



# Washington Weekly

February 26, 2008



U. S. Congresswoman  
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

*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](http://www.house.gov/kilpatrick).*

## Hill Highlights

Legislative Action for 1/28/08 through 2/15/08

**H. R. 5349/ Extending the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA):** This bill would have extended the Protect America Act of 2007 for 21 days beyond its current expiration date of February 16. The act amended the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to expand the authority of the attorney general and the director of National Intelligence to conduct surveillance of suspected foreign terrorists without court warrant. A "nay" vote would support the President's position; Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted "aye." With a vote of 191 to 229, this legislation failed to pass the House.

**H. Res 979 and H. Res 980/ Miers and Bolton Contempt Resolution:** This bill would adopt the self-executing rule (H. Res. 982) that would provide for the adoption of two privileged resolutions. The first resolution (H. Res. 979) would recommend that the House of Representatives find former White House counsel Harriet Miers and White House Chief of staff Joshua Bolten in contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with subpoenas issued by the Judiciary Committee regarding the dismissal of eight U.S. attorneys in December 2006. The second resolution (H. Res. 980) would authorize the Judiciary Committee to initiate or intervene in judicial proceedings to enforce certain subpoenas. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 223 to 32.

**H. R. 4137/College Opportunity and Affordability Act:** This legislation is designed to address the soaring price of college tuition and remove other obstacles that make it harder for qualified students to go to college. It encourages colleges to rein in price increases, ensures that states maintain their commitments to higher education funding, and provides students and families with consumer friendly information on college pricing and the factors driving tuition increases. This measure also requires better consumer disclosures and protections on private student loans, streamlines the federal student financial aid application process, allows students to receive year-round Pell Grants, increases college aid and support programs for veterans and military families, improves safety on college campuses and helps schools recover and rebuild after disasters, ensures equal college opportunities and fair learning environments for students with disabilities, and strengthens our nation's workforce and economic competitiveness by boosting science, technology, and foreign language educational opportunities. The Congresswoman supported this legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 354 to 58.

**H.R. 5140/Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act:** This legislation provides a tax rebate for low and middle-income families, senior citizens, and disabled veterans who are suffering because of the economic downturn. About 4.5 million families in Michigan will receive an estimated \$3.8 billion in tax rebates. The bipartisan legislation also includes tax cuts for small businesses, doubling the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments and encouraging investments in new equipment. Additionally, the plan offers immediate tax relief for all businesses that invest in new plants and equipment by speeding up depreciation provisions so that firms can write off an additional 50% for investments purchased in 2008. The stimulus plan also includes provisions to help families and businesses during the downturn. The bill also provides affordable mortgage

for investments purchased in 2008. The stimulus plan also includes provisions to help families avoid losing their homes to foreclosure. The bill expands affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure through the Federal Housing Administration. To enhance credit availability in the mortgage market, the measure also includes a one-year increase in the loan limits for single-family homes from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 385 to 35. To find out if you qualify and how to get your rebate check, click [here](#).

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



## In the District

**Congresswoman Kilpatrick Welcomes Troops Home from Iraq.** Congresswoman Kilpatrick welcomed home members of the 182nd Security Force, who recently returned home from Iraq. The unit, which never lost a convoy, was awarded 26 Bronze Star Medals, 49 Combat Action Badges, and two Purple Heart Medals. During the celebration at the Light Guard Armory in Detroit, the Congresswoman congratulated the troops on their accomplishments, especially for ensuring that all members of the unit returned home safely. She also expressed her gratitude to the troops and their families for their service and sacrifice and urged them to call on her if they need assistance.



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