

**From:** Congresswoman Betty McCollum [betty.mccollum@congressnewsletter.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2004 9:38 PM  
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**CONGRESSWOMAN**  
**Betty McCollum**  
MINNESOTA'S 4th DISTRICT

Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District

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Dear Friend,

Recently, I asked for your views on a number of issues facing our nation. Your opinions are important to me. Thank you for responding - the results of the survey are posted at the end of this email.

Below is more information on other issues that I'm working on in Congress. Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have. To continue to receive periodic updates via e-mail, [please click here to stay informed](#). You can also [visit my website](#) for the latest information on the work that I do on behalf of Minnesota families.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Minnesota's 4th District

### Minnesota Students Meet with McCollum



Minnesota students Abhinav Kapur, Tony Calero and Jessica Rotschafer meet with Congresswoman McCollum during their visit to Washington, D.C. The students came to Washington through LeadAmerica, a leadership organization that provides opportunities for personal growth, leadership and educational advancement for middle and high school students.

### News Alert:

**U.S. House Commends Gopher Women Hockey Team**

**The Week Ahead**

This week, I helped to lead the U.S. House in honoring the University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Women's Hockey Team for winning the NCAA Division I Championship, and for their outstanding season record of winning 30 out of 36 weason games during the 2003-2004 season. [Click here to see a copy of my statement on the House floor.](#) [Click here to see a copy of H.Res 630](#), Commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers.

## Bipartisan Group of Members Call on EPA to Strengthen Mercury Protections

This week, I led a bipartisan group of 180 members in a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael O. Leavitt, challenging the agency to go back to the drawing board in the coming months and to issue a final rule that better protects Americans from the health and environmental dangers caused by airborne mercury emissions.

Mercury pollution is a serious concern for Minnesotans. It threatens the health of our families and children. The Administration's proposed plan would actually weaken and delay efforts to clean up mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, endangering the lives of our children. This is unacceptable.

Specifically, the Administration plan downgrades mercury from being regulated as a 'hazardous' pollutant to one that requires less stringent pollution controls. By doing so, EPA's plan allows nearly seven times more annual mercury pollution for five times longer than under current law.

[To read the full copy of the letter, please visit my website.](#)

## Polling Results

1) Please check the five issues most important to you and your family:

Answer	Percent
Job creation/economic security	10.50%
Public education	9.77%
Civil liberties	6.40%
Federal budget deficit	6.40%
Rising college tuition	3.54%
Gas prices/energy policy	6.01%
Foreign policy/U.S. role in the world	8.03%
Cost of healthcare/prescription drugs	12.52%
Retirement security	7.02%

### Monday, June 28th

Meeting with law enforcement and local elected officials on Homeland Security and methamphetamines.

### Wednesday, June 30th

Tour of St. Paul's Ward 7 with Councilwoman Kathy Lantry.

### Thursday, July 1st

Swearing in ceremony for St. Paul Police Chief Harrington.

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Environmental protection	7.36%
Taxes	6.51%
Homeland security/terrorism	6.34%
War in Iraq	5.61%
Reproductive freedom	3.99%

**2) Do you feel more economically secure today than four years ago?**

Answer	Percent
More secure	20.33%
Less secure	57.94%
The same	21.73%

**3) The No Child Left Behind Act mandates standardized testing to evaluate schools. Is this federal program improving public education for Minnesota's school children?**

Answer	Percent
Yes - standardized testing is forcing failing schools to better educate children	13.03%
No - children are now taught to pass tests rather than gain a quality education	57.22%
Don't know - it is too soon to determine the law's impact on education	29.75%

**4) How concerned are you about the rising costs of healthcare and the price of prescription drugs for you and your family, including senior parents?**

Answer	Percent
Very concerned	74.79%
Somewhat concerned	21.33%
Not concerned at all	3.88%

**5) This year the federal government will run an estimated \$521 billion budget deficit as a result of tax cuts, the war in Iraq and the economy. What is the best solution to restore fiscal responsibility and balance the federal budget?**

Answer	Percent
Cut housing, education, healthcare and environmental programs	13.51%
Cut military spending for expensive weapons systems like missile defense	16.95%
Raise taxes across the board on all Americans	10.06%
Raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans who benefited the most from tax cuts	59.48%

**6) Which statement most reflects your view of the current situation in Iraq? (Select up to two statements.)**

## The war in Iraq is:

Answer	Percent
Damaging U.S. credibility in the world and increased the risk of terrorism	41.98%
Costing too much in lives and money and we should be focused on our problems here at home	31.89%
Justified because removing Saddam Hussein has made the U.S. safer even if there are no weapons of mass destruction found.	13.79%
Critical to winning the war on terrorism no matter what the human and financial costs	12.35%

## Contact Information

website: <http://www.mccollum.house.gov/>

### Washington Office

1029 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6631  
(202) 225-1968 fax

### St. Paul Office

165 Western Ave North Suite 17  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 224-9191  
(651) 224-3056 fax



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