



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District

Hill News

News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

This Week In Congress:

COMMERCE-STATE-JUSTICE SPENDING BILL H.R. 4754

U.S. House Members voted on the Appropriations measure H.R. 4754 this week. The bill allots funding for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. The bill passed by a vote of 397-18, however, there were some important amendments attached:

SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM AMENDMENT

One key amendment offered on H.R. 4654 provides an additional \$79.1 million for the small business 7 (a) loan program. This year, Republicans proposed to eliminate the Microloan program and to eliminate all funding for small business 7(a) loans. For the past three years, the Bush Administration created 76,000 pages of new regulation for small businesses. They also broke their promise to open the \$285 billion Federal marketplace and create a fair and open Federal contracting system, costing small businesses \$13.8 billion in lost opportunities each year. The amendment passed in spite of Republican opposition, 281-137.

SANDERS' AMENDMENT

Congressman Bernard Sanders (D-VT) authored an amendment that proposed changes to the Patriot Act that would prohibit funds in bill H.R. 4754 from being used under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to acquire library circulation records, library patron lists, library Internet records, bookseller sales records or bookseller customer lists. The amendment went down to defeat with a tie vote of 210-210. This victory came after Republicans dragged out a 15 minute vote to 38 minutes despite outrage from Democrats. At one point the amendment was passing 219-201. It was then Republicans began the arm-twisting persuading Members to change their vote and holding the vote open an additional 23 minutes.

WHITE HOUSE CUBA POLICY AMENDMENT

In what the media is calling a "blow to the President," the U.S. House made a statement Thursday that the White House's new Cuba policy that bans the personal shipment of items like clothing, deodorant, and seeds to the Island goes too far. Forty-six Republicans crossed party lines and joined Democrats blocking the Bush Administration from enforcing the new rules with a vote of 221-194.

SANDER'S AMENDMENT PROTEST

On Friday, Democratic Members began holding a series of procedural votes throughout the day in protest of the Republican abuse of power during Thursday's vote on the Sanders' Amendment that would have scaled back a provision of the Patriot Act.

FAHRENHEIT 9/11

Join me this evening at 6:30pm at the Bel-Air Theatres on 8-Mile and Van Dyke for a viewing of the new Michael Moore documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11." Immediately following the movie there will be a discussion and we will engage in some intelligent debate on the film and the current Presidential Administration. For more information you may call (313) 438-3494.

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