



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District

Hill News

News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States' Congress that effect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

This Week In Congress:

VOTE ON MEDICARE/Rx DRUG BILL

At 6:00 Saturday morning while most of you were asleep, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to privatize Medicare. At approximately 3:00AM the Republicans brought their Medicare bill to the House floor. For a record three-hours, Democrats won the vote by a count of 218-216. Republicans then persuaded some of their members to change their votes in favor of the bill. The final vote was 220-215 in favor of the bill. Please contact your senators ask them to vote no on this legislation that does nothing to control the rising costs of prescription drugs. Those seniors who need prescription drug coverage will not be able to get it until 2006, but the HMOs, insurance and pharmaceutical companies will receive a tax benefit once the measure is signed by the President; The bill does not allow Americans to import drugs from countries where prices are lower, including Canada; This bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower drug prices on behalf of America's 40 million Medicare beneficiaries; and this plan creates an unlimited program of Health Savings Accounts. This is a tax break benefit for the healthy and wealthy and could dramatically raise health insurance premiums for families with moderate incomes. The U.S. Senate will vote on the same bill in the coming days.

VOTE ON ENERGY CONFERENCE BILL

House members voted 246-180 in favor of Energy Bill, H.R. 6 on Tuesday. The 1700 pages of legislation was not filed until 3:00AM that morning, the first time Democrats were able to see the document. Democrats were not allowed in the conference committees and unable to make any contributions to the legislation. What has resulted is an energy bill that does not address the electrical grid problems that caused the blackouts earlier this year; bars the Environmental Protection Agency from protecting drinking water supplies; restricts the rights of states to review and respond to federal decisions concerning the management of coastal waters. Luckily, the measure was defeated in the Senate.

SOUTHERN WAYNE COUNTY CHAMBER

Congresswoman Kilpatrick was the guest speaker at this month's Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce legislative forum. Kilpatrick touched on issues like the Medicare/Rx Drug legislation, the loss of manufacturing jobs in Michigan and the tariffs on imported steel.

TELEVISION PROGRAM

Please join the Congresswoman for her show "On Point" shown on Comcast Detroit Friday evenings at 6:00 and Saturday mornings at 9:00. Also on Comcast Woodhaven/Garden City on Friday evenings at 11:00 and on Wyandotte Independent Cable daily at various times. This week's program is on the controversial "Patriot Act".

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