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Dear Friends,

R&D Tax Credit

As co-chairs of the House High Tech Caucus, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and I are leading a bipartisan effort to reauthorize research and development (R&D) tax credits. More than 120 members have signed our letter calling for the R&D credits to be a part of any jobs bill Congress passes. These credits were recently stripped from a Senate jobs bill. I would like to see R&D credits made permanent. They play a significant role in innovation and job creation and are the primary issue I hear from high tech companies I meet with regularly.

NASA

Last Thursday during a Science and Technology Committee hearing [NASA's Administrator, Charles Bolden Jr., could give me no assurances](#) that jobs in the Houston area would be safe if the Obama administration carries out its plans to cut funding to the Constellation program. I'm concerned about the human space flight mission being completely cut out of this budget and funding increased for climate change and weather observation. There is great bipartisan opposition to the president's plan and we are working together to ensure we advance NASA's core mission of human space flight and exploration.

Intelligence Authorization Act for 2010

Last Friday the House passed H.R. 2701. This bill provides funding and authorizes activities for 16 US intelligence agencies. I voted against it because it fails to address the intelligence failures that led to the recent terror attacks against the US, including Ft. Hood and the Christmas Day bomber. Further, it unnecessarily provides the Government Accountability Office (GAO) with the authority to access any sensitive information it deems relevant to investigations related to our intelligence community.

Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act

Last Wednesday, I voted for and the House passed H.R. 4626 by a vote of 406-19. This legislation repeals the anti-trust exemption for health insurers that was established in the McCarran-Ferguson Act. Health insurance companies have been regulated at the state level since 1945, and this bill will further ensure that insurers do not engage in price-fixing, bid-rigging, or market allocations while providing health insurance coverage.

USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act

Last Thursday, I voted for and the House passed H.R. 3961. This bill will extend several provisions of the Patriot Act until February 28th, 2011. Extending each of these will allow for an efficient way to track suspected terrorists, ultimately better protecting our nation from foreign attacks.

In The News

- [Defense Systems - Human element complicates cybersecurity](#)
- [San Jose Mercury News - Lawmakers urge renewal of R&D tax credit](#)
- [Florida Today - NASA Budget may not pass committee as is](#)
- [Washington Times - Refocused NASA gets bipartisan criticism](#)

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Congressman McCaul and Sam Houston IV celebrate Texas Independence Day at Washington-on-the-Brazos. McCaul presented a resolution honoring General Houston on the 217th anniversary of his birth, March 2, which is also the 174th anniversary of Texas' independence.



Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Texas Credit Union League, Bob Schumacker, Curby Stech, Dottie Tichavsky, Rebecca Taylor, and Jeffrey Myers.



Congressman McCaul meets with Port Directors from Houston, Galveston, Freeport, Orange, Brownville, and Corpus Christi in addition to members of the Cedar Bayou Navigation district.

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.](#)

Office Locations



Washington, D.C. Office

131 Cannon House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2401 | Fax: 202-225-5955
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 6pm EST



Austin
5929 Balcones Dr.
Suite 305
Austin, TX 78731
512-473-2357
512-473-0514 (fax)

Brenham
2000 S. Market Street
Suite 303
Brenham, TX 77833
979-830-8497
979-830-1984 (fax)

Katy
1550 Foxlake
Suite 120
Houston, TX 77084
281-398-1247

Tomball
Rosewood Professional Bldg
990 Village Square, Suite B
Tomball, TX 77375
281-255-8372
281-255-0034 (fax)

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