



This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

A printable version of this E-Newsletter will also be available on my website www.house.gov/kilpatrick

Legislative Action From the Weeks Of 5/19/06 & 5/26/06

H. Con. Res. 376, the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution

H.R. 5386, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill

H.R. 5384, the Agricultural Appropriations Bill

H.R. 5429, the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act

H.R. 5427, the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

REAL SECURITY

The Democratic Plan to Protect America and Restore Our Leadership in the World

House & Senate Democrats unveiled the comprehensive Democratic plan to protect America: Real Security. The Democratic plan for Real Security will protect Americans and restore our country's position of international leadership.

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In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Presents Medals to WWII Veteran

Helpful Resources

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#)

Printable booklet of homeownership resources.

[Medicare's New Prescription Drug Plans](#)

Printable handout with important facts to help you understand the program.

[Energy Saving](#)

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your energy efficiency in both your home and on the road.

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Michigan's 13th
Congressional District's
[HOME PAGE](#)



Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Weeks Ending 5/19/2006 & 5/26/2006

H. Con. Res. 376, the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution

The resolution calls for spending \$2.8 trillion in FY 2007, with a deficit of \$348.1 billion. It provides for \$872.8 billion in discretionary spending (appropriations), but also provides for \$50 billion in emergency appropriations above that level for the war on Iraq and against international terrorism, another \$4.3 billion for non-defense emergencies such as hurricanes and floods, and another \$2.3 billion in emergency funds to fight the avian flu. Defense spending would increase by 7% and homeland security spending would rise by 3.6%. For the years after FY 2007, the resolution essentially freezes non-defense discretionary spending at the same level for fiscal years 2008 through FY 2010. The resolution cuts funding for education \$2.2 billion below last year's comparable level and eliminates 42 education programs. It cuts veterans' health care by \$6 billion below current service levels over five years. Health care funding is reduced \$20 billion below current services over five years. Environmental protection is reduced \$2.9 billion for next year and cut \$25 billion relative to current services over the next five years. It provides for \$228 billion in tax cuts over five years, but does not include tax cuts in its reconciliation instructions, thereby providing no protection from filibusters in the Senate for tax cut legislation. Also, the resolution calls for an additional \$653 billion increase in the debt limit. In the last five years, Congress has increased the legal debt ceiling four times, totaling \$3 trillion. I voted against this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 218 to 210.

H.R. 5386, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill

This bill appropriates \$25.9 billion, which is \$142 million (1%) less than the current funding level but \$412 million (2%) more than the administration's request. The bill [provides \\$1 million to the City of Detroit Water & Sewage department](#) to upgrade and maintain water treatment and sewage facilities. The measure reduces funding below the current level for most programs, including the EPA, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and generally cuts grant programs in all agencies. The bill increases funding over this year for fire-fighting accounts, which total \$2.6 billion, and for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, which is funded at \$244 million. The measure earmarks \$1 million for the National Park Service to re-open the Statue of Liberty to the public, and earmarks \$5 million for a 9/11 memorial in Pennsylvania for the passengers and crew of United Flight 93. The bill continues a decades-long moratorium on new offshore oil and natural gas production along the outer continental shelf (OCS). It prohibits the Interior Department from granting new offshore drilling leases to existing lessees, if those current lessees' contracts do not require federal royalty payments if energy prices exceed certain limits. The bill does not, however, suspend the waiver of royalty payments for oil and gas production under current federal leases when average market prices rise above certain levels. The bill is silent on the issue of global warming; a provision that would have called for a national program to reduce greenhouse emissions was struck by a point of order. I voted against this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 293 to 128.

H.R. 5384, the Agricultural Appropriations Bill

This bill appropriates \$93.6 billion for agricultural and other related programs. This is \$8 billion (8%) less than the current level, but \$258 million more than requested. The bill included two very important measures that affect our district as well as the nation. The [Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#), which provides a monthly nutritious food supplement to low-income pregnant and postpartum mothers, children under the age of six, and seniors 60 and over, was funded at \$118.3 million—\$11 million above last year. The program is currently distributed to 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations. The nationwide monthly caseload was 477,157 in FY06. The measure also funds the eradication of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at \$20 million, \$6 million above last year. The EAB is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the ability of trees to transport water and nutrients. I voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 378 to 46.

H.R. 5429, the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act

The House passed H.R. 5429, the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, which would open up 1.5 million acres in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration and production, and would require environmental reviews in hopes of ensuring that drilling activities would not negatively impact local wildlife or their habitats. All production would be utilized solely to enhance domestic supplies; exporting oil or gas from the region would be prohibited. Companies buying leases would be required to pay royalties on their production, half of which would go the State of Alaska and the other half to the federal treasury. Many opposed the bill, fearing that development in ANWR will destroy a one-of-a-kind habitat for an insignificant amount of fuel that will do nothing to reverse our country's dependence on foreign oil. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated that 10.4 billion barrels are recoverable in ANWR; however, the country currently imports 13 million barrels of foreign oil per day. The Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the measure, did not conduct any hearings on the bill that was introduced on May 19. However, the language in the bill is almost identical to ANWR provisions that have passed the House in the past few years, but did not pass the Senate. I voted against the bill, which passed the House by a vote of 225 to 201.

H.R. 5427, the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

The House passed H.R. 5427, a bill which outlines funding for the nation's water projects, programs within the Department of Energy, and some defense-related programs for fiscal year 2007. The bill provides a total of \$30.5 billion for all programs in 2007, including \$5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$24.4 billion for Energy Department programs. Within that total, \$250,000 is set aside for an investigation on the Detroit River Greenway Corridor project to study shoreline protection, frontal erosion, and related purposes of the shoreline area from the Bell Isle Bridge to the Ambassador Bridge. Also included in the fiscal year 2007 funding is [\\$750,000 for the City of Wyandotte](#) for the continuation of an innovative project to install renewable wind energy turbines on an urban brownfields site. I voted in favor of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 404 to 20.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the [Library of Congress' legislative information site at http://thomas.loc.gov/.](http://thomas.loc.gov/)

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Presents Medals to WWII Veteran

Congresswoman Kilpatrick presented Malcolm Muszynski with several medals, including a Purple Heart which he had never received, during a recent River Rouge City Council Meeting. Mr. Muszynski, a River Rouge native and retired firefighter, earned the medals for his heroic efforts as a member of the United States Army during World War II. Many members of the community, including personnel from the fire department, and Mr. Muszynski's family and friends were in attendance to acknowledge his distinguished service. "I am proud to honor Mr. Muszynski for his courage and commitment. He has served his country and community well," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "Mr. Muszynski, the many other brave men and women who sacrificed in the name of freedom, and their families deserve our gratitude and respect."



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