



# Washington Weekly

March 28, 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 2/25/08 through 3/14/08

High energy prices continue to affect American families. Oil companies are reporting record profits, while America's families are struggling to manage skyrocketing gas prices and home heating oil costs. **H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act**, makes new investments that will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil, increase renewable electricity production, create jobs, and protect our environment. This measure helps working families reduce their fuel bills by providing between \$4,000 and \$6,000 in tax credits toward the purchase of fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles. It also provides tax incentives to help homeowners and businesses reduce their energy costs by investing in energy efficient property. The bill repeals \$18 billion in unnecessary tax subsidies for big, multinational oil and gas companies. To ensure that oil and gas companies are paying their fair share of taxes, the bill closes a tax loophole that allows big oil and gas companies operating overseas to game the system by understating their foreign oil and gas extraction income. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 236 to 182.

Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored landmark legislation aimed at ending discrimination against patients requiring treatment for mental illnesses. **H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act**, permanently reauthorizes and expands the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 to provide for equity in the coverage of mental health and substance-related disorders compared to medical and surgical disorders. The legislation, which applies only to insurers and group health plans that provide mental health benefits, ensures that providers do not charge higher costs for mental health and addiction care than for medical and surgical benefits. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Internal Revenue Service may penalize health plans for discriminatory practices under the bill, and individuals may bring a private right of action to receive covered benefits. This measure passed the House by a vote of 268 to 148.

**H. Con. Res. 312, the House Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009**, will strengthen the economy and make America safer. The fiscally responsible budget makes key investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will create hundreds of thousands of green jobs. The budget also puts family budgets first, helps to make everything from energy to food to a college education affordable, and lowers taxes for middle class families. The budget also enhances national security by restoring our military readiness, providing a \$4.9 billion increase over Fiscal Year 2008 for veterans' health care, and increasing funding to protect America from terrorism over the President's levels. The plan also rejects the harmful cuts in the President's budget, including cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, environmental protection, LIHEAP, and COPS. It accommodates \$50 billion over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and provides substantial resources over the President's budget for education programs. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this bill, which passed the House

and provides substantial resources over the President's budget for education programs. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 212 to 207.

**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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## In the District

### **Congresswoman Kilpatrick Participates in Community Health Fair**

Congresswoman Kilpatrick recently attended a community health fair hosted by Triumph Church. She spoke to hundreds gathered about her personal experience with diabetes as part of an effort to improve the health of the community. She advised attendees to be proactive in managing their health. "Diet, exercise, and regular medical check-ups play a critical role in helping maintain good health," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "I encourage you to actively take care of yourself and your family. Together, we can build a stronger, healthier community."



*Congresswoman Kilpatrick (center) shares a moment with Rev. Solomon Kinloch (3rd from left), pastor of Triumph Church, and other health fair participants.*

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