



**Week of January 16th
2007**

Issue 2 of 2007

WASHINGTON SURF REPORT

Welcome to the Washington Surf Report for the week of January 16-19th. I hope you all enjoyed the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. We had a very busy second week agenda here in Washington. Congress will be considering proposals addressing student loan interest rates, energy independence and congressional pension accountability reform.

The Washington Surf Report will be updated weekly so that you can stay up to date on the issues being discussed in the United States House of Representatives.



No amnesty; tougher employer enforcement
By: BRIAN BILBRAY - Commentary

The United States is the most open nation in the world. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that every year, more than 328 million visitors come to the United States via our land borders. These borders serve as the gateway for trade, commerce, tourists and cultural exchanges. They are also points of entry for more than 12 million illegal immigrants who have crossed our borders and stayed in our country. If Congress, led by the new Democratic majority, grants amnesty to illegal immigrants, the repercussions will be significant and long-lasting.

As Congress prepares to re-examine the illegal immigration issue, it is imperative that we avoid re-enacting the failed policies of the past. The driving force behind illegal immigration is the promise of employment. Employers who hire illegal immigrants knowingly are undermining the entire immigration process. This is why so many illegal immigrants are drawn to America: They want jobs and jobs are being made available to them.

The strong incentive created by employment opportunities is forcing us to change the standards employers are using to hire workers. If we create a tamper-proof Social Security card that every new worker would need to gain employment, employers would have the tools they need to distinguish who is here legally or illegally. Once this system is put into place, it will be much easier to hold employers accountable for hiring illegal immigrants.

There couldn't be a better time to implement employer enforcement measures than with the commencing of a new Congress. That is why I have partnered with Congressman David Dreier, R-San Dimas, to introduce legislation that would put into place a tamper-proof Social Security card that every new worker would need to gain employment. We must have the will to enforce our existing laws, create a tamper-proof Social Security card and punish employers who hire illegal immigrants.



On the Floor This Week

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

H.R. 5 - To reduce interest rates for student borrowers (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. George Miller / Education and Labor Committee)

Thursday, January 18, 2007

H.R. 6 - Encouraging U.S. Dependence on Foreign Energy (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Rangel / Ways and Means Committee, Natural Resources Committee)

H.R. ___ - Strengthening the Page Board of the House of Representatives (Subject to a Rule)

Friday, January 19, 2007

H.R. ___ - Congressional pension accountability (Subject to a Rule)

Complete Floor Schedule available at: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov>

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