



E-NEWSLETTER

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McKeon Rejects Democrat Tax & Spend Budget

An analysis by House Budget Committee Republicans found that the Democrats' FY 2009 budget imposes a \$683 billion tax increase, increases non-security spending by \$23.4 billion over and above the President's request, and allows the unfunded liability in Social Security and Medicare to grow by \$14 trillion.

McKeon argues that these policies of federal fiscal heavy-handedness stifle innovation and hamper job growth. Rather than supporting more bloated federal bureaucracy, Congress should be focusing on proven programs to support students, workers, and families without driving up taxes and ignoring the **entitlement crisis**.

With this budget, Democrats call for the **largest tax increase in American history** on families already struggling with cost of living increases, higher college tuitions, increased gas prices, and rising healthcare costs. [Read more...](#)

McKeon Discusses Entitlement Spending Problems and Highlights Pension Protection Act

As part of an annual finance policy briefing hosted by the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, McKeon offered his thoughts on the question, "How can the government ensure Americans' retirement security?"

This year, the first of some 79 million baby boomers will turn 62, triggering an uptick in retirements that soon will feel like an explosion. Retirees today and into the future will need more than Social Security to ensure a **secure retirement**. For an online version of McKeon's commentary, please [click here](#).

Higher Education Update

With the credit crunch spreading to the student loan market, McKeon has worked aggressively to engage federal regulators to ensure students and families continue to have access to low-cost federal loans. McKeon has been particularly concerned that key Democrats and some in the Administration are focused on responding to a failure of the student loan program, rather than preventing one. For more, please view the following materials online:

- [McKeon-Keller letter to Secretary Spellings](#)
- [Kanjorski-McKeon, et al, letter to Chairman Bernanke](#)
- [McKeon Release on Hearing](#)

In other news, in February the House overwhelmingly passed the *College Opportunity & Affordability Act* (H.R. 4137), legislation to renew and reform the HEA. Chief among the bill's provisions are college cost reforms championed by McKeon. The bill is currently being negotiated via House-Senate Conference. Meantime, Congress temporarily extended the HEA earlier this month. [Read more...](#)

California Homeschooling Decision to be Reheard

The California Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District in Los Angeles has agreed to rehear the case of *In re Rachel L.*, which declared most forms of **homeschooling** unlawful in California.

The decision, handed down in late February, was decried by McKeon, Governor Schwarzenegger, key Republicans, and numerous parental rights advocates. Republicans are closely monitoring the case and its implications for homeschooling nationwide.

Committee Republicans Unveil New YouTube Page



Committee Republicans are excited to unveil a **YouTube** page as part of an expanded multimedia strategy to provide stakeholders updated information on Republican positions, policies and initiatives. We hope you will bookmark the Education & Labor Committee Republicans' YouTube page and visit regularly for updates. You can start by [clicking here](#).

Republicans Decry Reversal of Mine Safety Reforms

Over the strong objections of leading Republicans, academic experts, and the mining community, the House narrowly passed a bill early this year that rewrites major **mine safety legislation** approved less than two years ago. Republicans objected to the S-MINER Act (H.R. 2768) because it halts the progress of bipartisan reforms enacted in 2006 and threatens miners' jobs through onerous new regulations and unfunded mandates on the mining industry. [Read more...](#)

New Committee Staff Director Named

In February, McKeon tapped **Sally Stroup** to serve as the Committee Republican Staff Director following the departure of **Vic Klatt**. Stroup previously served as Deputy Staff Director since 2006.

Klatt rejoined Van Scoyoc Associates as a Founding Partner in a new bipartisan venture within the VSA family of companies that will focus on government relations, consulting, and strategic research and advice on education and related domestic policy issues.