

Right Now

House Pushes for Substantial Cuts in Federal Spending

Recently the House of Representatives [passed](#) legislation that would save \$100 billion in federal spending this year compared to the level President Obama requested. I strongly supported this important bill because our nation is broke and we need to restore fiscal sanity in Washington. These spending cuts recognized that the federal government desperately needs to make the same type of tough choices and sacrifices that families across our nation have made to balance their own budgets during the economic downturn. This is a badly needed first step to getting spending under control, but it alone will not be enough. We must reform our entitlement system and put it back on a fiscally sustainable path in order to truly deal with our debt crisis. To learn more about this legislation, click [here](#)

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The legislation now awaits consideration in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, early indications suggest that Democrat leaders in that chamber oppose the level of spending reductions contained in the bill. Meanwhile, President Obama has also expressed opposition to the spending cuts. I believe opposition to restoring fiscal responsibility is deeply unfortunate and suggests that Senate Democrat Leadership and President Obama are continuing to ignore the will of the American people. I urge the Senate and the President to reverse course and support this legislation so that Washington can get back on the path to fiscal responsibility.

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House Repeals Damaging 1099 Provision of ObamaCare

I'm pleased to inform you that the House has passed legislation that would repeal ObamaCare's "1099 provision," which will require businesses to submit a 1099 for every vendor from which they purchase a mere \$600 in goods or services over a year. I have heard from numerous small businesses throughout Northern California that they will have to fill out literally hundreds of these forms if this provision goes into effect next year as scheduled. The 1099 mandate has created significant uncertainty for small businesses dealing with implementation of the government takeover of health care – resulting in increased costs, burdensome red tape, and job losses. With these concerns in mind, repealing this unfunded mandate is a top priority of mine and the new Republican majority in the House. The measure now awaits consideration in the Senate where the repeal of the 1099 provision previously passed as part of separate legislation. For more information click [here](#) .

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President Abandons Defense of Traditional Marriage

With the full support of President Obama, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced that the Justice Department would no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court. DOMA was signed into law by President Clinton after passing both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support that exceeded 80 percent of the vote in both chambers. It defines marriage for federal purposes as the legal union between one man and one woman. It also declares that states cannot be forced to recognize the same sex marriages that are authorized in another state.

I strongly believe that President Obama's personal opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act

does not authorize or justify the Justice Department's decision to abandon their defense of this law in court. This announcement strikes me as more of a political declaration rather than a legitimate legal argument. Accordingly, I believe it is imperative that Congress step in to defend DOMA and the traditional definition of marriage. Marriage is an institution that pre-dates politics and for millennia has functioned as the foundation of family and civil society. The Administration's failure to properly defend the federal law protecting this core institution must not stand. Speaker John Boehner has instructed the House of Representatives General Counsel to initiate a legal defense of this law. This action will ensure that DOMA's constitutionality is decided by the courts, rather than by the Administration alone.

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Recent Past

President's Budget Fails to Make the Hard Choices

I want to share my thoughts about President Obama's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2012. I'm sad to see that it revealed that his recent talk of fiscal discipline has been just that – talk. His latest proposal keeps us on a fiscally unsustainable path by adding \$13 trillion to the national debt over the next ten years. Unfortunately, the President also ignored the most significant cause of our debt crisis – the unsustainable growth in entitlements.

There will be nothing easy about putting our nation back on the right course – but it is essential that we make the tough choices and decisions that will lead us away from President Obama's plan of spending, borrowing, and taxing our way to prosperity. In the coming weeks, House Republicans will offer a budget for FY 2012 that will significantly reduce federal spending, take the lead on entitlement reform, and put our budgetary policy back on track. I hope the President will work with Republicans in Congress to restore fiscal sanity and ensure a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

Ways & Means Hearing Reveals ObamaCare's Threat to Seniors' Health Care

I want to share a video I recorded after a Ways & Means Committee hearing on the impact of ObamaCare on the Medicare program. The Committee heard from CMS Administrator Donald Berwick, who is responsible for administering the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as chief Medicare actuary Rick Foster. The Office of the Actuary monitors Medicare's finances and analyzes the impact of major health care policy changes. Foster has repeatedly refuted claims that ObamaCare will reduce health care costs and issued a report last year warning of its potential negative effects on seniors. According to Foster, 1.2 million seniors will be forced out of their Medicare Advantage plans next year alone because of the new health care law. Foster also testified that cuts in Medicare payments to providers are unsustainable and will threaten seniors' access to high quality health care. Under the new majority, we will finally be able to get the real facts on why we need to repeal ObamaCare as soon as possible and institute meaningful reforms that will fix our system without growing government. Click [here](#) to watch the video of my comments.

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Our Nation's Wounded Warriors Deserve High-Quality Care

One of my top priorities in Congress is to ensure that our returning service members receive the best health care possible. Due to the frequent use of improvised explosive devices by the enemy, the signature wound from our nation's missions in Iraq and Afghanistan has been traumatic brain injury (TBI). While the injury varies widely in terms of severity, treatment, and length of recovery, TBI has been linked to concussions, cognitive impairment, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and depression.

Recently I joined members of the House and Senate in [urging](#) Defense Secretary Robert Gates to move quickly to ensure that TRICARE, the Department's health insurance program, provides cognitive rehabilitation for service members who have received brain injuries. This treatment is critical because TBI frequently impairs cognitive abilities such as perception and thinking. Unfortunately, DOD is still studying TBI and, with rare exception, does not cover cognitive rehabilitation even though a number of experts such as the National Institutes of Health support it as a proven treatment for TBI. I will continue to closely monitor this issue to ensure that our wounded service members receive the proper treatment from TRICARE for every aspect of this injury.

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Northern California News and Events

Removing Barriers to Public Access to Federal Lands

The House recently passed an amendment I offered to [spending reduction legislation](#) to prevent the Forest Service from implementing the 2005 Travel Management Rule this fiscal year. The Forest Service has used the rule to shut down access to federal lands, which has generated a great deal of concern among local elected officials and recreation enthusiasts in Northern California and elsewhere in California. The amendment would impose a seven-month moratorium on designating routes under the travel management rule, creating a “time out” in which a new, more balanced plan can be developed that addresses the concerns of local communities. I have been a strong advocate of a more measured and responsible travel management plan, and I have repeatedly called on the Forest Service to look at the individual circumstances with regard to public access of federal lands. The spending reduction bill must be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before the prohibition on further implementation would go into effect. I spoke on the House floor in support of the amendment. You can watch the video

[here](#)

. The full text of my remarks can be found

[here](#)

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No Monument Rally



I was honored to speak at the “No Monument Rally” put together by my good friends at the Klamath Alliance for Resources and Environment (KARE). Hundreds of people braved the cold to show their opposition to the Siskiyou Crest Monument. This proposal would lock-up an additional 3 million acres of our federal land in Northern California and Southern Oregon.

For over a century the Antiquities Act of 1906 has allowed Presidents to designate large swaths of federal land as “National Monuments” with nothing more than the stroke of a pen. It has long been argued that this law gives the President far too much authority to designate these lands with little to no input from the public or Congress. To correct this, I recently introduced [H.R. 817](#), to require an Act of Congress to approve any National Monument designation. I look forward to working with the new majority in the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

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Local Health Care Professionals and Facilities Leading the Way



During a recent tour, I was impressed at the amazing capability for neonatal care at Mercy Medical Center in Redding. As the new Chairman of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health, I have been taking an in-depth look at the challenges of health care delivery in Northern California. Innovation at the local level is critical for improving health care across America, and I am pleased to see Mercy Medical Center doing just that. I will continue to advocate for solutions at the federal level that keep Washington out of the way of health care delivery and help bring down costs for patients and their providers.

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