



January 6, 2006

Dear Friends:

On New Year's Eve, I joined the Hmong American community in honoring 20 Hmong American members of our armed forces in the Minnesota National Guards who will soon be deployed to Iraq. I was proud to join these brave young men and their families, as well as Gov. Pawlenty and State Senator Mee Moua, in honoring their service to our country. My thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they deploy to serve our nation in Iraq.



Recently, my office has received phone calls from Fourth District residents extremely concerned about the Bush Administration's secret approval of a National Security Agency (NSA) program to monitor international phone calls and emails of U.S. citizens without court approval. While it is critical that communications with suspected terrorists be scrutinized, it must be in a manner that respects the law and the legal rights of individuals in this country. I have signed a letter along with the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, to President Bush requesting that the White House immediately provide Congress with the explicit statutory language authorizing the unwarranted surveillance program.

I am pleased to announce that the Sholom Community Alliance received a \$5.5 million federal grant for the construction of affordable senior housing in St. Paul's Highland Park. Affordable, supportive housing is vital for many senior citizens in our community. Sholom Home will make a difference by allowing many seniors to live in their homes longer within a caring community. I commend the Jewish community of the Twin Cities for working so hard to make this important project a success.

For more information, please contact my District Office at (651) 224-9191. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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