



United States Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK
 13th Congressional District

May 2006

**Report to Michigan's
 13th Congressional District**

**Greetings from
 Congresswoman
 Kilpatrick**

I am proud to serve the more than 670,000 residents of Michigan's 13th District, which includes half of Detroit, Ecorse, Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, and Wyandotte. This document provides a brief summary of some of the legislative issues affecting you and your families. It also highlights the work I am doing to improve your quality of life. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you need more information about these or other federal issues.

Deadline for Medicare Rx Program is May 15

The new Medicare Prescription Drug Program is confusing and difficult to navigate. I believe seniors should have more time to enroll; therefore, I am supporting the Medicare Informed Choice Act. This legislation extends the deadline to December 31 and delays any late enrollment penalties until 2007. This bill also allows beneficiaries the option of changing plans once in 2006.



The deadline to enroll in the Medicare Rx Plan is May 15.

Tips for Selecting a Plan

- Call 800-MEDICARE (633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov. This can help you identify the five best plans to meet your needs.
- Make sure you know the amount of the monthly premium and your co-pay.
- Find out if there is a deductible.
- Determine whether all your medicines are covered. Make sure the plan offers your preferred brands.
- Check to see if you can have your prescriptions mailed.
- Find out if you are eligible for extra help from the Social Security Administration.

Providing Quality Housing for Seniors

Offices

Washington, DC
 1610 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: 202.225.2261
 Fax: 202.225.5730

Detroit
 1274 Library St., Suite 1B
 Detroit, MI 48226
 Phone: 313.965.9004
 Fax: 313.965.9006

Wyandotte
 3005 Biddle St., Suite A
 Wyandotte, MI 48192
 Phone: 734.246.0780
 Fax: 734.246.1148



Congresswoman Kilpatrick presents staff, board members, and residents of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan with a check representing federal funds appropriated for The Village of Brush Park Manor Paradise Valley.

Older Americans have contributed to the successful development of our society. They deserve to have comfortable, secure living spaces in which they can experience camaraderie and independence.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM) received a check for \$200,000 to enhance its efforts to provide quality housing for seniors. Funds will be used to upgrade The Village of Brush Park Manor Paradise Valley. PVM also plans to add two Green Houses—group homes for elders that provide the clinical care found in nursing homes in a more social environment—to the site.

Achieving Energy Independence



Congresswoman Kilpatrick meets with NextEnergy CEO Jim Croce to discuss the application of federal funds she secured for its National Biofuel Energy Lab and Advance Microgrid Fueler Program.

“Home energy costs and gas prices are out of control. We must make energy more efficient and affordable for America’s families.”



The City of Wyandotte’s wind energy project will be the first application of renewable energy wind turbines in an urban brownfield setting.

America’s energy prices and oil company profits have reached unprecedented levels, but our energy policy will not prepare us for a safe future. Independence from foreign energy sources will create jobs, reduce energy costs for America’s families, and ensure a healthier environment.

To free America from dependence on foreign oil, we must increase production of alternative fuels, including biofuels, geothermal, clean coal, and fuel cells. We need to explore solar and wind energy initiatives to enhance energy efficiency and conservation. We must also promote hybrid and flex fuel vehicle technology and manufacturing to restore profitability to the American auto industry.

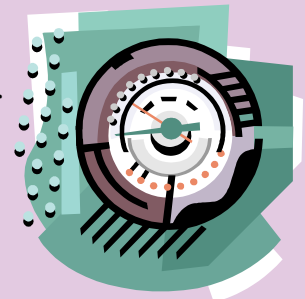
I have demonstrated my commitment to helping Michigan’s energy industry by securing \$7 million in funding for NextEnergy, a nonprofit organization developing alternative energies, and \$1 million for Wyandotte’s wind energy project.

These initiatives will serve as a model for communities across the nation. We must move forward with energy projects and legislation that will favorably impact trade, job creation, and the American economy.

Stay Cool for Less: How to Conserve Energy in Spring and Summer

Keeping your home comfortable can be cost-effective with these energy-saving tips.

- **Use ceiling or portable fans.** Moving air feels four to six degrees cooler.
- **Block the sun.** Close blinds or drapes during the day. Replace old windows with energy-efficient ones or add solar screens to windows on the west side of your home.
- **Seal leaks.** Check your ducts for leaks and seal them with mastic tape. Caulk and weather-strip windows, doors, and pipe clearances. Preventing leaks into and out of the home can save 10% on cooling costs.
- **Add shade.** Plant trees and shrubs on the east, west, and south sides to reduce cooling expenses. Shade air conditioning units, but be sure to leave room for air to flow.
- **Ventilate your attic.** Proper ventilation reduces temperature and prevents moisture buildup so the air conditioner does not have to work so hard.
- **Turn off or replace lights.** Incandescent bulbs often produce heat. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75-80% less energy and produce less heat.
- **“Nuke” or grill it.** Use the microwave or a charcoal grill instead of the oven to prepare meals. Serve chilled foods.
- **Clean or replace air filters.** This increases air circulation and results in efficient air exchange.
- **Set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher.** Raise it to 85 degrees when you will be out for at least four hours.
- **Program it.** Install a programmable thermostat. Set it to cool the house before you get there. This can help you save up to 15% on cooling costs.
- **Get a professional inspection.** Have a licensed contractor check to make sure your unit is in good condition for summer.



The President's Budget Priorities are Out of Balance

Energy, health care, and higher education costs are rising; however, the President's budget ignores the economic realities faced by most Michigan families. Instead, the Bush budget emphasizes priorities that take our country in the wrong direction. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, combined with tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% of Americans, have caused the highest projected deficit in our history and eroded domestic programs.

American families deserve better. We must make health care affordable. We must make higher education accessible to our children. We must create jobs and eliminate the debt to ensure economic stability and freedom for all Americans. We must demand more from the President. Our future depends on it.

The President's Proposed Budget...

- Cuts \$35 billion from Medicare and \$13.5 billion from Medicaid over five years even though a record 46 million Americans are without health insurance.
- Cuts the Weatherization Assistance Program by \$78 million and energy conservation programs by \$133 million despite the fact that home energy costs are more than 25% higher than last year.
- Cuts \$190 million from senior housing and \$118 million from programs that assist people with disabilities, making it difficult for many Americans to realize their dream of owning a home.
- Cuts education programs by \$2.1 billion and freezes Pell Grants even though college costs are up 46% since 2001.
- Offers no new money for job training programs that have been cut although seven million Americans are unemployed and need jobs to support their families.

Improving Access to Higher Education

Our children must have a quality education to compete in our increasingly global economy. I voted against *H.R. 609, the College Access and Opportunity Act*. It fails to provide a real increase in student aid, fails to lower college loan interest rates, and freezes the authorized level of the maximum Pell Grant at just \$200 above current levels through 2013. *H.R. 609* is a missed opportunity to make college more affordable, boost America's economic competitiveness, and invest in our future. As America's students and families struggle to pay for college, I am committed to supporting legislation that will control tuition costs and increase student aid.

Tips for Paying for College

- Don't panic despite the high costs.
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit www.FAFSA.gov or call 800-4-FED-AID to obtain one.
- Compare packages. Look for those offering more grants and fewer loans.
- Apply for scholarships. There is more than \$3 billion available.
- Don't give up. A college education is one of the best investments you can make. People with a Bachelor's degree earn more than 70% more on average than those with a high school diploma.



Congresswoman Kilpatrick introduced H.R. 2967, legislation to name the building that currently houses the Federal Homeland Security Office the "Rosa Parks Federal Building." Below, she participates in the ribbon-cutting during the dedication.

Honoring Rosa Parks

Metro Detroit residents will be reminded of the courage, commitment, and contributions of Rosa Parks when they see or visit the Rosa Parks Federal Building. The site, located at 333 Mt. Elliot (at East Jefferson), currently houses the Federal Homeland Security Office.

Mrs. Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white male passenger sparked the Civil Rights Movement more than 50 years ago. Mrs. Parks serves as a shining example of the power we have to change the world. I am proud to honor her efforts to promote justice and equal opportunity. Her calm determination and indomitable spirit will always be remembered.



Real Security for America



Congresswoman Kilpatrick is the first African American woman to serve on the Air Force Academy Board of Directors.

The first responsibility of our government is the security of every American. Our country is best protected and freedom best advanced when national security policies—including homeland, energy, and diplomatic strategies—are tough and smart. I support the Democrats' *Plan for Real Security*. We must protect Americans and restore our country's position of leadership in the world.

Protecting America

We must:

- Make sure our troops have the protective gear, equipment, and training they need and are not sent to war without accurate intelligence and a strategy for success.
- Ensure that our troops, veterans, and their families receive the pay, health care, and other benefits they have earned and deserve.
- Combat economic, social, and political conditions that allow extremism to survive; lead efforts to uphold and defend human rights; and renew alliances that have advanced our national security objectives.
- Prevent outsourcing of our infrastructure, such as ports, airports, and mass transit to foreign interests that put us at risk.
- Ensure that 2006 is a year of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with the Iraqis assuming primary responsibility for securing and governing their country.

Visit my Web site and sign up to receive e-mail updates at
www.house.gov/kilpatrick



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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215

Official Business

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'C. Kilpatrick'.

M.C.
ECRWSS

PRESORTED STANDARD—LOCAL
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Michigan