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Dear Friends,

I hope you had a good weekend. Here is an update as I head back to Washington this week.

### Another Auto Bailout

Another day, another auto bailout. Last Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act, which spends \$2.85 billion on research to reduce the number of vehicles producing high emissions. This is a worthy goal, but I voted against this bill because it adds to the \$81 billion taxpayers have already spent bailing out the auto industry. Americans already hold a 60% stake in General Motors and 8% in Chrysler. I voted for the Republican alternative that would have prevented double dipping and duplicative funding for vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy, but the motion failed. In my judgment \$3 billion would be better spent by fully funding NASA's mission for space exploration.

[Please see McCaul's exchange in a committee hearing this week on NASA's budget.](#)

### Government Takeover of Student Aid

Another day, another government takeover. The House passed the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act," which would abolish the longstanding privately-run Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and replace it with taxpayer-financed lending from the U.S. Treasury. I have always supported expanding the availability of college aid, but I voted against this bill. By giving the federal government a monopoly over student lending, this plan will eliminate choice, competition, and innovation in our student loan system. Moreover, in an environment where job security is already a concern, this bill will lead to job loss for those involved with the FFEL program.

### Border Security

During a Homeland Security subcommittee hearing Thursday, I questioned U.S. Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar about its [slow response to security concerns along the U.S.-Mexico border](#). DHS's SBI<sup>net</sup> includes technology for a virtual fence. However, the technology will not be online in Texas until at least 2014. Meanwhile, Governor Perry's request for 1,000 National Guard troops to help patrol the border, which I support, has gone unanswered by the Obama administration.

### Cybersecurity

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This past week Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) and I sent a [letter](#) to President Obama urging him to expedite his search for a Cybersecurity Coordinator. Jim and I were Congressional Co-Chairs of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' (CSIS) Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th President that made formal recommendations for securing America's cyberspace. Unfortunately, since the President announced in late May he was acting on our recommendations, there has been little progress. Meanwhile, the computer networks tied to our critical infrastructure remain largely vulnerable to hackers who have escalated the intensity and maliciousness of their attacks in an effort to cause severe economic damage to our country. [Please see my Sept. 3 keynote address on cybersecurity at the Rice University Baker Institute.](#)

### **ACORN**

The House overwhelmingly passed a measure to strip the liberal organization ACORN of any federal funding it receives. I voted in favor of this, as no organization which violates federal law should receive taxpayer dollars.

### **In the News**

9/18 [Fox Business Network – Healthcare Interview](#)

KLIF-AM Dallas – [McCaul talks healthcare public option with Jon David Wells](#)

Houston Chronicle – [Congressman briefed on suspected plot to attack NY](#)

Houston Chronicle – [Texas lawmakers press for more NASA funding](#)

CQ – [Lawmakers urge President to tap Cyber Coordinator](#)

KTRH – [Possible delays closing GITMO](#)

Fox 7 – [McCaul visits Texas Army Nat'l Guard Troops](#)

KVUE-TV – [McCaul Honors WWII Vet](#)

The Sealy News – [City, county officials hopeful about BAE's future](#)



Congressman McCaul presents Zilla Larson with her late husband's WWII medals. Pictured are Zilla Larson with her two sons, Lindsay Larson and Bernie Larson, Jr.



Congressman McCaul has lunch and visits with members of the Texas Army National Guard at Camp Swift before their deployment to Iraq later this year.



Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Texas Cattle Feeders and Raisers. Pictured are: Joel Bassinger, Mike Engler, Tom McDonald, Eldon White and Joe Parker.



Congressman McCaul meets with CEO of Dell Children's Medical Center Bob Bonar and Rosie McStay.



Congressman McCaul met with John Thompson of Symantec.

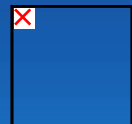


Congressman McCaul met with Simon Alvarado, Texas Director of Operations for the Veterans Advocacy Group, of Giddings.

With Best Regards,

Michael T. McCaul

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