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Dear Friends,

**Haiti Earthquake**

Last week Haiti suffered a catastrophic natural disaster. As our nation lends support and resources to help restore a fragile and developing nation, may we keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who are suffering in Haiti and the families affected by the tragic consequences of this earthquake. [If you would like to donate to relief efforts, check the status of family members who may have been victims of the earthquake, or if you have questions about pending adoptions of Haitian children, please visit my website for links to various resources](#)

**Healthcare Update**

Talks are still being held behind closed doors and Republicans are clearly not invited to attend. Reports indicate that the White House and Democrats cut an estimated \$60 billion deal that would exempt union workers from paying the so-called "Cadillac" tax for years to come. Clearly, this exemption will impose the risk of much higher taxes on non-union workers, namely middle class workers in southern and rural states. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas, a Right to Work state, has one of the lowest percentages of union workers per employed workers, and therefore deemed one of the "losers" of this deal.

**Intelligence Failures**

I was among ten members of the Homeland Security Committee briefed last week on the Christmas day terror plot. It is clear the incident aboard Northwest flight 253 resulted from a failure of the intelligence community to act upon specific information collected. Had they acted, I feel very confident that Abdulmutallab wouldn't have been able to board the plane in the first place. That's the fundamental error in this case. The fact that the State Department didn't revoke his visa is inexcusable, and I think people need to be held accountable for this serious error. My biggest concern in the next couple of weeks is the fact that terrorists have identified a vulnerability, they know we have a weakness, and they will continue to exploit it on future flights. We don't know how many more individuals are still out there that were trained by this radical cleric in Yemen and may be still trying to pull off the same stunt. I look forward to a hearing on this issue before the Homeland Security Committee January 27.

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Before returning to Washington last week, I visited BAE to meet with the FMTV Task Force and employees. As always, it was an encouraging visit, and I am continuing to work with the Army to ensure a fair bid process.

#### **MLK**

Yesterday we honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the historic role he played in our nation's civil rights movement to eliminate discrimination. Dr. King would have been 81 this month.

#### **In The News**

[New York Times - Possibility of Plots Prompts More Checks for Explosives at Airports](#)

[Chronicle - Texas Congressman Gets Inside Story on Attempted Airliner Bombing](#)

[Associated Foreign Press - US Lawmakers Quiz Top Officials on Christmas Bomb Plot](#)

[Brenham Banner - Lawmakers Get Report on Botched Bombing](#)

[Brenham Banner - McCaul Wants Agencies to Work Together](#)

[Sealy News - Congressman Visits BAE Plant, Vows to Keep Jobs in Sealy](#)

[Instant News Katy - McCaul Calls For Congressional Hearings on BAE](#)

With Best Regards,

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

This is an unattended mailbox, if you have additional comments and would like to contact Congressman McCaul, [please email me here](#).

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