



**Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District**

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Dear Friend,

This week, Republican Leaders in Congress passed legislation to raise the debt ceiling by \$800 billion in order to keep our federal services in operation. I believe re-establishing fiscal responsibility must be a priority in Washington, and a vote to return Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budget rules should accompany any vote to raise the debt limit. Restoring common sense PAYGO policy will ensure that our children and grandchildren will not pay the bill for today's tax cuts and other government spending. Please [click here](#) to read more about the debt ceiling and PAYGO.

American Education Week was founded 83 years ago this week to recognize the educators and school staff who help our children achieve and keep them safe and healthy. I believe education must be a top priority in Washington, because the American dream cannot be reached without it. Please [click here](#) to read more.

If you have not signed up for my e-newsletter, please [click here to stay updated](#). Please visit my [website](#) for the latest information on the work I do on behalf of Minnesota families. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth District

### McCollum Discusses Safety with MN Law Enforcement



Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Executive Director Bill Gillespie and President, Bob Bushman meets with Congresswoman Betty McCollum in Washington, D.C. to discuss funding for local law enforcement.

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**News Alert:**

## Congressional Republicans Vote to Raise Federal Debt Limit

This week, Republicans were forced to pass legislation raising the debt limit by \$800 billion so that U.S. government services continue to operate. This was the third time in three years that Congress has been forced to vote to raise the debt limit, because the fiscal policies of the President and the GOP Congress have led to record expansion of the debt.

Under President Bush, our country has gone from a projected \$5.6 trillion budget surplus to a \$3 trillion deficit over the next ten years. Our national debt currently stands at a staggering \$7.38 trillion. Republicans are piling up a national debt that will burden our children and grandchildren for decades to come with big tax cuts for those who need them least and tax breaks that are encouraging U.S. companies to export jobs overseas.

I believe that any vote on increasing the debt limit must be accompanied by a vote to put back in place Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rules. PAYGO puts into policy the common sense that the federal government should not spend more than it brings in. **Raising the debt limit without taking the first steps toward restoring fiscal responsibility with PAYGO rules is irresponsible.** Unfortunately, Republicans oppose this common sense reform.

Deficits and debt of this magnitude are a major budget crisis. It is time to return fiscal responsibility in Washington.

## Honoring Education Professionals

"Celebrating the American Dream" is the theme of this year's American Education Week celebration, and reflects our commitment to provide all students the opportunity to succeed. We know the pressures parents, students, and educational professionals face every day, so it is important to celebrate the many unsung efforts and interactions that take place between children, parents, and teachers. These partnerships greatly increase opportunities for children to succeed.

As a former teacher, I know that today's educators do more than teach basic skills. They nurture and inspire children despite obstacles. They help students learn essential skills not always measured in testing, such

as critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperation, and problem solving, which help students throughout life. Now is the perfect time to say 'thank you' for all their hard work, long hours and dedication.

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