



November 4, 2005

Dear Friends:

College students and administrators from across Minnesota joined me earlier this week at a roundtable discussion about the [Republican raid on student aid -- the largest single cut to student aid in history](#). The Republican majority on the House Education and Workforce Committee passed, on a party line vote, more than \$14 billion in cuts last week, and the full House could consider these cuts in the coming weeks. Students shared stories about the impact that these massive cuts would have on their access to higher education. Congress should be expanding access to higher education, not cutting student aid.

This week, I introduced two bipartisan, common sense and common ground bills to address maternal health and child survival in the world's poorest countries:

- The [Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act](#) (H.R. 4188) calls for a strengthened commitment to family planning to keep mothers, children and families healthy in poor countries. The lack of modern contraception can mean women die, children are malnourished and vital natural resources are over stressed by rapidly growing populations. I am very proud to have Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN), Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) and Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN) as co-sponsors of this bill.
- The [CHILD and Newborn Act](#) (H.R. 4222) will strengthen U.S. efforts to save the lives of newborns and children in the developing world by using low-cost health interventions that could save 7 million children's lives who die from treatable or

preventable diseases every year.

A [local coalition](#) including Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), Hamline University, Macalester College, College of St. Scholastica, Minnesota Council of Churches, Church of All Nations, Minnesota Interfaith Advocacy for Social Justice and Congregations Concerned for Children have joined with 30 other communities across the country in an effort to increase awareness of the 11 million children who die each year worldwide.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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