



Washington Weekly

April 30, 2008



U. S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

13TH 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.

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action for 4/7/08 through 4/18/08

H.R. 2016/The National Landscape Conservation System Act: The National Landscape Conservation System protects our shared heritage, preserving ancient Native American sites, pioneers' ranches and homesteads, and historic trails. It also preserves rugged and remote mountains, deserts, prairies, and rivers that have inspired generations of Americans. These areas, and many others in the NLCS, hold incalculable value to the American people for recreation, education, and research. The bill enacts into law a system that protects approximately 27 million acres of land considered to have significant historical, cultural, ecological, scientific, or scenic value. Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 278 to 140.

H.R. 5719/Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act: This bill makes the tax code simpler and fairer and ensures that American tax dollars are spent wisely. It strengthens government accountability and stops taxpayer harassment by ending the private collection of federal taxes. The measure strengthens taxpayer protections from identity theft and tax fraud, simplifies cell phone tax reporting, and expands assistance programs for low-income taxpayers. It also prevents federal contractors from using foreign subsidiaries to evade Social Security and other employment taxes. The Congresswoman voted in support of this legislation, which passed by a vote of 238 to 179.

H.R. 2634/Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act: Since 1996, more than 30 poor countries have received some form of debt relief, totaling approximately \$80 billion. This legislation builds on efforts to provide debt relief for the world's poorest countries as an essential component in the overall effort to help alleviate the severe poverty that exists in many parts of the world. It directs the Administration to begin negotiations for an agreement within the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the Paris Club of bilateral creditors to allow up to 24 additional poor countries to qualify for debt relief. The bill would require the benefits from the debt relief to be used by the country for various poverty reduction activities. To qualify for debt relief, countries must meet human rights, public financial management, and budget transparency criteria and demonstrate their ability to use the money well. Congresswoman Kilpatrick co-sponsored this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 285 to 132.

H.R. 5715/The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008: This measure would provide new protections—in addition to those that already exist under current law—to ensure that families continue to have timely, uninterrupted access to federal college loans in the event that the stress in the credit markets leads a significant number of lenders to substantially reduce their activity in the federally guaranteed student loan program. This bill would reduce borrowers' reliance on costlier private college loans and give parent borrowers more time to begin paying off their federal PLUS loans, help struggling homeowners pay for college, and provide the U.S. Secretary of Education additional tools to safeguard access to student loans. The Congresswoman voted in support of this legislation, which passed by a vote of

the U.S. Secretary of Education additional loans to safeguard access to student loans.
The Congresswoman voted in support of this legislation, which passed by a vote of 383 to 27.

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

Resources

Recovery Rebates

What you need to know to get your recovery rebate.

Contact Me

[Email Congresswoman Kilpatrick](#)

Detroit Office

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

Downriver Office

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

Washington, DC Office

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

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



In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Celebrates LEED® Green Building Award with City of Harper Woods



Congresswoman Kilpatrick presented a resolution to the City of Harper Woods for its successful efforts to construct an energy efficient and environmentally friendly library. Here, she stands with Library Director Dale Parus and Mayor Kenneth A. Poynter in front of the library near the LEED® Silver Level commemorative plaque from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Congresswoman Kilpatrick recently congratulated the City of Harper Woods for receiving a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) Green Building Award from the U.S. Green Building Council for its public library. She applauded the city's efforts to promote energy efficiency and conservation during a ceremony celebrating the facility's distinction as the first public library in Michigan to earn a LEED® Award and its certification as a green building. Renovated in 2005, the library uses "daylight harvesting" to take advantage of natural sunlight and automatic light sensors to conserve electricity. It also includes organic and sustainable curtains, carpets, and woods. "I commend the City of Harper Woods for its vision, leadership, and commitment in preserving our environment," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "I look forward to working with you as we create a greener, stronger America for our children."

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