



February 6, 2009

Dear Friends,

This week, the Senate began debate on the Democrats' stimulus bill. Unfortunately, the Senate seems to be making a bad bill worse by adding amendments that have raised the cost of this pork filled bill by almost \$100 billion. They have also rejected proposals to eliminate some of the wasteful spending and amendments that would have stimulating effects on the economy, such as an amendment that would remove the punitive tax rate on American companies that want to invest their overseas profits in America to create jobs. It is unfortunate that the elements of the bill that are proven to create jobs and stimulate the economy are overshadowed by the hundreds of billions of dollars of proposed pork spending.

Congress needs to pass a serious bill that will help the American economy recover from its current slump, not a bill that rewards narrow special interests and politically favored programs while passing the debt on to future generations.

I continue to support the *House Republican Economic Recovery Plan*, which I co-sponsored. According to formulas from President Obama's own economic team, the Republican alternative will create twice the jobs at half the cost. I invite you to select the following link for details: [http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10\\_mccaul/2\\_5\\_2009.html](http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/2_5_2009.html)

#### **DTV Transition**

Also this week, the House passed S. 352, the Digital Television Transition Delay, which moves the transition date to **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. I voted against S. 352 because of the confusion it will cause the American public. A one-time delay sets a risky precedent making future delays more likely, causing more confusion, litigation, and headaches for the American public. Industry and government have spent \$1 billion on education and awareness programs for the digital switch, stressing the original February 17<sup>th</sup> transition date to the American public. A delay may also impose a significant burden on local broadcast stations, causing additional expense and logistical issues stemming from operating analog signals for unplanned months. It's estimated that as many as 98% of Americans have already converted to digital.

*A member of my staff will be at HEB in Elgin from 10am to 12pm on February 11, to answer questions and listen to concerns regarding the Digital Television Transition set to occur on **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.*

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### **SCHIP**

On Wednesday, the House passed, and President Obama signed in to law, H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. The bill reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through September 2013, expands the program by \$39 billion over that period and increases tobacco taxes by 62 cents to pay for the expansion. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill will result in 2.4 million children losing their private health insurance coverage in order to join the government SCHIP program. This bill also severely weakens current law by no longer requiring States to verify the identity of the applicants for Medicaid and SCHIP coverage. This flaw opens the door for fraud and abuse and could enable illegal aliens to receive coverage. For these reasons, I voted against this bill. My focus is to ensure that low income SCHIP-eligible children are enrolled *before* adults and children in families that can afford to pay for their own health insurance premiums.

### **Intelligence Subcommittee**

For the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, my colleagues have named me Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee. This subcommittee is charged with assessing classified intelligence that determines the risk of a terrorist attack. Specifically, it has oversight jurisdiction over DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the National Operations Center, the agency's intelligence and information collection and sharing activities, and its threat communications advisories. I am eager to take the experience I've gained throughout my career and use it to help our military and intelligence leaders better protect our nation.



Congressman McCaul met with fellow members of the House Committee on Homeland Security: Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA), chair of the Intelligence Subcommittee, and Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology.



Congressman McCaul met with Michael Splinter, CEO of Applied Materials, to discuss the current state of the company in light of the economic downturn. Applied Materials, a global leader in nanomanufacturing technology that helps produce virtually every semiconductor chip and flat panel display in the world, has one of its largest manufacturing facilities in Austin, TX.



Congressman McCaul met with Alicia Powell, of Waller, a participant in the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security.

#### **In the News**

A San Francisco Examiner editorial featured Congressman McCaul's efforts to ban the use of federal funds for defense projects named after a sitting member of Congress:

[http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10\\_mccaul/morenews/Examiner.html](http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/Examiner.html)

Congressman McCaul discusses the stimulus bill with News 8's Paul Brown:

[http://www.news8austin.com/shared/video/video\\_pop.asp?AdShown=1&destlist=61560](http://www.news8austin.com/shared/video/video_pop.asp?AdShown=1&destlist=61560)

#### **District 10 Listening Posts**

Once again, I would like to encourage residents of TX-10 to stop by one of the upcoming "Listening Posts" to visit with my staff about federal issues. This is a valuable opportunity for constituents to discuss federal issues that I am able to address at the Congressional level. I encourage all of you to drop by to ask questions, voice concerns, or simply introduce yourself.

**Pflugerville Listening Post**

Friday, Feb. 6, 12:30-2:30 pm  
Pflugerville Public Library  
102 S. 10th Street

I wish you and your family a happy and safe weekend.

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

**\*\* If you would like to register to receive the McCaul Minute click [here](#)**