



September 22, 2006

Dear Friends:

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of welcoming the First Lady of Tanzania, Madame Salma Kikwete, during her official visit to Washington, D.C. Madame Kikwete was honored with an introduction at a House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations hearing. Later, Rep. Diane Watson (D-Calif.) and I hosted the First Lady at a reception which was attended by representatives of various non-governmental international development organizations. During the visit, Madame Kikwete spoke about her experiences as a teacher, improving education for children, and the focus Tanzania has put on placing women in leadership positions within the government.

Just months after Congress acted to reauthorize the *Voting Rights Act*, Congress passed H.R. 4844, Republican legislation that will undermine the constitutionally guaranteed right of all Americans to vote by mandating burdensome new voter identification requirements. I strongly opposed this partisan bill, because it imposes new barriers to voting without justification. This bill is similar to state laws that have recently been struck down as unconstitutional conditions to voting. [Click here to read my full statement on H.R. 4844, the *Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006*.](#)



Rep. McCollum and Madame Salma Kikwete, First Lady of Tanzania, discuss education for women and girls in Tanzania.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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