

REINS Act Will Reform Regulatory Process

By Rep. Geoff Davis

At a time when our economy is struggling to recover, Congress has the responsibility to do everything in its power to reduce the costs added by government to doing business and thereby encourage the investment that will lead to economic growth and more American jobs.

A sensible regulatory code will reduce fees, decrease compliance costs and improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy. It would allow hospitals and doctors to focus more on caring for their patients, and less on burdensome and often unnecessary or duplicative paperwork.

The Small Business Administration estimates the annual cost of federal regulations in the United States exceeded \$1.75 trillion in 2008. To put that number into perspective, this amounts to almost double the amount of all individual income taxes collected last year.

The past two years have not provided any relief. American businesses, local governments, doctors and hospitals have been hit with an explosion of new taxes, regulations and uncertainty that increase the cost of doing business and make it more difficult to expand and hire additional employees or practice medicine at a reasonable price for consumers.

Excessive regulations also can have a direct impact on American families, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet, by increasing the costs of food, medicine, doctor visits and utility bills for basic services, such as electricity, water and sewer rates.

Anytime a regulation or rule produced by an executive branch agency can have this kind of impact and broad reaching implications on our economy, it should be subject to the review of Congress. This is the idea behind H.R. 10 – [the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny \(REINS\) Act](#), legislation that I introduced to provide greater accountability and transparency in the regulatory process.

The REINS Act would require an up-or-down vote by both the House and the Senate on all rules with an economic impact of more than \$100 million dollars, and the signature of the President, before they can be enforced on the American public.

Along with other measures being taken by the House of Representatives, the REINS Act will help reduce the burden of government to get our economy moving, get more Americans back to work, and help us continue the highest quality health care system in the world.

For more information on the REINS Act, please visit my website at <http://geoffdavis.house.gov/REINS> or on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/REINSact>

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