



CARTER COURIER

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JANUARY 16, 2007

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Last week, the Democrat-led Congress kicked off the new year with an ambitious list of troubling legislation, including blocking a Republican initiative to fund stem cell research that would not require the destruction of human embryos, increasing the minimum wage without protecting small businesses, limiting seniors' choices for prescription drugs, and making it easier to raise taxes on working families. While I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues, I will not do it at the expense of Americans.

The President also addressed the country to outline his plan for success in Iraq. In Central Texas this issue hits particularly close to home, since hundreds of thousands of Fort Hood soldiers are currently deployed to the region. As your Congressman, I will continue to support our men in women in uniform, and will oppose any Democratic measure to cut funding for our troops.

Until next week,



STEM CELL RESEARCH WITHOUT SACRIFICE

One of the most controversial issues facing Americans today is stem cell research. The promise of finding cures for life-threatening diseases such as Parkinson's disease, cancer, and diabetes is exciting and has drawn a lot of interest. Advancements in adult stem cell research and concerns about the morality and destruction of human embryos in the name of research make this a complicated issue. This moral debate has been on the front line of political dialogue for years, and with the advancements in medical research moving faster than political debates in Washington, it is vital for members of Congress to do their research and be informed of the medical advancements before casting their votes.

I support stem cell research, but this week, I voted against H.R. 3, a bill that would mandate federal funding for research that requires the killing of human embryos. H.R. 3 would require government funding of research projects using stem cells taken from human embryos who are alive today, and who would be killed by the very act of removing their stem cells for the research.

One of my colleagues told a story that helps explain why I voted against this bill.

Imagine a settler in the 1800s going far out into the woods alone with his rifle in search of a deer to feed his starving family. After waiting patiently for hours, he notices movement in the brush 50 yards away. It's a deer. In a flash, he takes aim and prepares to fire.

Then he hesitates because something about the deer's

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movement suggests that it might not be a deer, but another hunter. Alone and miles away from any settlement, the odds of seeing another human are slim to none, but not impossible. Remember, his family is starving. If you were that hunter, would you shoot?

Even when the stakes are high and the odds are long, basic respect for human life compels us not to shoot. The same is true for stem cell research.

While the argument can be made that stem cell research has the potential to cure life-threatening diseases, we must ask ourselves is this potential worth the cost of human life? Where are our moral and ethical boundaries?

The Democratic leadership forced a vote that would mandate federal funding for stem cell research; however, they failed to consider the new breakthrough that would allow for amniotic stem cells to be used in place of embryonic cells. These cells have been scientifically proven to have the ability to grow into brain, muscle and other tissues that could be used to treat a variety of diseases, much like many hope embryonic stem cells can do. These cells can be used without the cost of harming anyone or destroying life at any stage.

This type of cell floats freely in the amniotic fluid of pregnant women and is easily retrieved during routine prenatal tests, are easier to maintain in laboratory dishes than embryonic stem cells, and, according to researchers, because the cells are a genetic match to the developing fetus, tissues grown from them in the laboratory will not be rejected if they are used to treat birth defects in that newborn. Scientific research has found a way to improve our quality of life and extend life expectancy, while respecting the sanctity of life at the same time. Congress is obligated to give this type of research serious consideration.

Unfortunately, the Democrats moved their bill without allowing any discussion and consideration. Instead, they took this bill to the floor, without as much as a committee hearing to consider the new scientific breakthroughs.

I believe very strongly that life begins at conception, and that we must respect all human life. I am willing to reach across the aisle and work with my Democratic colleagues when they have the morality of Americans in mind; however, they have proven that the only thing that matters this Congress is their political agenda, despite the cost of American lives. Let's hope our Senators and the President will be more thoughtful.

CARTER REACTS TO PRESIDENT'S IRAQ PLAN

Last week the President addressed the nation regarding his new strategy for success in Iraq. I want to commend the President for taking a careful and deliberative approach to unveiling his new strategy in Iraq. He has listened to the needs of the generals and commanders in the field and has developed a plan that will lead to success in Iraq.

If the Commander-in-Chief and the commanders on the ground in Iraq say our troops need more bullets to achieve victory, then we should give them more bullets. If they say they need more body armor, then we need to give them more body armor. If they say they need more boots on the ground, then we need to give them more boots on the ground.

It is wrong for the Democrats to say they support the troops if they won't give them the boots on the ground they need to achieve victory.

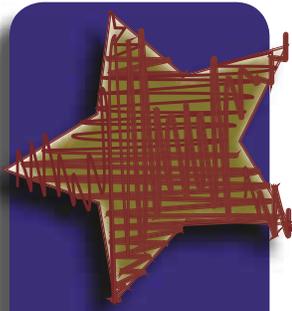
CARTER INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY PROHIBITS S.S. BENEFITS FOR WAGES EARNED WHILE IN U.S. ILLEGALLY

Last week, I introduced a bill that will protect Social Security, especially for the millions of Baby Boomers who will soon be receiving retirement benefits. The Social Security Protection Act will prohibit illegal aliens from receiving Social Security benefits for time they were in the country illegally.

If we give millions of illegal aliens Social Security benefits, there is no doubt—Social Security will go broke. That is why I introduced this bill to ensure that Social Security is protected for the millions of Americans who have legally earned their benefits. Baby Boomers are quickly approaching retirement, and we are already working on solutions that will ensure that Social Security is available for future generations. Now is not the time to increase the burden on the Social Security system by allowing the more than ten million illegal immigrants to receive benefits for the time they worked in our country illegally.

Specifically, my bill:

- Prohibits Social Security from paying out benefits to any US Citizen for wages earned while said US Citizen was illegally in the United States.
- Instructs the Commissioner of Social Security to recompute all existing benefits to account for any Social Security taxes paid while working without authorization. This language



will not require repayment of benefits already paid at the previous rate.

For tax year 2003, even after 2 years of scrubbing the data, the Earnings Suspense File still contains 8.8 million W-2s, representing \$57.8 billion in wages that cannot be accounted for. The average illegal household pays \$1,687 into Social Security and receives \$289 annually: a net gain of \$1,398 annually per household – this amounts to around \$5 billion total added to the Social Security coffers. If illegal immigrants suddenly gain access to these funds, it will endanger the solvency of Social Security for millions of legal American citizens.

CARTER SUPPORTS MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE WITH SMALL BUSINESS PROTECTION

I supported action last week that would have increased the minimum wage over a two year period, while protecting the millions of small businesses that account for 98 percent of new businesses in the United States. During debate on H.R. 2, House Republicans offered this alternative, which expands on the Democrats' bill to raise the minimum wage.

I support an increase in minimum wage, but we must protect small businesses and American working families. Republicans laid out a plan that would not only raise the minimum wage, but also provide greater access to affordable health care for small businesses and their employees.

The Democrats unbalanced minimum wage package will eliminate the strong job growth America has experienced over the past several months.

The Republican's alternative plan would have raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over a period of two years, while expanding affordable health care and providing important tax protections. Democrats defeated the Republican proposal.

Carter opposed the Democrat plan that passed the House, because it only included language to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years.

CARTER VOTES AGAINST LIMITING CHOICES FOR AMERICAN SENIORS

Last week in Washington, I voted against H.R. 4, The Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiating Act of 2007. This act would force the government to set price controls in order to negotiate prescription drug prices for seniors enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program. Historically, price controls lead to drug rationing.

The Democrats' scheme would create government price controls, which will lead to higher prescription drug prices. It also limits the number of drug prescription choices American seniors are offered, and could prohibit seniors from using their local pharmacist.

The provisions in this bill will increase drug costs for our veterans, devastate our local pharmacies, and slow the search for new, life-saving cures. This type of government interference isn't beneficial to anyone.

The American Legion, a veterans' service organization with nearly three million members, yesterday released a letter opposing H.R. 4, saying it "is not in the best interest of America's veterans and their families."

Currently, the Medicare drug program has reduced the cost of prescription drugs for seniors by thirty percent. There are forty different nationwide plans that offer drug benefits to seniors. The competition amongst those plans is driving down the cost of medications.

According to CMS, government negotiations with drug manufacturers regarding drug prices included in this bill would not provide any savings.

The Republicans offered a motion to stop the Democrats from limiting seniors' choices of drugs and their ability to choose their pharmacist. The Democrat plan is based on the Veterans Administration model that relies on mail order prescriptions. Unfortunately this motion was defeated by the Democrats.

CONSTITUENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT APPLY FOR STUDENT AID NOW

This week Secretary of Education Spellings reminded students to apply now for financial aid. The Department of Education's Federal Student Aid website <<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>> offers a wealth of information and tools for consumers as well as financial aid professionals. Here, students can learn how to select a school, apply for aid, or locate and repay federal student loans. The handy reference guide and fact sheet, "Tips for Paying for College," instructs filers on how to obtain a personal "PIN" number, gather the necessary income and tax records, and other helpful suggestions to make filing a FAFSA easier. The fact sheet is available at www.ed.gov/students/college/aid/paying.html.



Kids' Page

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 15, 2007
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a great man who worked for racial equality in the United States of America. He was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to read before he went to school. Young Martin was an excellent student in school.

After graduating from college and getting married, Dr. King became a minister and moved to Alabama. During the 1950's, Dr. King became active in the movement for civil rights and racial equality. He participated in the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and many other peaceful demonstrations that protested the unfair treatment of African-Americans. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. Commemorating the life of a tremendously important leader, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day each year in January.

FILL IN THE BLANKS OF DR. KING'S FAMOUS SPEECH.

I have a _____ that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true _____ of its creed: "We hold these _____ to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

*Answers found on page 5

Coloring Page

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