



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



May 21, 2004

McCollum Opposes Republican Attacks On Workers' Safety

This week, Congresswoman Betty McCollum voted to defend worker safety against four anti-worker safety bills (H.R. 2728, H.R. 2729, H.R. 2730, H.R. 2731) that will substantially weaken worker health and safety laws and enforcement by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). House Republicans forced passage of the measures on near party-line votes.

"Middle-class families are already under increasing pressure with wages at their lowest level since 1998, the cost of health care nearly doubling, college tuition increasing almost 35 percent and gas prices soaring to record-breaking heights," said McCollum.

"Now, the Republicans are gutting enforcement of health and safety laws that protect working men and women," said McCollum. **"Our families have many things to worry about, and the safety of their workplace should not be one of them. More than 60,000 Americans die and another 4.7 million are injured from job-related injuries or illnesses each year. Congress should be standing up for the safety and health of working men and women, not ramming through these egregious bills that weaken important workplace protections."**

Republican Tax Cuts Increase Deficit

This week, House Republican leaders passed the Child Tax Credit Expansion Act (H.R. 4359) which expands the child tax credit and makes it permanent, adding more than \$500 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years. A small provision in the bill, costing \$1.8 billion, will accelerate a portion of the children's credit that serves low-income families. But a new, provision, costing \$70 billion, will extend the credit to families with incomes of nearly \$300,000 or more.

According to the Tax Policy Center, 40 percent of the bill's benefits go to the wealthiest 10 percent of Americans, those making over \$100,000:

- A family with a parent working full-time at the minimum wage (\$10,300) would get no benefit at all from the bill,
- Two-child families making up to \$250,000 would get an extra \$20,000 in tax breaks over the next 10 years.

McCollum supported the Democratic alternative, which would have provided tax relief to 75 percent of middle-income families who need it most – those making less than \$110,000.

Shoreview Students Meet with McCollum



Seventh and eighth grade students from the Oak Hill Montessori School in Shoreview, Minnesota meet with Congresswoman McCollum during their visit to Washington D.C.

The Week Ahead

Monday, May 24th – Ninth grade civics students from Harding High School in St. Paul will meet with Rep. McCollum.

Tuesday, May 25th — Rep. McCollum will be the keynote speaker at the celebration of the completion of Ramsey County's 2004 Leadership Academy.

Wednesday, May 26th – Medicare Town Hall at the Health-East Residence of South St. Paul.

Thursday, May 27th – Medicare Town Hall at the Summer House of Shoreview.

Saturday, May 29th — Rep. McCollum will join Minnesota veterans at the dedication ceremony of the WWII Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

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

Washington Office: 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

St. Paul Office: 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056