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Dear Friends,

Healthcare Update

It is estimated that the Senate could vote on health care on Christmas Eve. The non-partisan CBO has yet to score a "compromise" package submitted by Senator Reid, the details of which have yet to be released. Both Democrats and Republicans have stated that this is a bad bill – raising premiums, increasing taxes, increasing health care spending and costs, and leading to the rationing of care. Republicans have introduced several health care reform alternatives, and still seek a seat at the table to help shape this pivotal debate.

BAE Update

On Wednesday I met with Dean Popps, the Army's Assistant Secretary for Procurement, to continue our discussion about the FMTV contract. He told me the Army will follow the GAO's recommendations to re-evaluate the original bids in light of the GAO's ruling that the Army's review process was flawed, and that the Army will take as much time as necessary to make the right decision. The Army has 60 days to come up with a re-evaluation plan. I look forward to discussing this further with Under Secretary Carter and Secretary McHugh, and to Congressional hearings after the holidays.

Highway 36 Expansion

The expansion of the 10 mile stretch of State Highway 36 between Bellville and Sealy now has full funding and should begin sometime in 2010. I was successful in securing \$7.2 million from the federal government. The total cost of the project is \$32 million. Expanding this two lane stretch of highway to four lanes is as much about safety as it is convenience. It will help to cut down on fatal crashes and ensure commerce can continue to move efficiently through Austin County and the rest of this important region.

Second Stimulus

I voted against but the House passed H.R. 2847, the Jobs for Main Street Act, by a slim margin of 217-212. Despite claims that the original stimulus would create three to four million jobs and unemployment would not pass 8%, unemployment is now at 10% and 26 million Americans have lost their jobs since the bill passed in February. A majority of the \$150 billion dollars in this second stimulus bill will go to agencies that have yet to spend all of their funding from the first stimulus. We cannot continue these failed practices. I will continue to support easing the tax burden on small businesses so they can create jobs and turn our economy around.

Deeper Into Debt

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Last Wednesday, I voted against but House Democrats passed H.R. 4314, increasing our nation's debt limit from \$12.104 trillion to 12.394 trillion. It is expected to be the first of several increases the Democrats plan over the next year. Just three years ago, when Democrats took control of Congress, our debt totaled \$8.67 trillion. It is unacceptable and irresponsible to keep burying our children and grandchildren in debt.

Funding the War on Terror and Military Pay Raises

Last Wednesday, I voted for and the House Passed H.R. 3326, the Conference Report for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. This bill appropriates \$636 billion for the Department of Defense for FY '10. Of that, \$128 billion will be for overseas deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also provides an average 3.4% pay increase for military personnel and retroactive pay for military service members whose enlistments were involuntarily extended since September 11, 2001.

Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act

I voted for and the House passed H.R. 2194. This bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to include targeted sanctions on Iran with the aim of ceasing its nuclear weapons program and uranium enrichment activities. The sanctions create penalties for individuals and organizations doing business with Iran's petroleum sector.

Football!

The 10th District continues to assert its football dominance. My congratulations to Coach Frazier and the Prairie View A&M Panthers for winning the SWAC Championship Game, 30-24 over Alabama A&M. This is PVAMU's first conference championship since 1964. This weekend Katy High School plays for its third consecutive state 5A Div. II championship, and Brenham plays in the 4A Div. II final. Go Tigers and Cubs! And of course, go Horns vs Alabama in January.

In the News

[Katy Times - Army Tells McCaul It Will Follow GAO Ruling](#)

[The Hill - GAO Sides with BAE on protest of Army Truck Contract](#)

[Brenham Banner - US Army Agrees to Reevaluate Military Truck Bids](#)

[Sealy News - Army has 60 days to announce action on contract](#)

[Texas Insider - McCaul Discusses the GAO Ruling on BAE Contract](#)

[Houston Chronicle - Army Tells McCaul Truck Contract Under Review](#)

[Instant News Katy - Top Official Tells McCaul Army Will Follow GAO Ruling](#)

[Texas Tribune - Frequent Flyers](#)



Congressman McCaul met with Army's Assistant Secretary for Procurement, Dean Pops on Wednesday regarding the BAE contract and GAO's Monday ruling.



Congressman McCaul meets with BAE's Sealy plant manager, Dennis Morris.



Congressman McCaul meets with Mary Nowak with the House Committee on Agriculture.

As we celebrate all that we have to be thankful for I would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe holliday season. I look forward to continuing to represent you and to continuing the fight for conservative government in 2010

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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