



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:

BUSH BUDGET

Monday President George W. Bush submitted the new 2005 budget to Congress. Included in the budget are cuts and terminations of programs this Presidential administration promised to fund. Among the programs terminated; Arts in Education, \$35 million; School Reform for low-income schools, \$234 million; Tax-favored Empowerment Zones, \$15 million and Local Law Enforcement grants, \$1.58 billion. Programs that will see a reduction in funding include; Homeland Security First Responders who received \$4.37 billion in the 2004 budget will only receive \$3.56 billion and funding for election reform has been reduced from \$1.49 billion in 2004 to \$65 million for 2005. For the second year in a row the President is attempting to lump Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy, Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing into one program and funding the group at a lower rate than if they were funded separately. This budget is not acceptable. Had President Bush not given tax breaks to the wealthiest of Americans, these program cuts would not be necessary to dissolve a White House projected \$521 billion 2004 budget deficit. (Congressional Budget Office projects \$477 billion)

KILPATRICK SWORN-IN ON USAF ACADEMY BOARD

I was officially sworn-in as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Board. This Board regularly visits the Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and inquires into its morale, discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs and academic methods. I was appointed to the position by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and later discovered that I am the first African-American Member of Congress to serve on the Board. This is indeed an honor.

HOUSE VOTES TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Wednesday evening, 39 Republicans joined House Democrats in a vote to extend federal unemployment benefits to millions of workers across the country. This move will bring relief to more than 200,000 Michigan workers. House Democrats have fought for months to bring this issue to a vote in the face of resistance from the Republican leadership. The federal unemployment program expired at the end of 2003, denying assistance to approximately 80,000-90,000 people nationwide each week since December 21st and leaving those out of work who ran out of state unemployment benefits during the holidays without any federal help. The measure now goes to the U.S. Senate. I urge you to contact the Senators and encourage them to vote for this much needed legislation.

MICHIGAN ESSAY CONTEST

I am encouraging all Detroit area students to participate in the Michigan Humanities Council's essay contest that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the "Brown vs. Board of Education decision. Students in the fourth through 12th grades are allowed to enter and the first place prize of \$100 will be awarded for each age group. Essays must be 1,000 words or less and must be submitted by April 17th to MCHE & MHC Brown vs. Board Essay Contest, Jan Fedewa, Executive Director, Michigan Humanities Council, 119 Pere Marquette Drive, Suite 3B, Lansing, MI 48912-1270. For more details, contact my Press Secretary Denise Mixon at (202) 225-2261.

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