



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



May 14, 2004

McCollum Offers Motion to Prevent Cuts in Health Coverage

This week, House Republicans again brought to the floor the Association Health Plan Act which previously passed the House on June 19, 2003. The measure could increase the number of uninsured workers by 1 million by exempting health insurance plans sold through associations from state oversight. Past experiments like this resulted in the disastrous denial of more than \$100 million dollars in medical claims, and higher premiums affecting hundreds of thousands of patients - a roll-back, not a reform of health care.

Congresswoman McCollum offered a motion to recommit on the AHP bill so that it would prevent cuts in health benefits that currently cover well-baby, maternity or breast cancer screening coverage that are critical for the health of women and their children.

"We must not allow Association Health Plans to deny the necessary care for women and their children," said Rep. McCollum. **"This motion to recommit stops Association Health Plans from refusing to cover state required health benefits for well-child visits, maternity coverage or other types of care vital to our families."**

In Minnesota and 30 other states, children are guaranteed regular visits to their pediatricians to get the necessary care they deserve. Well-child care ensures that children get the vaccinations and immunizations they need to protect themselves from preventable diseases like measles and mumps.

Thirty-three children are born every day with severe hearing loss. If caught early through preventative doctor visits, McCollum says that a positive difference can be made in the lives of children.

"Children deserve a healthy start in life. Having early access to adequate health care can prevent illnesses, identify disabilities and reduce future health care costs," said Rep. McCollum.

In June 2003, McCollum convened a field hearing with patients, healthcare advocates and providers on Association Health Plans.

Congressional Fellow From Egypt Visits with McCollum



Ms. Dalia M. Abdullah, a visiting fellow from Egypt participating in a parliamentary staff exchange program, introduces other program participants to Congresswoman McCollum. Ms. Abdullah "shadowed" McCollum and staff for the week.

The Week Ahead

Monday, May 17th – Rep. McCollum will meet with Human Rights Watch to discuss cluster bombs and recent actions in Iraq relating to cluster munitions.

Wednesday, May 19th - Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority will meet with Congresswoman to discuss their work to create a regional transit hub at Union Depot in St. Paul and other issues.

Students from Carleton College will hear Rep. McCollum speak on American foreign policy and the federal budget deficit.

Rep. McCollum will attend a reception honoring the U. of Minnesota National Champion Gopher women's hockey team.

Thursday, May 20th – Resources Committee Hearing on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.mccollum.house.gov

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