Press* article regarding my efforts to extend unemployment benefits, please [click here](#).

You can also visit my [Job Resources](#) webpage for information on job banks, unemployment assistance, retraining and my job creation agenda.

Fighting Medicare Cuts for Michigan Seniors

I would like to alert you to legislation I recently opposed which would cut \$50 billion from the Medicare program. While this bill included a much-needed Medicare payment fix for doctors that would prevent a cut in their services, I could not support this fix at seniors' expense.

If this measure (H.R. 6331) becomes law, it would cut \$50 billion from the part of Medicare that has brought greater health coverage and lower out of pocket costs to more than 200,000 Michigan seniors and millions more across the country.

These Medicare beneficiaries have chosen to enroll in Medicare Advantage health plans, which provide benefits that traditional Medicare does not cover, including vision and dental care, protection against catastrophic health expenses, and lower deductibles, premiums and co-payments.

Sadly, the rush to drive this measure through the House in less than a week appears to be more about playing politics than about taking time to walk through the proposal, debate details, and understand the consequences it will have on millions of American seniors. I do not believe that is any way to demonstrate leadership, which is why I have asked my colleagues to join me in opposing this ill-advised legislation. Rest assured, I will continue to fight to ensure this massive cut to Medicare does not become law.

I appreciate your continued interest in the legislative activities of your U.S. Congress. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



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