



**Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District**

# Hill News

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**News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick**  
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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:**

### FOREIGN OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Secretary of State Colin Powell testified in front of the Appropriations' Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Wednesday. I asked Secretary Powell specific questions about Haiti and why this government chose to assist in taking out a Democratically elected President? He failed to answer my questions with any satisfaction. He would only say that President Aristide was a bad man who did not treat his people well and who embezzled money. My response to the Secretary's statement was to let the Haitian people decide who they would like to lead them.

### THE OBESITY BILL

The House debated the Obesity Bill, also known as the "Cheeseburger Bill." This legislation prevents frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distributors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. The bill passed the House on Wednesday with a vote of 276-139 and now heads to the Senate.

### INDECENCY BILL

The House debated the "Indecency Bill" which increases penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language. This bill is a direct result of the Janet Jackson/Justin Timberlake performance at this year's Super Bowl half-time. The measure passed on Thursday by a vote of 392-22 and it also goes to the Senate for a vote.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported this week that Michigan's unemployment rate now stands at 6.6 percent giving our state the second largest number of unemployed residents in the country. Alaska has the highest rate of unemployment with 7.3 percent. Michigan's unemployment rate is higher than the national rate of 5.6 percent. The national unemployment rates among Hispanics, 7.4 percent, and African-Americans, 9.8 percent, are even greater. Only 21,000 jobs were created for the month of February and none of them were from the private sector. If the economy continues to perform at February's rate, it would take nine years to recover all the jobs lost under President Bush and would give him the worst job creation record since the Great Depression.

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