



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 Week of 6/9/06

H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2007

H.R. 5521, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2007

H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Honors High School Art Students

June 11th-17th is National Flag Week

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.

[<View More>](#)

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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Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 6/9/06

H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2007

The bill provides a total of \$32.1 billion in discretionary spending for these programs in 2007, including \$19.6 billion for border security and immigration enforcement and \$4.2 billion for port and cargo security. The bill funds the Transportation Security Administration at \$6.4 billion, 1% more than it received in 2006. Customs and Border Protection also received \$6.4 billion, which will be combined with \$1.3 billion in fees, for a total of \$7.7 billion in spending for the agency. The bill provides \$2.6 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and \$2.5 billion for state and local grant and training programs. During consideration, an amendment was adopted to provide \$4.2 million for fire safety grants. The bill withholds \$1.3 billion until the Department of Homeland Security provides Congress with requested strategic plans and spending justifications for various programs. I supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 389 to 9.

H.R. 5521, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2007

This bill appropriates \$3 billion for the legislative branch in FY 2007, including \$1.1 billion for operations of the House of Representatives, \$24 million for joint items of the House and Senate, and \$1.9 billion for other offices and legislative branch agencies that provide direct and indirect support for congressional operations—including the Capitol Police, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Library of Congress, General Accounting Office (GAO), and Government Printing Office (GPO). A provision in the House passed bill would strip the office of the architect of the Capitol of any authority over the Capitol Visitor Center. All functions of the office would be transferred to the Government Accountability Office, effective October 1, until a new architect is confirmed. The Senate is likely to oppose the transfer provision in conference. Originally budgeted at \$265 million, the Capitol Visitor Center now carries a minimum price tag of at least \$556 million, according to a GAO estimate. I voted in favor of this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 361 to 53.

H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act

The House passed H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act, which would establish a new federal coordinator to oversee and expedite the building of new oil refineries. The measure also directs the President to choose three sites suitable for building new oil refineries on former military bases, and requires the Environmental Protection Agency to provide financial assistance to states in order to smooth the process of applying new refinery permits. While facts support the claim that the number of domestic refineries has declined over the past few decades, there has been no indication this was caused by burdensome regulation. Concerns were also raised on the floor that the bill weakens environmental permitting despite a lack of evidence that environmental regulations have delayed construction of oil refineries. Because this measure would not increase the supply of gasoline or lower gasoline prices, and is unlikely to prompt construction of new refineries, I voted against it. The measure passed the House by a vote of 238 to 79.

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

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Honors High School Art Students

Congresswoman Kilpatrick presented awards to James French and Amanda Prescott, the first and second place winners of "An Artistic Discovery," during a brief ceremony at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte.



"James and Amanda are among the many gifted and talented students in southeast Michigan," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "I

am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge their creativity and artistic ability." This is the tenth year Congresswoman Kilpatrick has offered "An Artistic Discovery." More information about this year's winners is available on my [website](#).

June 11th-17th is National Flag Week



Each year on June 14, we celebrate the birthday of the Stars and Stripes, which came into being on June 14, 1777. At that time, the Second Continental Congress authorized a new flag to symbolize the new nation, the United States of America. The Stars and Stripes first flew in a Flag Day celebration in 1861,

during the first summer of the Civil War. The first national observance of Flag Day occurred June 14, 1877, the centennial of the original flag resolution. In the years to follow, public sentiment for a national Flag Day observance greatly intensified. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14. Congress made this day a permanent observance in 1949. The measure was signed into law by President Harry Truman. Although Flag Day is not celebrated as a federal holiday, Americans everywhere continue to honor the history and heritage it represents. Today, once again, our Flag is flying over battlefields in faraway and distant lands. It is being carried into battle by the many young men and women of our nation who have been called to duty to promote and defend the principles of the democracy that our flag represents. During this time of war, let us pay special honor to our soldiers—those on the battlefield and those who stand at the ready—by honoring the Flag under which they serve.

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