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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

Auto Industry Bailout Passes House, fails in Senate

On Wednesday night, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass **H.R. 7331** , the Auto Financing Bill. This legislation is a step in the wrong direction on the road to a solution to this massive problem. This bill essentially writes a $14 billion blank check paid for by American taxpayers who are not yet born. This short-term patch simply delays the hard work that needs to be done after filing for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 11 exists for precisely this type of issue, allowing companies and industries to reorganize and renegotiate to allow themselves to emerge from bankruptcy and get their feet back on solid ground.

The bill also appoints a 'car czar' with unfettered power to exercise in the operation of this act, without dealing with the significant conflict of interest inherent in one person making the decisions necessary to implement this bill for three companies that are, and should remain, competitors.

With the millions of individuals connected to the domestic automobile industry, there is no easy road to take. There are deep and fundamental flaws in Detroit's business model that will unfortunately require all stakeholders to make deep sacrifices. Should they file for bankruptcy and a rational reorganization plan emerge, it will then be appropriate to consider what action Congress can take to spur the growth of the new companies and assist the individuals and families who may have lost their jobs.

This is a challenging time for our nation and for the automobile industry in particular . However , legislation such as this prolongs the pain instead of addressing the problem and productively rebuilding the industry.

This legislation failed in the Senate by a vote of 52-35, failing to receive the 60 votes needed to pass.

Singing Their Way Through Washington

The Marble Falls High School choir was invited to sing at the White House this past Tuesday, December 9 th. The group of 44 performed about 20 songs and sang for over an hour in the East Room in the East Wing during an invitation-only open house. I had the honor of meeting this impressive group when they came to the Capitol. They broke into song in Statuary Hall and their magnificent voices turned the heads of everyone around them. This group is not only a wonderful representative of Marble Falls, but of the

entire state of Texas, and I am proud to represent them here in Washington.

2009 Military Academy Nominees Announced

I am proud to announce the 15 upstanding young men and women from District 11 who have been nominated to attend one of the five military academies in the Fall of 2009. A Congressional nomination is the first step toward admission to one of the Academies. The students hail from Robert Lee, Marble Falls, Midland, San Angelo, Kempner, Junction and Llano, and hope to attend the Air Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy. I am extremely proud of the determination and resolve of all of the students who worked tirelessly to make their dream of attending a U.S. Military Academy a reality and wish them the best of luck as they pursue their goals. The students are listed below:

Daniel Ross McClellan (San Angelo)
Joseph Aaron Webster (San Angelo)
Kinder Nicole McCullough (Midland)
Bailey Montana Price (Llano)
Benjamin Charles Bertelson (Midland)
Bradley Thomas Ward (Midland)
Matthew Anthony Barnes (San Angelo)
Samuel Alan Herring (Junction)
Austin Thomas Miller (San Angelo)
Jesse Tate McWhorter (Llano)
Isaiah Eugene Hickman (San Angelo)
Ian Andrew Shirley (Marble Falls)
Tyler Shane Lamb (Kempner)
Xaunna Jade Krehn (San Angelo)
Mira Marie Myrice (Robert Lee)

This will be the last Chronicle of the 110th Congress. The 111th Congress will be sworn in on January 6, 2009. There will be no shortage of public policy issues for the next Congress and Administration and I am excited about playing a role in finding solutions to the issues facing our country. Suzanne and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and good blessings on our great country.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at **www.house.gov/conaway** or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at **www.conawayblog.com**!

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