

From: Congresswoman Betty McCollum [betty.mccollum@congressnewsletter.com]

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CONGRESSWOMAN
Betty McCollum
MINNESOTA'S 4th DISTRICT

Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District

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Dear Friend,

Below you will find an update on Medicare and Overtime Pay Protections. If you have not signed-up for my E-Newsletter, please [click here to stay updated](#). You can also [visit my website](#) for the latest information on the work that I do on behalf of Minnesota families. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Minnesota's 4th District

News Alert:

Working to Give Medicare Power to Negotiate Lower Rx Prices

This week, I supported a proposal to give Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for seniors and the disabled. I signed a discharge petition that would force Republican leaders in Congress to bring the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004 (H.R. 3767) for a vote.

Congressional Art Competition Winner Meets with Betty



Amanda R. Kohn, a student at Concordia Academy in Roseville, is the First Place Winner of the 2004 Congressional Art Competition for Minnesota's Fourth District. Amanda and her family came to Washington D.C. to meet with Congresswoman McCollum and attend events for art competition winners.

Amanda's artwork entitled, Shoes, is on display in a national exhibition in the U. S. Capitol. The Fourth District Art Competition is an opportunity for students to showcase their talent locally with the possibility of national

This measure would bring down the cost of drugs by allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices, just like every other private insurer in the country. This action is desperately needed as new government estimates suggest that employers will reduce or eliminate prescription drug benefits for 3.8 million retirees when the Medicare plan takes effect in 2006. Sadly, Republican leaders have sided with special interests and refuse to take action.

[Read more about the Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act.](#)

Update On Overtime Pay Protections

Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee dealt America's workers another blow this week, by voting against an amendment to protect overtime pay. The amendment, offered by Representative David Obey (D-WI), came in response to the Bush Administration's restrictive new overtime rules that take effect August 23 and would deny eligibility for overtime pay to 6 million workers.

The amendment, offered in committee to a federal spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services, would have protected the right to overtime pay for any worker that now has it. Unfortunately, the measure was defeated by a vote of 29 to 31. Every Committee Democrat voted to protect overtime pay, while not a single Republican did.

The vote came the same day that a [new report](#) (pdf file) from the Economic Policy Institute revealed that the new overtime rules would deny overtime pay eligibility to 6 million workers who are currently eligible. That report came on the heels of [another report](#) (pdf file) by former Department of Labor officials showing that the regulations would deny eligibility to "large numbers" of workers and create more confusion and litigation.

[For more information on Overtime Pay Protection, click here.](#)

recognition. Second and third place winners are displayed in Rep. McCollum's Washington and St. Paul office.

The Week Ahead

Monday, July 19th

Participate in a World Bank Teleconference with the Parliamentarian Network of the World Bank's Conference on AIDS

Tuesday, July 20th

Meeting with Americans for the Arts to discuss funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wednesday, July 21st

Meeting with South St. Paul company Digital Angel about their work with USDA on livestock identification and tracking.

Wednesday, July 21st

Address a group of visiting students participating in the Junior Statesmen Foundation, the largest student-run high school organization.

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Contact Information

website: <http://www.mccollum.house.gov/>

Washington Office
1029 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6631
(202) 225-1968 fax

St. Paul Office
165 Western Ave North Suite 17
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 224-9191
(651) 224-3056 fax



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