

August 5, 2009

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Dear Friend,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I look forward to being back in the mountains this month and hearing from many of you about your needs and concerns on the various legislative issues Congress is discussing.

The past few months of the 111th Congress have been very busy and productive. On July 23, I was proud to introduce the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act, H.R. 3308, which will help set the parameters for a more efficient, fair, and enforceable immigration system. I was pleased to have the bipartisan support of 74 Democratic and Republican co-sponsors, as well as the support of leaders from the business, labor, and law enforcement communities. Companion legislation to the House version of SAVE Act was introduced in the Senate by Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) as S. 1505.



[Congressman Shuler announcing the introduction of the SAVE Act with supporters from the House and Senate. The press conference was held on July 23 in front of the U.S. Capitol.](#)

In addition to creating a threat to national security, illegal immigration has reduced opportunities for American workers and placed considerable financial burdens on

federal, state and local governments. It is absolutely critical that we secure our borders and get illegal immigration under control, but our immigration policy will be only as strong as our will and ability to enforce it. The SAVE Act will ensure that our laws are respected and enforced by improving border security, enhancing the capability of law enforcement agencies, and making sure that all employers use the E-Verify system to ensure that American jobs go to those who are legally allowed to have them.

H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, has been on the forefront of the agenda in the recent weeks. I have heard from many of you regarding this health care reform legislation, and I assure you I am committed to achieving fiscally responsible reform that gives Americans access to affordable, high-quality health care.

That being said, I do not support H.R. 3200 in its current form. We

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must have legislation that reduces health care costs and addresses the problems of our current health care system. Our focus must be on getting health care reform right, rather than getting it done quickly. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress, as well as consumers, hospitals, health care providers and businesses in Western North Carolina to ensure that we achieve the best possible reform.

I have included links to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report and newspaper articles that might be useful resources for understanding H.R. 3200.

CBO's [preliminary analysis](#) on the financial impact of H.R 3200

July 17, 2009 Washington Post [article](#)

July 27, 2009 Wall Street Journal [article](#)

As Congress continues to discuss this and other important legislation, it is imperative that I hear from my constituents. In an effort to reach as many people throughout the district as possible, I will be holding tele-town hall meetings on August 13, 2009 and September 1, 2009. Please contact my office at 202-225-6401 if you are interested in participating in either of these town halls. I will post additional information on my website as specific times and details are finalized.

It is an honor to serve you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,



Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

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