



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:

BUSH BUDGET

Monday President George W. Bush is expected to send his new budget to Congress. Included in the budget is funding for "No Child Left Behind". Since the signing of the bipartisan NCLB legislation two years ago, the President has proposed about \$17 billion less for the plan than was promised. In the new budget, Michigan schools will receive nearly \$300 million less than promised. Disabilities, after-school, teacher training, Impact Aid, and Title I programs have all been short changed. Michigan schools have kept their promise to improve education and increase accountability. On Monday, when President Bush sends Congress his new budget for next year, I urge him to forge a new direction and provide the promised investments in the "No Child Left Behind Act."

MEDICARE/Rx DRUG UPDATE

The Budget President will submit Monday will include \$134 billion more for the Medicare/Rx Drug plan than expected, bringing the total cost of the measure to \$534 billion. Democrats will continue the fight for a real Medicare/Rx Drug plan. One that will bring down prices, guarantee benefits and allow drug re-importation from Canada.

BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION

Wednesday, the House voted on the Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Extension. Republicans recommended a substitute the text in the comprehensive bankruptcy overhaul bill. This would replace text in the Senate version that extends bankruptcy protection for farmers for six months. The Republican version imposes a means test and bars those with average income or higher from having their debts dismissed after liquidating most of their assets. It specifically requires a reorganization of debts under a repayment plan instead of seeking to discharge their debts under Chapter 7. Democrats asked the Republican majority to stand up for family farmers and defeat this bill. The Democratic alternative is a measure that calls for permanent bankruptcy protection for family farmers now, not holding them hostage to the controversial comprehensive bill. The Republican version was eventually passed 265-99.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. NOT!

This week United Nations' chief weapons inspector Dr. David Kay testified in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee about his findings in Iraq, or lack of findings. During his testimony, Kay admitted that even if his team continued their search for weapons of mass destruction chances are they would not find any. Dr. Kay is blaming faulty intelligence for the misleading information that was given to the American people. It is my concern that President Bush may have purposely used this faulty intelligence to mislead Americans. As I stated in March of last year, this President should have exhausted all diplomatic strategies of resolving any conflict with Iraq before placing our soldiers in harm's way. It has become evident he did not exhaust all available resources. More than 500 American soldiers have paid for this mistake with their lives. We had no plan going into Iraq and we have no plan to get out. We have alienated our allies and provoked our enemies. We must replace President Bush.

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