



Washington Weekly

July 13, 2007



13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

U. S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

This 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 for 07/09/07 through 07/13/07

H.R. 2669, The College Cost Reduction Act — This legislation helps make college more affordable for millions of students and families at no new cost to U.S. taxpayers. The bill boosts college financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years, reduces excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college loan industry by \$19 billion, and includes nearly \$1 billion in federal budget deficit reduction. The measure increases the purchasing power of the Pell Grant and cuts interest rates on need-based student loans in half over the next five years. The bill also makes student loan payments more manageable by guaranteeing that borrowers will not have to pay more than 15% of their yearly discretionary income on loan repayments and by allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years. The measure also provides tuition assistance to students who agree to teach in public schools, grants loan forgiveness for public service professionals, and makes a landmark investment of \$500 million in minority serving institutions over five years. Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 273 to 149.

H.R. 2956, The Responsible Deployment from Iraq Act — This week, the House reaffirmed its support for a new direction in Iraq. This bill requires American forces to begin redeploying within 120 days and to complete the transition to a limited presence in Iraq by April 1, 2008. It also requires the President to publicly justify the post-redeployment missions for U.S. military in Iraq and the minimum number of troops necessary to carry out those missions. This bill is consistent with the advice of military and foreign policy experts, ensures the safety of men and women in uniform, addresses our commitment to fighting terrorism, and reflects the will of the American people. The Congresswoman voted for this measure; it passed by a vote of 223 to 201. To read Congresswoman Kilpatrick's statement on this bill, click [here](#).

H.R. 1851, Section 8 Voucher Reform Act — Section 8 housing vouchers provide vital rental assistance for low-income families, seniors, and the disabled. This measure reforms the formula used to allocate voucher funds to housing agencies to increase the number of families receiving vouchers by eliminating inefficiencies that have resulted in \$1.4 billion in unused funds and by providing incentives for agencies to use funds to assist more families. The bill allows families to use housing vouchers as a down payment on a first-time home purchase and increases voucher opportunities for lower-income working families in rural families. This legislation changes rent calculation, recertification, and inspection rules for the voucher, public housing, and project-based Section 8 programs to reduce costs and compliance burdens for public housing agencies, landlords, and families. It also makes a number of changes, including provisions to preserve voucher families' ability to move to other areas and to protect voucher holders in units that are in need of repair, for the benefit of federally-assisted families. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 333 to 83.

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

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Congressional District
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Congresswoman Kilpatrick Participates in Second Annual NeighborWorks® Week Festivities

Congresswoman Kilpatrick celebrated the second annual NeighborWorks® Week—a national observance highlighting the accomplishments of organizations working together to revitalize communities—with Southwest Solutions and Latin Americans for Social & Economic Development (LA SED). The Congresswoman joined community residents, leaders, and volunteers in celebrating the grand opening of the new LA SED building and the completion of beautification projects in Clark Park. “I commend you for the great work you are doing to strengthen families in our community,” said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. “Your efforts not only stimulate change in our neighborhoods, but they also transform lives by empowering families and providing them with the support and resources they need to reach their full potential.”

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