



November 10, 2005

Dear Friends:

Every year on November 11th, the American people honor the men and women who served and sacrificed for our nation as members of the armed forces. The sacrifices of our veterans and their families are the foundation of our nation's freedom. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service. Read [my Veteran's Day statement](#).

While millions of Americans are struggling to pay for college, healthcare and skyrocketing home heating costs, Republicans in Congress are attempting to force a fiscally irresponsible Budget Reconciliation bill through the U.S. House. The Republican bill cuts \$50 billion from vital services to pay for \$70 billion in tax give-aways for the wealthiest Americans, increasing the deficit by \$20 billion. These cuts include the following:

- Over [\\$14.3 billion in cuts to federal student aid programs](#) - the largest cuts in history
- \$11.9 billion cuts to Medicaid; a majority of the recipients are children, the disabled and elderly
- 300,000 Americans will be taken off food stamps
- 40,000 low-income children will be dropped from the school lunch program

These cuts do not reflect my priorities in Congress or the values of the families I represent. Congress must do better to put our

families first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty".

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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