



Washington Weekly

February 5, 2007



U. S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

This weekly e-newsletter summarizes events taking place in the U. S. Congress that affect the State of Michigan, with particular emphasis on Michigan's 13th Congressional District. A printable version of this e-newsletter will also be available on my website: www.house.gov/kilpatrick.

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the "100 Hours" Agenda (1/4/07-1/19/07)

During the Democrats' "100 Hours" Agenda, Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported legislation that addressed the needs of America's families and constituents of the 13th Congressional District.

H. Res. 6 – Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress

Lawmakers passed a rules package promoting Honest Leadership and Open Government and Fiscal Responsibility. This Ethics legislation bans travel and gifts from lobbyists and opens conference committee meetings to members of both parties. It also requires ethics training for all staff and ensures transparency in the earmark process. The Fiscal Responsibility legislation requires pay-as-you-go budget discipline with no new deficit spending.

H. R. 1 - Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act

This bill implements recommendations of the September 11 commission, including requiring homeland security grants to be provided primarily on the basis of risk while ensuring minimum amounts for each state. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted for this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 299 to 128.

H. R. 2 - Fair Minimum Wage Act

This bill increases the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 over a two-year period. The Congresswoman supported this bipartisan legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 315 to 116.

H. R. 3 - Stem Cell Enhancement Act

The DeGette-Castle bill would expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, using stem cell lines generated from embryos that would have otherwise been discarded by fertility clinics. Specifically, the bill increases the number of "lines" of stem cells that would be eligible to be used in federally funded research. It requires that any stem cells used in research must be from embryos from in vitro fertilization clinics that would otherwise be discarded. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted for this measure, which passed by a vote of 253 to 174.

H. R. 4 - Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act

This bill gives the Health and Human Services secretary broad authority to negotiate the price of drugs available under the Medicare prescription drug program with drug companies. It also permits Medicare Part D drug plans to obtain discounts or lower prices below those negotiated by the Secretary. This measure also requires HHS to conduct such cost-saving negotiations without restricting access to certain medicines in Medicare, for example by requiring a particular formulary (i.e., a list of covered drugs) to be used by Medicare drug plans. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 255 to 170.

H. R. 5 - College Student Relief Act

Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored this bill, which will cut interest rates on need-based federal college loans in half over the next five years. The measure passed the House by a vote of 256 to 71.

based federal college loans in half over the next five years. The measure passed the House by a vote of 356 to 71.

H. R. 6 – The CLEAN Energy Act

This bill repeals the \$14 billion in subsidies given to Big Oil companies and invests those funds in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored this legislation, which passed by a vote of 264 to 163.

H. Res. 15 – Resolution Honoring Former President Gerald Ford

This bill mourns the passing of President Gerald Rudolph Ford and celebrates his leadership and service to the people of the United States. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this measure, which passed the House unanimously. To read the Congresswoman's statement about President Ford, click [here](#).

H. Res. 35 - Select Intelligence Oversight Panel

This bill amends House rules to create a new Select Intelligence Oversight Panel within the House Appropriations Committee. Its purpose is to enhance intelligence oversight authority. The Congresswoman voted in support of this legislation, which passed the by a vote of 239 to 188.

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

Contact Me

[Email Congresswoman Kilpatrick](#)

1274 Library, Suite 1B
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-9004
(313) 965-9006 Fax

3005 Biddle St., Room A
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 246-0780
(734) 246-1148 Fax

2264 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2261
(202) 225-5730 Fax

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In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Congratulated on Her Election as CBC Chairperson at Reception

Last month, Congresswoman Kilpatrick was sworn-in as the 20th Chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) during a special ceremony at the Library of Congress. The Congresswoman is the fifth woman to serve as Chairperson and the first woman to lead the organization during a Presidential election since 1980.

Recently, family members, friends, and constituents congratulated the Congresswoman on her new leadership role. This celebratory reception took place at the Motown Mansion in Detroit.

The CBC, known as the “conscience of Congress,” represents more than 40 million Americans and works to address the needs of African Americans and other minorities and people across the globe. For more information about the CBC, call (202) 226-9776.



Congresswoman Kilpatrick addresses the audience at the CBC Swearing-in Ceremony. (Photo by Monica Morgan)

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