



▲ Rep. Levin speaks with students about legislative issues.

Representing the 12th Congressional District of Michigan

## **The Congressional Connector**

Week of April 14 - 18, 2008

### **Lawmakers Back Bill to Extend Unemployment Benefits**

On April 9, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the House to provide assistance to Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The bill [H.R. 5749] would immediately provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state; further, it would provide an additional 13 weeks (for a total of 26) in States – including Michigan – with high unemployment rates. Rep. Levin is a cosponsor of H.R. 5749, which the Ways and Means Committee is expected to consider later this week. For more information, [click here](#).

### **China Commission Details Tibet Action Items for China**

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China, chaired by Rep. Levin, sent a letter to the President of China detailing urgent steps that must be taken to implement basic human rights standards recognized in both Chinese and international law. The letter states: "The Chinese government's reaction has revealed a level of hostility toward Tibetans not seen in decades, and has heightened fears for the Tibetan people. The censorship and restrictions in openness imposed by the Chinese government has been doubly alarming." To read the full letter and urgent steps requested, [click here](#). To view a recent Macomb Daily article on the effort in Congress to reform China's human rights policies, [click here](#).

### **Levin to Host Town Hall Meeting This Saturday**

Rep. Levin will host a town hall meeting to talk about the economy, the housing crisis and trade on Saturday, April 19th at Noon. Town Hall meetings are an opportunity to express your opinions, ask questions and engage in discussion with Mr. Levin and your neighbors. This town hall is being held at the Roseville Senior Center - 18961 Common Road (or 12 ½ Mile) and Gratiot. For more information -- or to reserve a seat -- call our office at 586-498-7122

### **Veterans Education Bill Introduced in House**

On April 9, the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act [H.R. 5740] was introduced in the House of Representatives to provide veterans who have served since September 11, 2001 with improved educational benefits similar to those provided to World War II era veterans. These benefits would cover the cost of tuition, books, and supplies at the most expensive in-state public university and include a monthly stipend for housing.

The increased educational benefits provided by the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act would help ease the transition to civilian life for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and make an investment in the future of our troops and their families. H.R. 5740 has over 170 bipartisan cosponsors, including Rep. Levin. A companion bill [S. 22] has been introduced in the Senate. For additional information, [click here](#).

### **An Artistic Discovery Competition**

All high school students who reside in or attend school in the 12th District are invited to submit artwork for the annual national high school congressional art competition. [Click here](#) for official rules and guidelines for the Congressional Art Competition. The artwork may be delivered to Rep. Levin's district office the week of April 28 with the final deadline of Friday, May 2, 2008.