



Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District

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Dear Friend,

Since June, Medicare has offered seniors and people with disabilities the opportunity to purchase Drug Discount Cards. The success of the cards at providing relief from the high prices of prescription drugs here in the 4th Congressional District was recently studied by the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform. This evaluation of discounts for the ten most common drugs prescribed locally finds that prices are on average nearly 60 percent higher than what the Veterans' Administration pays. The remarkable difference in cost is because the VA can negotiate for best price with drug companies, while Medicare is prohibited. Prices with the discount cards are 57 percent higher than in Canada, yet the new Medicare law prohibits re-importing prescriptions. [Read the new study here.](#)

Protecting America means guarding both our national security and our freedom from government officials and agencies that exceed their authority. This week, I offered an amendment to the Republican intelligence reform bill (H.R. 10) in the House Committee on Government Reform to implement a key recommendation from the bipartisan 9/11 Commission to protect these important freedoms. The measure would have created a board to analyze and review the actions of the Executive Branch and ensure that our freedoms are appropriately protected and respected. Congressman Chris Shays (R-CT) joined me and all committee Democrats in supporting the measure. However, Republicans rejected the amendment by a vote of 21 to 20. [Click here](#) to read more about my amendment.

If you have not signed up for my e-newsletter, please

Minnesota Teen Scholar Meets with McCollum



Congresswoman Betty McCollum presented Nicole Ali, a 16-year-old graduate of St. Paul Academy, with a U.S. flag flown in her honor. Ms. Ali is one of 16 winners nationwide of the 2004 Davidson Fellowship for her extraordinary achievement in stem cell research. She was awarded a \$50,000 scholarship to attend Harvard University.

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, October 5th

Meeting with the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine

Wednesday, October 6th

International Relations Committee Hearing on the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom

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

News Alert:

Protecting American Freedom

Now more than ever, we must strengthen our national security, defend our democratic values and protect our individual freedom and liberties. These are all necessary to win the war on terrorism.

The amendment I offered to the Republican intelligence reform bill (H.R. 10) followed recommendations by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, and would have created a board to analyze and review the actions of the Executive Branch and guarantee that the civil liberties and the privacy of the American people are not dismissed or trampled upon by intrusive federal laws or federal agents.

[Read the full statement on Rep. McCollum's Amendment to Protect American Freedoms.](#)

[Read Rep. McCollum's amendment.](#)

New Study Shows High Rx Prices in 4th District

A new study by the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform shows that prescription costs remain high for seniors and people with disabilities in the Fourth Congressional District, even using new Discount Drug Cards available for purchase under the new Medicare law. The survey confirms that Minnesota seniors are still finding much cheaper prescriptions in Canada, despite the temporary discount cards sanctioned by this law. Sadly, the law blocks re-importation of these lower cost medications.

[Read Congresswoman McCollum's full statement on](#)

Thursday, October 7th
Meeting with Norwegian
Parliamentarians

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the new Medicare study.

Read the Medicare study.

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