



January 20, 2006

Dear Friends:

Every Minnesota family is facing skyrocketing home heating costs, but it is an especially hard blow to low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes who qualify for federal heating assistance but are denied the help they need. This week, I released a congressional report that finds that 325,000 Minnesota families eligible for heating assistance will be denied due to federal budget cuts. Minnesota families using natural gas, fuel oil or propane can expect to pay an average of \$1,100 more this year than they did in the winter of 2002/2003. Click here to read the report, "[The Impact of Rising Home Heating Costs on Minnesota Families.](#)"



Congresswoman McCollum is joined by members of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at a January 14th community meeting in North St. Paul. McCollum discussed her efforts to make health care more affordable for Minnesota families

Americans clearly reject the Culture of Corruption and the egregious excesses and abuses of power that have become standard operating procedure under Republican leadership of the U.S. House. This week, I joined House and Senate Democrats in announcing our "Honest Leadership, Open Government" Act, an aggressive reform package to reverse Republican excesses and protect the public trust. These strong anti-corruption reforms are needed to restore integrity, honor and transparency to the 'People's House.'" Click here to read more on the [Democratic reform proposal](#).

Please join me at an upcoming meeting in your community for an update from Washington and Minnesota's State Capital:

Community Meeting with U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum,
State Sen. Jim Metzen (SD-39), State Reps Rick Hansen (HD-39A) and Joe Atkins (HD-39B) and Dakota
County Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23rd
Dakota County Northern Service Center
1 Mendota Road W, West St. Paul

In response to major confusion generated by changes in the Medicare law, I am hosting informational meetings on Medicare Part D. Experts from the Minnesota Senior Federation will present information and answer questions about the law:

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24th
Hillcrest Recreation Center, Community Room (theater)
1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25th
Fairview Community Center, Educational Development Center (The Great Room)
1910 County Road B, West Roseville

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Betty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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