



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District

Hill News

News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

My E-Newsletter resumes this week now that the House has returned from recess. This issue will have the House events of last week. As most of you know the Congressional Black Caucus held its Annual Legislative Conference last week forcing us to push this newsletter's release to today.

Last Week In Congress:

MEDICARE INCREASES

While Congressional Members were in recess in August and the very day after Republicans nominated President George Bush as their candidate for President, the White House announced that America's seniors will face record increases in their monthly Medicare premiums. Premiums are expected to rise by 17.4 percent in 2004, bringing senior's health care payments to a record \$78.20 month. The increase of \$11.60 per month and \$139 for the year is the largest dollar increase in Medicare's history.

OVERTIME AMENDMENT

House Democrats gained an important victory for middle class families by passing an amendment offered by David Obey of Wisconsin and George Miller of California, with a vote of 223-193. This amendment blocks the Bush Administration's new overtime rule. The Bush overtime regulations would affect 6 million workers and are the biggest pay cut ever for middle class families, cutting 25 percent of some families' incomes. Now, both the House and Senate have passed legislation that would block the President's overtime pay cut.

POVERTY INCREASES

During this year's August recess, the Census Bureau released a report stating that the real household income had decreased in 2003 falling for the third year in a row. That raises the number of people living in poverty has increased by 1.3 million. Those people fell out of the middle class into poverty in 2003. That brings the total of people living in poverty since this Administration took office to 4.3 million.

NUMBER OF UNINSURED INCREASES

Also during the August recess the Census Bureau reported that the number of uninsured has increased. The number of people living without health insurance nationwide went up by 1.4 million which is the third annual increase in a row. Currently, there are 45 million Americans uninsured, many because they have lost their jobs.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS/ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

I would like to thank all of you who attend my issue forum "Dispelling the Diet Dilemma; Obesity, Dieting and Poverty—A Deadly Combination." We had at least 200 people in attendance. For those of you who missed it, the forum will be shown on Comcast Detroit in November. Keep reading the e-newsletter for date, time and channel.

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