



June 7, 2013

Rep. Miller Supports Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Funding

While we can never truly repay the brave men and women who have served to protect and defend our great country, Congress has a duty to deliver on the promises made to our nation's veterans. This week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation to provide funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and military construction activities in the next fiscal year. Specifically, the bill provides \$73.3 billion in discretionary spending to support those currently serving and to provide benefits and medical care to veterans.

During consideration of this important legislation, I was proud to support an amendment to the bill that would help address unacceptably long delays in processing veterans' disability claims. Right now, there are over 600,000 claims nationwide stuck in the VA backlog. Sadly, the Los Angeles regional office has one of the longest processing times with an average wait time of 619 days – twice the average nationwide! The amendment would direct funds provided under the bill to VA regional offices where the processing time is over a year. I will continue to use my voice and my vote to support our nation's veterans, active duty personnel and their families as the appropriations process moves forward.

House Passes Critical Homeland Security Funding Bill

On Thursday, the House approved the Fiscal Year 2014 Homeland Security appropriations bill, which provides funding for the Department, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Coast Guard. In the wake of the horrific Boston Marathon attacks, the bill prioritizes funding for visa security and over-stay enforcement programs. The bill also includes critical funding to improve our cybersecurity defenses, provide relief to Americans impacted by recent natural disasters, and enhance security along our nation's northern and southern borders and at our ports. The measure also maintains a careful balance to provide needed funding to protect our country, while reducing federal spending, streamlining federal programs, and strengthening oversight of DHS programs and use of taxpayer dollars. As Congress continues to consider our nation's funding priorities, I will work to ensure that necessary resources are provided to protect Americans from all threats facing our nation.

Rep. Miller Co-Sponsors Bill to Accelerate Breast Cancer Research

While significant progress has been made in the fight against breast cancer, far too many Americans remain impacted by this devastating disease. According to the American Cancer Society, over 232,000 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer this year alone, while one-in-eight women in the U.S. will develop the disease during their lifetime. This week, I co-sponsored H.R. 1830, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act to help advance research into the causes and prevention of breast cancer. Specifically H.R. 1830 would utilize existing resources and investments to establish a commission that would be tasked with identifying opportunities within the government and the private sector and recommend projects to further research into breast cancer prevention. I will continue to work with my colleagues to make detection, research and prevention a priority so that we can eradicate breast cancer once and for all.