



**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:**

**GRANHOLM VISIT**

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm led a delegation of governors to Washington to explain how hard their states have been hit by the loss of manufacturing jobs. During a manufacturing job forum led by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Representative Charlie Rangel (D-NY), Granholm, Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin and Governor Edward Rendell of Pennsylvania asked those of us in attendance for assistance in restoring well-paying manufacturing jobs by; protecting the intellectual property rights; working to remove tariffs that the auto industry must pay to export cars overseas and not allow other countries to freely import their cars in the U.S.; establish workforce development opportunities; and enforce laws already on the books to stop the dumping of foreign products. The Governors also met with Commerce Secretary Donald Evans during their Washington stay to press these points.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

My office has been inundated with telephone calls about the extension of unemployment benefits that passed the House that was published in my "Report to the 13th District" Newsletter. I want to explain why currently, so many unemployed Americans are not receiving any unemployment assistance. Last year, Congress recessed without extending a law that provided 13 extra weeks of benefits of individuals who had exhausted 26 weeks of their regular UI benefits. Republicans argued that extending UI benefits is not necessary because the economy is growing. They also remind us that the Clinton Administration and the Democratic-led Congress let extended unemployment benefits expire in 1994 when the unemployment rate was 6.6 percent. Republicans will continue to fight an extension because they are confident that the Bush tax cuts will produce more jobs.

In February of 2004, the House voted 227-179 for an amendment to H.R. 3030 offered by Representative George Miller (D-CA) reauthorizing legislation for the Community Services Block Grant Program. The amendment proposed a six-month extension of unemployment benefits. The legislation was then sent to the Senate and that is where it remains.

Last month, a government study was released showing an estimated 35,800 workers in Michigan have lost unemployment benefits in the first three months of 2004 and if unemployment benefits are not extended, an additional 88,328 Michigan workers will lose benefits in the next three months. The report also shows that extending federal unemployment insurance benefits would provide up to \$579 million in economic stimulus to Michigan.

Again, I can tell you that I will continue to fight for the extension of unemployment benefits for those Michiganders who remain out of work but you should know that the Republican *MAJORITY* is not allowing Democrats to get the benefits extension passed.