

Good News on Completing the Katy Freeway and Securing Our Border

Dear District Seven Neighbor:

You will be pleased to hear that our southern border is much more secure today in the Laredo and Del Rio Sectors because, for the first time, a 55-year-old law against illegal entry is being enforced with zero tolerance. The Brownsville Sector is next, and I will not rest until zero tolerance is standard Border Patrol operating procedure from Brownsville to San Diego. A second piece of good news for west Houston is that the Katy Freeway reconstruction will be done in record time, and we can expect to see it completely finished in about eight months.

My first promise to you in 2001 when I was sworn in as your new Congressman was to do whatever it took to get the Katy Freeway rebuilt as fast as humanly possible. In January 2001, the project was short more than \$500 million, and we were told it would be finished as late as 2016. That situation was unacceptable, so I found a federal law that allowed the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to partner with the Harris County Toll Road Authority to expand the freeway. Former County Judge Robert Eckels and I helped persuade TxDOT and state and local officials to join us in presenting this unique partnership to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The initial answer from FHWA was "no," but since I never give up, I was finally able to get the federal application approved with the help of Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters.

No one else in America is building a freeway as quickly or as efficiently as we are in west Houston. Not only will this one of a kind use of locally operated toll lanes on an Interstate freeway cut our construction time in half, but the infusion of Harris County Toll Road Authority dollars up front has allowed the freeway to be expanded without any additional federal highway dollars. As a dedicated fiscal conservative, I can proudly report that I have kept my



On November 10, Congressman Culberson proudly watched TxDOT and Williams Brothers' expert team hang 1.8 million pounds of USA made super strength steel beams on the new 145 foot high overpasses at Beltway 8 and I-10.

first promise to you by getting federal approval to rebuild the Katy Freeway in record time, and as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have not had to earmark or send a single federal dollar to the I-10/West Loop reconstruction, even though it is the largest freeway construction project in the history of Texas.

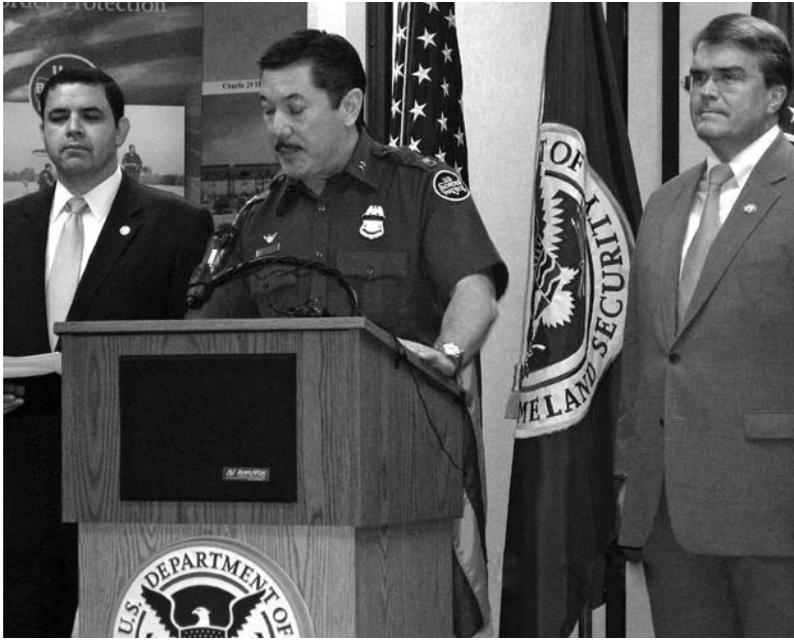
In the meantime, I will continue supporting our troops in the War on Terror while working to cut federal spending and taxes, abolishing the income tax and replacing it with a national consumption tax, and keeping our economy strong by promoting the free market forces. I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of representing you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Culberson".

John Culberson
Member of Congress





Congressman Culberson meets with local border patrol to announce the zero tolerance policy. "I would like to especially thank Representative John Culberson for his support of the program. Unquestionably, his profound interest in border security and his first-hand familiarity with Streamline-Del Rio proved to be the catalyst that made Streamline-Laredo a reality today. [Beginning on] October 30...zero-tolerance.. will become standard operating procedure [just] like in Del Rio, TX and Yuma, AZ."

~ Laredo Border Patrol Sector Chief Carlos Carrillo, October 26, 2007

ZERO TOLERANCE

Now that my first commitment to District 7 is almost finished, I have been relentlessly focused on securing our borders and enforcing our immigration laws. Since the nation's top law enforcement officials in Washington have not acted, I have bypassed headquarters in D.C. and gone straight to the local law enforcement authorities along the border.

On October 26th, Laredo Border Patrol Sector Chief Carlos Carrillo joined Laredo Congressman Henry Cuellar and I to announce a zero tolerance policy in which every illegal alien crossing into the U.S. in the Laredo Sector will be arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated for up to six months under existing law. Chief Carrillo has strong support because the local community in Laredo wants safe streets for their children just as we do for our children. In the Del Rio Sector, where zero tolerance is already in effect, illegal border crossings have dropped 52%, drug seizures are up 50%, and their overall crime rate has dropped 76% because officers now have more time to focus on dangerous criminals. The county jail has vacancies because illegal crossings have plummeted in Del Rio.

My next goal is to implement zero tolerance in the Brownsville Sector, then I will start moving west until zero tolerance is in place along the entire southern border. Once the border is secure and our immigration laws are enforced, we need to fix our existing visa system so honest people can come to America legally to work. Above all, we must never reward citizenship or legal status to those who break our immigration laws.

SCHIP

I voted to uphold President Bush's veto of the Democrats' State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill for three reasons. First, it allows illegal immigrants to enroll in SCHIP. Section 211 of the bill repeals the current law that SCHIP

applicants prove they are in the country legally to be eligible for the program. This important proof of legal status is replaced with a useless requirement that states check names against the Social Security Administration (SSA) database. Hundreds of thousands of fraudulent Social Security numbers have been issued and the SSA admits they have no way to determine if a person is a citizen or if they are using a false identity.

Second, the SCHIP bill costs \$35 billion more than the current program, and the price tag will skyrocket not only because illegal immigrants can enroll, but also because states can set their own income eligibility standards. For example, New York's legislature has passed a bill to provide state-funded health insurance for a family of four earning as much as \$83,000 per year, and the bill would allow New York to put these families on SCHIP at federal taxpayers' expense.

Third, the bill would push private insurers out of the market and replace them with government run health care. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Democrats' bill would shift 2 million children from private coverage to SCHIP. When the federal government provides health insurance, consumers lose the freedom and innovation that private plans offer, and costs go through the roof. The current SCHIP works and we should pass a clean extension of the program for poor American children instead of



Congressman Culberson discusses the future of medicine with members of the Alliance for NanoHealth. Front Row, L-R: Dr. John Mendelsohn, M.D. Anderson; Congressman Culberson; Dr. James T. Willerson, University of Texas Health Science Center; 2nd row, L-R: Dr. Peter R. Hoffmann, University of Texas Medical Branch; Dr. Mauro Ferrari, Director of the Alliance for NanoHealth; Dr. Robert Curl, Rice University; Dr. Thomas Caskey, UTHSC. Taken by Ester Fant, Graphic Communications of the UTHSC.



Congressman Culberson proudly attends the Purple Heart Presentation for Mr. Ed Peniche, a member of the 101st Airborne who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. From left to right: BG Ostermann, CPT Scott Forbes, Mr. Ed Peniche, Congressman Culberson, LTC John Antal (US Army Ret), and Mr. Ed Tucker, VA Medical Center Director.

expanding it to cover illegal aliens and middle class families.

Congress should use free market principles and common sense to control rising health care costs by allowing small businesses to pool their resources so their employees can afford to buy coverage. I also support expanding the deductibility of health insurance premiums and passing nationwide tort reforms modeled on Texas law protecting doctors from frivolous lawsuits.

For the long term, I am committed to doubling our nation's investment in medical and scientific research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Their research holds the promise to cure and prevent major diseases such as cancer and diabetes, which will dramatically lower health care costs for all Americans and make health insurance more affordable. I am proud to help fund the groundbreaking research being done at Rice University and M.D. Anderson with gold nanoshells. These nanoshells have proven nearly 100 percent effective at destroying tumors in mice without damaging healthy cells. Clinical trials for this promising new treatment are already underway.

AMT

After passing a budget that included the largest tax increase in history, Democrats recently unveiled another

massive tax hike. This proposal would eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, but would replace it with \$1.331 trillion in new taxes on millions of Americans.

For years I have worked to repeal the AMT because it unfairly targets middle class families. This regressive tax was intended for only the wealthiest Americans, but since it was never indexed for inflation, the IRS collects an increasing share of it from ordinary, hard working families. I support abolishing the AMT outright, but as a matter of principle I cannot support tax increases to pay for tax relief. Tax cuts always pay for themselves by stimulating economic

growth, and we should stay focused on cutting both spending and taxes.

The Democrat plan contains more than 20 tax increases, including higher taxes on investors and married couples with joint incomes over \$200,000. They would also raise the top tax bracket from 35 to 44 percent, making it one of the highest in the world. By 2012, this would result in \$3,300 more in taxes for the average District 7 household. At least 24 million small business owners who file individual rather than corporate returns would owe more money to the IRS under this plan. Since 99% of the businesses in America are small businesses, and they create two out of every three new jobs, these taxes would do irreparable damage to our economy.

Our government works best when it is small and efficient, not when it expands out of control by pocketing more of your hard earned dollars. I am working with my colleagues in Congress on tax reform proposals like the Fair Tax because taxes should be clear, simple, and affordable. I have co-authored the Fair Tax to abolish the income tax and replace it with a national consumption tax which will get the IRS completely out of our lives and encourage hard work, investment, and savings.



Congressman Culberson met with Bunker Hill and Wilchester Elementary Schools after arranging their tour of the U.S. Capitol.



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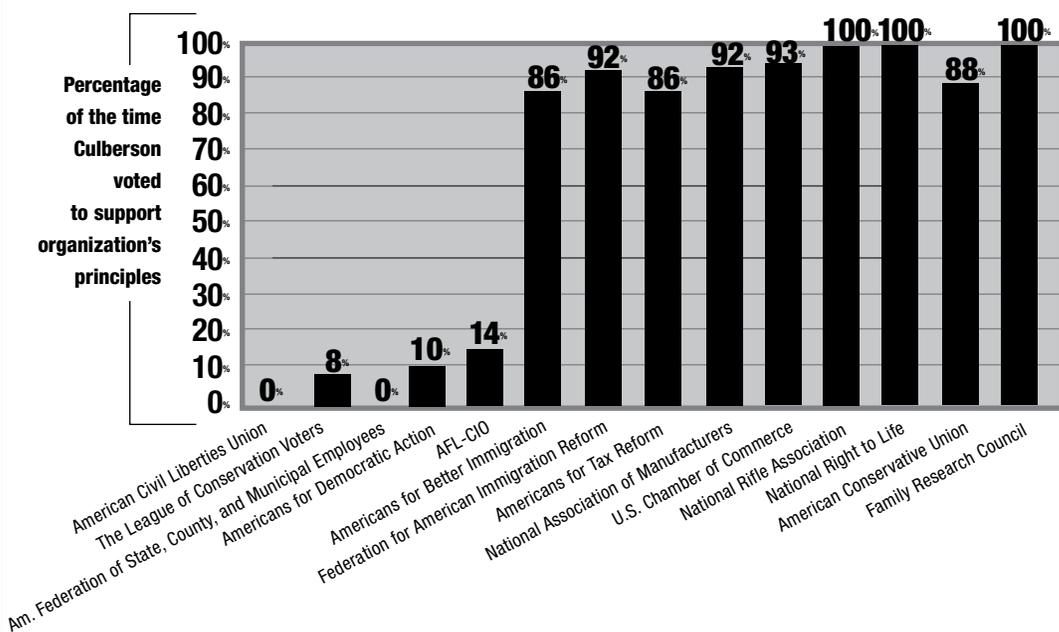
Internet:

www.culberson.house.gov

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to sign up for
email reports on legislation.

John Culberson's Voting Record

Percentage is based on the most recent congressional votes scored by a variety of interest groups ranging from liberal to conservative (from left to right)



Use an internet search engine to find these organizations' websites so you can analyze my votes for yourself.