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After health care vote, Stupak 11 request billions in earmarks

By Anupama Narayanswamy and Bill Allison Mar 26 2010 11:14 a.m. [2 comments](#)

[Note: this post has been [corrected](#).]

A day after Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and ten other House members compromised on their pro-life objections to the bill to deliver the necessary yes-votes to pass health care reform, the "Stupak 11" released their fiscal year 2011 earmark requests, which [total more than \\$3.4 billion](#)--an average of \$314 million worth of earmark requests for each lawmaker. *

The eleven members were the focus of high level pressure by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats because they threatened to vote against the health care reform bill, which [passed the House](#) on Sunday, March 21, by a seven vote margin. Granting earmark requests are one of the ways leadership can encourage members to vote their way.

Stupak requested more than \$578 million in earmarks, including \$125 million for a replacement lock on the [Sault Ste. Marie](#), \$25.6 million to build a [federal courthouse](#) in Marquette, Mich., \$15 million to repaint the [Mackinac Bridge](#) and \$800,000 to preserve the [Quincy Mining Company smelter](#) near Hancock in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

In 2009, the first year that members disclosed earmark requests, most members requested far more earmarks than were funded by the Appropriations Committee, which approves or denies requests. According to [Taxpayers for Common Sense](#), Stupak's funded earmarks--including those he requested jointly with other members--totaled \$28.6 million.

Despite a newly enacted ban on earmarks to for-profit firms, Stupak requested a total of \$52 million for companies in his district out of the \$65.9 million he [requested](#) from the Defense Appropriations bill.

Requests from Costello increased the most, but that was due to a \$1.35 billion request to fund federal program called Impact Aid, which assists local educational agencies. Costello, along with 44 other lawmakers, signed a letter sent to the Appropriations Committee requesting the funds. Earlier this month, House Republicans decided to [forgo earmarks](#) for the 2011 appropriations process. House Democrats barred earmarks to for-profit companies, which mostly impacts contractors seeking earmarks from the Defense Appropriations bill.

Universities and non-profit organizations may reap the benefits of the new policy, though for-profit companies won't be shut out. Stupak requested a \$4 million earmark for the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research,

Inc., a nonprofit corporation that researches and develops new strains of seeds--including through genetic engineering--to aid U.S. agriculture. The consortium's membership includes "39 agribusiness companies and trade associations," according to Stupak's [request](#).

The Reporting Group will follow the appropriations process to try to determine whether political influence plays a role in which earmark requests are funded.

*-We had an error in the spreadsheet that accompanied this story. Rep. Charlie Wilson's earmarks were overstated by a factor of ten. The spreadsheet has since been corrected, as has the story. We regret the error, and have posted more detail [here](#).

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Comments

1. bruno

Thank you for illuminating things. I am not surprised, and I think this would enhance their chances of getting bounced out of office this November. No laying low for this bunch.

2. [JOHN CALOMIRIS](#)

Y ou know who the losers are in this ?The Demcratic party ,The Catholic Church and all those who value 30 pieces of silver over truth and honesty

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