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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views  
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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September 7, 2007

## **Congressman Miller Continues to Fight Mexican Truck Program**

Yesterday, the Department of Transportation began allowing Mexican trucks to travel on U.S. highways to make international deliveries. While Congressman Miller understands that the United States must comply with the trade policies of NAFTA, he does not believe that the safety and security of our roads and communities should be compromised in the process. In July, Congressman Miller sent a letter to the President, signed by 113 Members of Congress, opposing this program. In addition to raising concerns about safety hazards and increased congestion, the letter expressed concerns that the program would permit Mexican truck drivers into our country without appropriate safeguards in place to ensure they comply with homeland security and immigration laws. After a lack of response to these concerns, the House overwhelmingly passed an amendment coauthored by Congressman Miller to stop the implementation of this program. Because the Senate did not act quickly, the Department of Transportation was allowed to proceed as planned. Congressman Miller is working with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to immediately halt this program.

## **Bill Introduced to Strengthen Local Enforcement of Immigration Laws**

Congressman Miller this week joined his colleagues in introducing legislation to help local law enforcement investigate, apprehend, and remove illegal aliens in the enforcement of U.S. immigration law. Because of the lack of coordination between local and federal law enforcement, after committing a crime, illegal aliens are often released back into American society rather than being returned to their home country. Many go on to commit further crimes of violence. In order to address this grave and growing problem, Congressman Miller was proud to cosponsor the CLEAR Act. This bill clarifies the ability of local law enforcement officers to enforce immigration law and increases information sharing between federal and local authorities. Under the bill, local governments that help in the fight against illegal immigration would be provided with increased resources. Governments that provide sanctuary to violent criminal aliens would be denied federal law enforcement funds. Congressman Miller looks forward to partnering with local law enforcement to prevent individuals from entering and remaining in our country illegally.

## **Congressman Miller Works to Address Housing Availability**

On Wednesday, federal financial regulators appeared before the House Financial Services Committee to discuss the recent instability in the housing market and proposals to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Congressman Miller appreciates the efforts of lenders and the administration to assist those families who are facing increasing mortgage payments by helping them refinance. However, these efforts will have little impact in high cost areas, like Southern California, because many who live in high cost areas are not afforded the benefits of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage products. Congressman Miller expressed concern that these Americans would not be able to refinance into safer, more sustainable mortgages simply because the existing loan limits are too low in relation to average prices of homes where they live. If these products are made available to Americans facing a payment reset in other areas of the country, Congressman Miller believes they should be available to families in high cost areas as well. Moving forward, Congressman Miller will continue pushing to increase the loan limits for these critical programs, to ensure that families in our region will be able to refinance into safer mortgage products and sustain the dream of homeownership onward into the future.

## **Naval Academy to Hold Information Forums in Southern California**

For high school students interested in attending one of our nation's prestigious military academies, the United States Naval Academy will soon be hosting two information forums in our area. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to meet an Admission Counselor, Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officers, and Naval Academy Alumni. These events will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Troy High School in Fullerton and Sunday, September 23, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles. For more information on the military academies and information on how to RSVP for either of these United States Naval Academy events, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.

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