

Today, the 112th Congress will be sworn in. While some might see this as a formality, I believe that it is an important reminder that we act under the authority of the Constitution and within the powers it delegates to us.

## **The Oath**

Article VI of the [Constitution](#) , states that "The Senators and Representatives shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution."

I, along with my colleagues from across the country, will take this Oath today:

*"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."*

Fidelity to this Oath is about much more than lip-service. It means knowing what the Constitution says and considering each vote in light of the Oath we take at the beginning of each legislative session.

## **The Job**

After the 112th Congress is seated, we will get to work. Here's a quick look at what I've been doing and what we expect to change this Congress.

- For the first time ever, this session of Congress will begin with a public reading of the U.S. Constitution.
- In the new Congress, floor time will not be spent on symbolic resolutions.

- Every bill introduced in the 112th Congress will have to cite the section of the Constitution which gives Congress authority to enact it.
- In January, we expect to vote on legislation to repeal the government takeover of the health care industry which was enacted last year.
- I have cosponsored legislation to repeal the 1099 reporting requirement in the health care law, which burdens job creators with the requirement to report every business transaction that costs more than \$600.
- The House Rules Package, which lays out how the House will do business this Congress, includes my amendment requiring each committee to include proposals for eliminating wasteful spending in their oversight plan.
- One of our first priorities on January 6th will be to vote on legislation reducing the amount of money the House of Representatives spends on day-to-day operations.

[Let me know](#) what you think. What else should be our list of top priorities?