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CONGRESSMAN DARRELL ISSA



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Washington Update

January 2010

Issa: Administration Policies are Hampering Private Sector Job Growth

Nearly one year ago, the incoming Administration of President Barack Obama predicted that the passage of a stimulus package, which included massive government spending, would keep the unemployment level below 8 percent. The House of Representatives, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, approved the controversial \$787 billion stimulus package in March that greatly added to the national debt. Rep. Issa vocally opposed this deficit spending. Nearly a year later, with unemployment at 10%, many in Congress and across America are wondering, "Where are the jobs?"

The U.S. economy has, sadly, shed over 2.5 million jobs since passage of the stimulus bill. Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49) is concerned that administration policies designed to create jobs aren't working and that other administration initiatives such as creating more government involvement in health care, global warming initiatives that threaten to raise energy costs, and continued deficit spending are hurting the private sector's ability to create new jobs and get the economy back on track. "The President has focused his agenda on policies that I believe will take jobs away from Americans and ship



Issa and other Members of Congress express concern about policies that may cause job losses

them overseas to countries like China," Rep. Issa recently said.

Issa, who prior to serving in Congress founded and was CEO of a consumer electronics company, argues that the possibility of massive new government intervention in energy, healthcare, and other areas makes employers nervous about new costs they may incur and makes them hesitant to add new

employees. "If President Obama and the current Congressional leadership want to create jobs they should stop the massive deficit spending and other initiatives that create a harsh climate for hiring," said Issa. "Most job creation is done by small businesses in the private economy. Government should be supporting small businesses, not heaping more regulations and higher taxes upon them."

Issa stands ready to help the Administration formulate effective job creation strategies. He added that the Administration has not sought his assistance to work with other successful private sector employers to address the critical issue of job creation.

Contact Rep. Issa through his website at www.issa.house.gov

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Seeking Constructive Solutions to Reform Health Care

As a divisive health care reform debate continues in Washington, Rep. Darrell Issa continues to seek common sense ideas from residents and health care professionals in the 49th Congressional District. His outreach efforts include visits with community health clinics in Oceanside and Vista, a September town hall meeting attended by over 3,000, several telephone town hall meeting calls, and a joint effort with Rep. Mary Bono-Mack and Rep. Joe Baca to eliminate a provision in health care reform legislation approved by the House of Representatives that could stop a new hospital in Murrieta from opening its doors to residents of southwest Riverside County.



Rep. Issa speaks at an official town hall meeting on health care legislation

“I’ve listened to the President’s ideas and seen the bill the House of Representatives just barely passed. I don’t think either focuses on the reforms Americans want to see,” said Rep. Issa. “They create too much government involvement in health care.”

Issa’s concerns about legislation have been echoed by independent studies. In evaluating a study by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, *The Washington Post* wrote, “A plan to [cut] more than \$500 billion from future Medicare spending — one of the biggest sources of funding for President Obama’s proposed overhaul of the nation’s health-care system — would sharply reduce benefits for some senior citizens and could jeopardize access to care for millions of others ...” A Congressional Budget Office analysis found that health care reform legislation passed by the House of Representatives would raise, not lower, health care spending costs and coverage expansion would be paid for in part by making Americans with existing coverage pay higher premiums.

In looking for ideas that work and could win broad support, Rep. Issa believes he has found some that could win passage if the House leadership allowed up-or-down votes on them individually. In talking with health care professionals at the Vista community clinic, Issa learned that the clinic obtains patient referrals from a nearby emergency room. The clinic is able to treat these patients at a lower cost than the emergency room - saving both patients and taxpayers money. This program, Issa says, could result in health care savings in other regions and states as well if Congress encouraged it. Issa has also introduced legislation that would allow Americans access to the same private health care plans made available to Members of Congress and Federal employees.

“At this point in the health care debate, I haven’t seen a real openness from the President and Speaker to new ideas and approaches to health care reform,” said Issa. **“Regardless, I am determined to find and develop alternative proposals so the American people know they have choices beyond what Congress is offering and the status quo.”**

Key 2009 Issa Government Accountability Accomplishments

Work as Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member

- ✓ Led effort to defund controversial organization ACORN
- ✓ Successfully influenced Treasury Department to cancel a plan at one federal government agency to give \$75 gift cards to senior employees in exchange for returning office property
- ✓ Obtained subpoena for documents from the infamous Countrywide VIP mortgage program, which gave preferential treatment to lawmakers and other government officials

49th Congressional District Survey Results:

I recently conducted a telephone and Internet survey of over 13,000 residents of the 49th Congressional District in order to ascertain their views on legislation before Congress and other issues facing our nation. Below are the results:

- Which of the following issues is most important for Congress to address:**

Jobs and the economy	42.1%
Government spending and the national debt	24.3%
Controlling health care costs	15.8%
Illegal Immigration	8.7%
The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq	4.9%
Global warming	2.9%
Any other issue	1.3%
- Which of the following options best reflects your views about government spending, should we:**

Reduce government spending	38.4%
Limit or reduce government spending and adopt less costly solutions to challenges like health care reform and global warming	33.7%
Raise taxes on the rich	16.5%
Raise taxes and limit government spending	6.0%
Raise taxes on all working Americans	2.4%
Another approach	3.0%
- As an alternative to proposed government health care plans, I have proposed legislation that would make the same private health plans that are available to Members of Congress available to the public. The cost to taxpayers would be minimal, and the plans would be available regardless of pre-existing conditions and would be portable from one job to another. Would you support such a plan:**

Yes	71.9%
No	10.4%
Unsure	17.7%
- Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed a global warming bill that will tax carbon dioxide emissions and raise the cost of gasoline, electricity and other energy sources. Advocates said that such a measure would cause electricity rates to necessarily skyrocket. Do you:**

Support a global warming tax	15.8%
Oppose new energy taxes	84.2%
- The President recently announced that he will send 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to support the war against the Taliban and set a timeline for withdrawal of 18 months. Do you feel that U.S. policy in Afghanistan is:**

On the right track	38.8%
On the wrong track	47.3%
Unsure	13.9%

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Congressman Issa Honors World War II Navy Armed Guard Service Veterans

During World War I and II, the United States National Armed Guard (USNAG) sailed throughout the world on merchant ships, protecting naval vessels and cargo from enemy attack. Congressman Issa recently presented certificates of congressional recognition to six USNAG veterans - Mario Minervini and Howard Wooten of Vista; Edward Murphy, Sid Decker and Irv Cohn of Oceanside; and Franklin Kuhn of Sun City - citing their dedication, service and sacrifice.

“These brave men protected American lives and crucial wartime equipment against a roving enemy that struck indiscriminately and without warning,” Issa said. “We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.”

At the height of WWII, the USNAG force grew to 144,900 fighters. Of the 6,236 merchant ships protected by the Armed Guard during WWII, 710 ships were sunk and approximately 1,810 USNAG died. These certificates of recognition are a part of an ongoing effort to recognize the Armed Guard Veterans of WWI and WWII.



Issa thanks Navy Armed Guard Veterans for their service and presents them with Congressional certificates of recognition.

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