



Washington Weekly

October 12, 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 9/22/08 through 10/3/08

H.R. 1424, Emergency Economic Stabilization Act

The subprime mortgage led to a national housing crisis that has had a devastating affect on our financial markets. This measure authorizes \$700 billion for the Treasury Department to establish a program to buy "distressed" mortgage-backed securities and other instruments that related to such mortgages that were originated before March 14. Congresswoman Kilpatrick did not support the original version of this bill, which failed to pass the House; click [here](#) to read her statement opposing the Troubled Assets Relief Program. The revised bill, which was introduced later in the week, increases the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) limit from \$100,000 to \$250,000; allows the Secretary to lower the interest rate and, in some cases, the principal of home mortgages; provides property tax relief to up to 30 million homeowners; provides that minority- and women-owned businesses, along with minority professionals will be included as contractors and analysts; and ensures mental health parity for all Americans. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 263 to 171. To read her statement explaining her support of this measure, click [here](#).

H. R. 5244, Credit Card Billing Practices

This legislation would prohibit credit card companies from retroactively increasing interest rates on existing balances in most cases, issuing finance charges on balances for days not included in the most recent billing cycle and charging fees on outstanding balances created only from interest accrued in the previous billing period until the end of the current bill period. The measure would also require companies to send statements at least 25 days before payment is due and give at least 45 days notice before increasing rates. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 312 to 112.

S. 3001, Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Authorization

The bill would authorize \$611.1 billion for defense programs in fiscal year 2009, including \$68.6 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would authorize a 3.9% pay increase for military personnel. The measure also contains provisions to govern oversight of contracts, including one to set up a database of defense contractors found to have violated the law. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted in support of this legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 392 to 29.

S. J. Res. 45, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Compact

This joint resolution would grant congressional approval to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Compact, an agreement on the rights between the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin regarding use of the waters and maintenance of the watershed of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway and River. The Congresswoman supported this legislation, which passed by a vote of 390 to 25.

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](#)

It's not too late...get your economic stimulus rebate! To find out how to claim your share of \$5 million, click [here](#).

Contact Me

[Email Congresswoman Kilpatrick](#)

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



In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Helps Seniors and Families Apply for Economic Stimulus Checks Before October 15 Deadline

Congresswoman Kilpatrick is working to help seniors and others in the 13th

Congressional District claim their share of more than \$5 million in economic recovery rebate checks. The lawmaker has teamed up with local nonprofit organizations and government agencies, including AARP, the City of Detroit Senior Citizens Department, IRS, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and the Wayne County

Asset Building Coalition to hold a series of events at which eligible seniors and others can obtain free assistance with completing the forms needed to secure their economic stimulus checks. To find a site or to obtain more information, click [here](#), visit www.house.gov/kilpatrick, or call the district office at (313) 965-9004.



Congresswoman Kilpatrick presents a resolution to a Brush Park Manor resident during an event celebrating seniors over 90 years of age.

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