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Dear Friends,

I hope all of you had a joyful and safe holiday season. Christmas, as you know, was nearly disastrous for our nation as a terrorist with ties to al Qaeda attempted to blow up an airliner on approach to Detroit. A major failure by our intelligence community to act upon information should have kept Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab off the plane. The fact that the State Department issued a cable stating Abdulmutallab had been in contact with extremists in Yemen and did not act upon it by revoking his visa was an absolute failure. I am encouraged to see that the President has directed the State Department to review its process for issuing and revoking visas. This administration needs to be more proactive and not reactive. I applaud the President for taking responsibility for this breakdown, and I believe the appropriate people should be held accountable. I look forward to our hearing before the Homeland Security Committee January 27 and to working with the President and the administration to ensure the American people are better protected in the future.

In 2010 we expect to see the Democrats continue to push major pieces of their agenda.

**Healthcare**

House and Senate Democrat leadership continue to negotiate the final version of the healthcare package behind closed doors without Republican input. Their goal is for both houses to vote on the bill before the State of the Union address. The House "government option," which I voted against, includes a federally funded insurance option. The Senate requires insurance to be offered through the government's Office of Personnel Management and co-ops. It does not adequately prevent use of federal funding for abortions. I will continue to support legislation that lowers healthcare costs and provides greater access to care without higher taxes on families and businesses.

**Cap and Trade**

It is unclear when or if the Senate will vote on its version of Cap and Trade. I voted against it when it passed the House in June. It is estimated that passage of this national energy tax would cost as much as \$9.4 trillion in GDP and 2.7 million jobs. Additionally, the Texas Comptroller has

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estimated that average annual energy costs for Texas families would increase by \$1,136.

### Deeper into Debt

After increasing the statutory debt limit to \$12.394 trillion in December, it's anticipated that Democrats will raise it again by the end of February to pay for their expansion of government. I will continue to vote against this policy that is bankrupting our children and continue to support a policy of spending only what is necessary.

### Amnesty and Immigration

I expect the President and Congressional Democrats will try to pass Immigration Reform this year. The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR ASAP), H.R. 4321, would grant amnesty to most, if not all, illegal immigrants in the United States. It would repeal the 287(g) program that allows local officials to enforce immigration laws. I oppose amnesty, and I believe we must secure our borders before we address immigration reform.

### In The News

[Fox News - Interview on National Security](#)

[Good Morning America - Terror Failures](#)

[Instant News Katy - McCaul Says Nation Needs to be More Proactive in Terror Threat Assessments](#)

[Brenham Banner Press - Obama Critic Urges Firings in Airliner Close Call](#)

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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