

**What is the Congressman's stance on tri-care for the rest of military retirees' lives, and how does he feel about the cut in reimbursement from tri-care to physicians?**

I believe the United States has incurred a moral obligation to provide health care to members and retired members of the Armed Services. I believe it is necessary to provide quality, affordable care to such retirees.

Reimbursement rate cuts from the federal government to physicians are annually proposed for Medicare and Tricare. Cost growth in these programs is larger than economy at large, and Congress has been refusing to deal with the problem in any way other than building up debt to pay for it. Congress must tackle the difficult issue of reforming the system by which physician payment rates are calculated in order to provide greater stability, sustainability, and predictability. The routine of averting physician payment cuts each year is detrimental to our health care system and disingenuous for our nation's budgeting.

Payment reform must be a component of meaningful health care reform to lower health care costs, control health care spending and restructure the incentives of our health care system on quality rather than quantity. I am deeply disappointed politics has prevailed over policy on this critical issue.

The 2010 Budget does not propose to increase Tricare user fees.

### **What is the Congressman's position on Congress using the reconciliation process to pass health care reform?**

The 1974 Congressional Budget Act sets forth a special procedure for the development and consideration of legislation to bring existing revenue and spending laws into conformity with the policies in the annual budget resolution. This is called "reconciliation." One of the special procedures is that reconciliation legislation only requires 50 votes in the Senate, as opposed to the 60 required to overturn a filibuster. Since there does not now appear to be 60 votes for proposed healthcare legislation in the Senate, there has been talk of Democrat leadership in Congress incorporating their proposed healthcare reform legislation into the budget, so as to take advantage of this special process.

Although this will require significant modification to the legislation, and will still face hurdles in making the healthcare reform fit into arcane budget rules and pertinent to the process, it is an option that appears to be gaining steam. **I strongly oppose this effort**, just as I opposed the first attempt at forcing an unwelcome and unwise takeover of healthcare by federal bureaucrats.

### **What is the United States threatening to cut off in terms of sanctions of Iran, and what would Iranian sanctions mean for gas prices domestically?**

Iran is currently subject to a wide range of U.S. sanctions, restricting trade with, investment, and U.S. foreign aid to Iran, and requiring the United States to vote against international lending to Iran. Several laws and Executive Orders authorize the imposition of U.S. penalties against foreign companies that do business with Iran, as part of an effort to persuade foreign firms to choose between the Iranian market and the much larger U.S. market. Most notable among these sanctions is a ban, imposed in 1995, on U.S. trade with and investment in Iran.

The Obama administration is working on a series of further international sanctions that would take aim at the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of Iran, publicly singling out the organization's vast array of companies, banks and other entities in an effort to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions. China and Russia must be involved, as they do the most significant amount of business with Iran and the Guard. The goal would be to increase the cost for those who do business with Iran so much that they would cut off ties.

The sanctions would not directly affect U.S. gasoline prices, but since the U.S. buys so much of our energy from the Middle East, any instability or problems there inevitably cause price increases here. This is why I support expanding American domestic energy development – drilling, natural gas production, oil shale, coal, renewable, and nuclear energy.

### **Why doesn't Congress actually create a Medicare and Social Security trust fund instead of the accounting gimmick they currently use?**

The House passed various Medicare and Social Security “lock box” proposals, to create an actual trust fund for these programs, in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Unfortunately, none of them ever passed the Senate.

I do not know exactly why these measures were not acted on, and I imagine there are many versions, but I do assume that no proposals will be considered under the current Congress because the current Majority wants to use surpluses for their various spending proposals: healthcare, cap and trade, and government expansion.

### **Where did President Obama get the authority to loan \$8 billion as recently proposed?**

President Obama recently announced two \$8 billion programs:

The first was \$8 billion for high speed train lines around the U.S. These are actually grants, not loans. The money was authorized in last year's Stimulus, which I voted against. I do not believe these types of projects should be built using deficit spending – money we borrow from others and which will have to be paid back by our descendants, with interest.

On February 16th, President Obama announced \$8.3 billion in federal loan guarantees to help Georgia Power (in Atlanta) build a two-unit, 2,200-megawatt nuclear power plant. The authorization for the loan guarantees comes from the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This will be the first time the program is used to promote the construction of a nuclear plant. It's also the first time the US has constructed a nuclear plant in a while - the last plant to come online was in 1996.

### **H1B/multinational visas classifications**

H-1B visas are temporary worker visas given to those who have the ability to perform a specialty occupation that is in demand.

L-1 visas allow foreign workers to transfer from a job abroad to the headquarters or branch of the same company that is located within the United States.

I believe that in certain instances the H-1B and L-1 Visa programs have the ability to benefit American companies and the economy as a whole. Sometimes companies are unable to attract domestic professionals to fill these positions and these visas are utilized. There are aspects of the program that I would like to see amended. American workers must be given priority over foreign nationals. The Department of Labor must institute a litmus test to prove that the businesses utilizing these visas were unable to find any suitable domestic workers. In these tough economic times, the domestic workforce must be given consideration first. These visas must not become a tool for companies seeking to import cheap foreign labor at the expense of the American workforce. With common sense changes such as these we can lower our unemployment rate and help arrest this economic downturn.

### **UN Small Arms Treaty**

The Obama Administration has indicated support for a United Nations “small arms treaty.” The purpose of such a treaty would be to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The scope of this proposed treaty has given many people pause. Although it is intended to eliminate the illicit international trafficking of weapons and their use for illegitimate means, many Americans have become concerned that such a treaty could place restrictions on their ability to transfer or purchase a weapon. I believe that citizens’ 2nd Amendment rights are absolute and will strongly oppose any effort, domestic or internationally, to limit this right that so many Americans hold sacred.

### **Fair Tax proposal**

House Resolution 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2009, would eliminate income as well as other taxes in favor of a national sales tax. It would also eliminate the Internal Revenue Service and leave the enforcement of the sales tax to the states. The "Fair Tax" is an interesting idea that warrants consideration. By taxing consumption, we would establish a tax rate that is directly contingent on the services that an individual uses. This will eliminate the arbitrary system of imposing greater penalties for the greater amount of income a person has. I believe that taxing an individual at a higher rate simply because they are financially successful is unacceptable. I will be happy to monitor this legislation going forward and give it my fullest consideration when action is taken in the House of Representatives.

I support efforts to simplify our tax code and lessen the ever increasing burden placed upon our citizens by the government. I have co-sponsored House Resolution 982, the Tax Code Termination Act. This bill terminates the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. It declares that a new federal tax system should be simple and fair and apply a low tax rate to all Americans.

### **Birthright Citizenship Act**

House Resolution 1868, the Birthright Citizenship Act of 2009, would amend immigration laws to ensure that only those individuals born to parents who legally immigrated to the United States would become citizens.

I was an original co-sponsor of this legislation and feel strongly that this is a necessary component of better immigration policy. Allowing the children of illegal immigrants to become citizens automatically encourages people to enter this country illegally; by removing this

incentive, there is one less reason for people to break the law.

### **Executive Orders**

As you may be aware, a federal or Presidential executive order is an order issued by the President. As the head of the executive branch of the federal government, some of his orders do have the force of law when made in pursuance of certain Acts of Congress, if those acts give the President discretionary powers.

There is no direct Constitutional provision that explicitly defines executive orders other than the mandate given in Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution that orders the President "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." Most executive orders are orders issued by the President to branches of the executive branch to direct their operation. Other types of executive orders are National Security Directives, Homeland Security Presidential Directives (presidential decision directives), and Presidential Determinations.

U.S. Presidents have issued executive orders since 1789. Probably the most famous executive order is the Emancipation Proclamation. Presidents have had their executive orders overturned when the order attempted to make law rather than support the execution of law. The Supreme Court ruled in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, (case number 343 US 579 (1952)) that Executive Order 10340 from President Harry S. Truman placing all steel mills in the country under federal control was invalid because it attempted to make law, rather than clarify or act to

further a law put forth by the Congress or the Constitution. Presidents since this decision have generally been cautious to refer to which specific laws they are supporting or acting under when issuing new executive orders.

**Information regarding the community health centers in the district**

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South Aurora Family Services Clinic  
15132 East Hampden Avenue, Suite G  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Appointment Line: (303)360-6276

- Littleton Health and Wellness Center  
2004 West Powers Avenue, Suite 100  
Littleton, CO 80120-1287  
Appointment Line: (303)360-6276

Both of these health centers are part of the [Metro Community Provider Network](#) , which has 13 community health centers in the Denver Metro area.

**What is the status of the implementation of the E-Verify program within the government?**

In these tough economic times it is crucial that jobs at home first go to people who are in this country legally. I believe that all businesses should use the E-Verify program. This program is operated by the Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Social Security Administration. The program allows participating employers to check the work status of new hires online by comparing information from an employee's I-9 form against SSA and DHS databases. To date, over 184,000 employers are enrolled in the program and over 8.7 million searches were done in fiscal year 2009.

The program in its current form is free and voluntary for most employers. The fiscal year 2010 Department of Homeland Security funding bill extended the authorization of the E-Verify program through September 30, 2012. As of September 8, 2009, federal contractors and subcontractors are required to use E-Verify. Executive Order 12989 mandates the electronic verification of all employees working on any federal contract.

This program will provide a valuable tool against identity theft and will allow employers to be certain that those individuals working there are indeed in this country legally. Using this program effectively is contingent upon being able to effectively identify those peoples who are here legally.