



Congressman
Tim Walberg

Annual Report

TO THE PEOPLE OF
SOUTH-CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Issued January, 2008

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 2008

Dear Neighbor:

I am honored to have the privilege of representing you in the United States House of Representatives. My job is to be your voice in Washington and assist your interactions with the federal government. To enable you to evaluate my performance in 2007, I am submitting an annual report for your review.

Michigan families and small businesses are facing many challenges, including rising health care costs, high energy prices, job losses, declining home values, and to top it off, a massive tax increase by the state of Michigan. Bad government policies are standing in the way of prosperity, hope, and opportunity, but I am committed to turning Michigan around.

This annual report will share practical steps I am taking on your behalf to eliminate wasteful spending, balance the budget, prevent tax increases, create good-paying jobs, make health care more affordable and accessible, reduce energy prices and move toward energy independence, secure our border, implement a common-sense immigration system, and preserve our traditional values.

Through listening to and learning from you, I am able to carry our values, principles, and ideas to Washington and better represent you. We will not always agree, but we will each be better off by listening to one another. To that end, I made a concerted effort during 2007 to be as accessible as possible. In 2007, I held almost 100 town hall meetings, coffee hours, and open office hours. Throughout the seven counties in our district, I held Veterans Fairs, Farm Bill listening sessions, education listening sessions, and health care listening sessions. I responded to over 31,000 letters, emails, and faxes. I helped over 1,800 constituents cut through the federal government's bureaucratic red tape and will continue to help constituents in need.

I also tapped into new technology by holding a dozen telephone town hall meetings between votes in Washington, calls that allowed me to speak with thousands of constituents and listen to your concerns from my Washington office. We need to work together on long-term solutions and change the way our federal government operates to build a better, brighter future for Michigan. I will continue to reach out and listen to all constituents in 2008.

Thank you again for granting me the privilege of serving. Please do not hesitate to contact me to share your views on issues or if my office can be of assistance with federal agencies. My office can be reached toll-free at 877-TIM-MI-07 or at walberg.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg

I. Making Our Government More Open and Honest

The American people want men and women in Congress who follow through with their commitments, are accountable to the people they serve, and maintain the highest ethical standards. A public office is a public trust. Far too often, public officials violate this trust by breaking the law or engaging in unethical behavior.



Congressman Walberg provides a legislative update to constituents

Banning Gifts, Corporate Flights, and Lunches from Lobbyists

One of Tim Walberg's first votes as a member of Congress banned gifts, corporate flights, and lunches from lobbyists.¹ This legislation was needed to help clean-up Washington.

Eliminating Pensions for Convicted Politicians

Two members of the 109th Congress are currently sitting in prison. When members of Congress break the trust of their constituents and the American people, the American taxpayer is unfortunately saddled with the prison costs, and taxpayers should not have to shoulder paying these former members a pension. Congressman Walberg voted to eliminate pensions for members of Congress who are convicted of felonies.²

Free Flow of Information Act

As a believer in limited government and fiscal discipline in today's modern media age, Congressman Walberg believes a good way to keep our government accountable is a free and independent press. Government waste, fraud, and abuse are a breach of the public trust, and the government must not punish reporters who bring such indiscretions to light through confidential sources. This is why Congressman Walberg co-sponsored the Free Flow of Information Act,³ which passed Congress with his strong support.⁴

Line-Item Veto

There is work left to do in Washington to clean up the waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government. Congressman Walberg is fighting continually against the status quo by working to stop pork-barrel spending through the legislative line-item veto.⁵

II. Strengthening the Family Farm and Helping our Rural Communities

Many are not aware that Michigan, the auto capitol of the world, is also second in the nation in agriculture diversity. Congressman Walberg spent several months canvassing his district, meeting with farmers and members of the agriculture community to seek input and information on agriculture. As the only Michigan member of the House Agriculture committee, Congressman Walberg understands the value and importance of agriculture to south-central Michigan and the entire state. South-central Michigan is the most diverse and productive agricultural area in the state.



Congressman Walberg listens to a farmer's concerns during one of the listening sessions

Agriculture-Focused Staff and Farm Bill Listening Sessions

Congressman Walberg is very concerned with agriculture and its effect on Michigan, and he hired two staffers to assist with him on these issues. He hired a District Agricultural Liaison and an Agriculture Legislative Assistant. These two staff members devote the majority of their time to working with south-central Michigan's farmers and agri-business to help develop our rural communities. Additionally, Congressman Walberg held Farm Bill listening sessions in all seven counties of the Seventh Congressional District to hear the concerns of farmers on how to revive rural communities.

Farmland Preservation

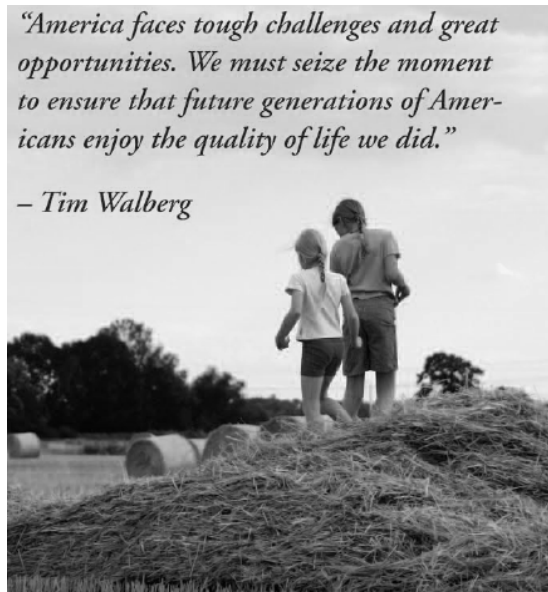
Every five years, the Farm Bill is re-authorized by Congress to renew and update farm programs. Congressman Walberg worked with the bi-partisan House Agriculture Committee to renew the Farm Bill in 2007. He offered an amendment on an important conservation issue, which was later adapted as language to the 2007 House Farm Bill allowing Calhoun County and other counties in Michigan to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program (FRPP). He also offered an amendment to include the Great Lakes in the Nutrient Reduction and Sediment Control section of the Farm Bill.

Research, Technology, and Alternative Fuels

Congressman Walberg worked with the Dean of Agriculture at Michigan State University to re-write and improve the research title of the Farm Bill. This will encourage more research and technology and help Michigan State continue to be a leader in agriculture research. This new title will assist not only corn and wheat farmers, your more traditional growers, but new language and ideas have been designed to assist Michigan's ever growing specialty crop producers. Congressman Walberg also had USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development, Thomas Dorr, visit a dairy farm in Jackson County and meet with over 100 farmers and stakeholders in agriculture to discuss rural development and alternative fuels.

"America faces tough challenges and great opportunities. We must seize the moment to ensure that future generations of Americans enjoy the quality of life we did."

– Tim Walberg



Fighting Emerald Ash Borer and Helping Cherry Growers

Congressman Walberg worked with pallet companies from Jonesville and across Michigan to improve standards for reducing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and making pallets safe for use without hurting the industry. He will continue to work with his colleagues to ensure proper funding to help eradicate emerald ash borer. He also sent a letter to the USDA to keep dried cherries a part of national school lunch program for Michigan cherry growers. He also sent a letter to the USDA requesting an increase in apple purchases for domestic national programs assisting Michigan apple farmers.

Prohibiting Animal Fighting

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored and helped pass into law the Animal Fighting Prohibition Act tightening federal laws on dog and cock fighting.⁶

Efficient Use of Taxpayer Dollars

All of these changes will help ensure that programs for farmers benefit local family farmers. Congressman Walberg will continue to push to make sure Congress is a responsible steward of taxpayer money and that our food supply will remain safe and secure. He has continually fought fraud, waste, and abuse in government programs and will continue to work to ensure programs are efficient and payments go to intended recipients and not to billionaires like Ted Turner.

In 2008, farmers in south-central Michigan may not have

predictable weather, but they should have predictability in federal policy. Quickly passing a new Farm Bill is critical to providing this stability. Over the past year, there have been record high commodity prices, which are beginning to cause an economic resurgence in rural communities. As the auto industry struggles in Michigan, agriculture becomes an increasingly important industry. The Congressman's top priorities are enabling family farmers to compete globally and opening up new markets for their products.



Congressman Walberg gives an update on the Farm Bill with Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte

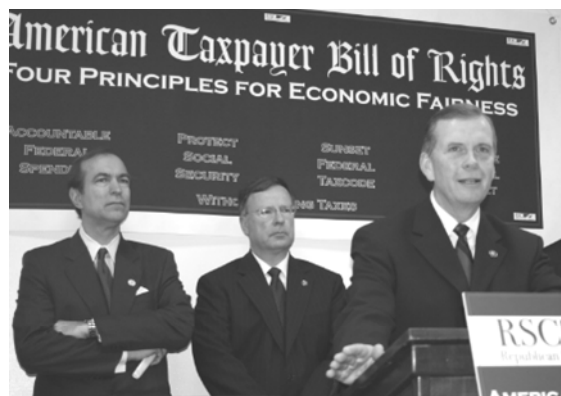


Congressman Walberg provides an update to constituents on how he's helping the family farmer

III. Fighting for a Balanced Budget and Against Wasteful Spending

Accurate accounting, individual accountability, and balancing the family budget are required in our personal finances. Congressman Walberg believes the same should be expected of our federal government. Unfortunately, Congress has run up too much debt from years of unchecked spending on unnecessary programs and egregious pork-barrel projects. Appropriations bills are filled with wasteful spending and Congressman Walberg is standing up to the big spenders in Washington and demanding fiscal restraint.

As Michiganders know, higher spending leads to higher taxes, and as Michigan's struggling families deal with increasing energy costs, higher tuition bills, and raising medical costs, the last thing working families need is another tax increase.



Congressman Walberg introduces the "American Taxpayers Bill of Rights" to help bring fiscal discipline to the federal budget

Line-Item Veto

One of Congressman Walberg's first actions was to cosponsor the Balanced Budget Amendment⁷ and the Line Item Veto Act.⁸ Both of these legislative initiatives will help get Washington, D.C.'s severe spending problem under control. With legislation such as the line-item veto, Congress can implement meaningful reform to stop the abuse of taxpayer dollars and end pork-barrel spending on items like a \$230 million "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska, a \$500,000 swimming pool in Banning, California, and a \$400,000 teapot museum in North Carolina. These initiatives will establish a better mechanism for safeguarding taxpayer dollars and promoting government efficiency.

Voting to Remove Pork and Reduce Spending

During the appropriations process, Congressman Walberg fought wasteful spending by voting repeatedly to restrain spending. Unfortunately, even his attempts to reduce total spending by 1% and even .25% percent were thwarted by entrenched Washington, D.C. interests. Unfortunately, the majority of Congress would not go along with a vote to save just a quarter of one percent from the federal budget. It is unacceptable for Congress to continue to live beyond its means. Congressman Walberg also voted against egregious spending projects such as \$50,000 for a Mule and Packers Museum in California and \$150,000 for a fish laboratory in Massachusetts. He even helped prevent one pork-barrel earmark, stopping \$129,000 from being spent on a "perfect Christmas tree" project in North Carolina. Such egregious spending items are why Congressman Walberg supports legislation requiring a more transparent and open appropriations process. However, by standing strong with his fiscally conservative colleagues on the principles of fiscal discipline they were able to save American taxpayers \$22 billion by not going along with the big spenders.

Earmark Transparency and Accountability

He is an original co-sponsor of the Earmark Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007.⁹ This bill, if passed, would eliminate hidden and egregious pork-barrel spending items by disclosing the name of the member of Congress who requested the earmark. Bottom line, we need to increase transparency and hold Congress accountable for its pork barrel spending.

Reform Entitlement Spending

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored legislation to create a bi-partisan Commission on Reforming Entitlement (CORE) Spending.¹⁰

Regular Budget Process

He co-sponsored legislation to prohibit the use of omnibus spending bills,¹¹ which are a mechanism for House leadership to combine most federal spending into one bill and then require an up or down vote without amendments. This process leads to one huge, pork-infested bill.

Family Budget Protection Act

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored the Family Budget Protection Act.¹² This legislation would create a simple and legally binding budget, cap federal spending, and establish a rainy day fund for emergencies.

Opposition to “All-in-One” Omnibus Spending Bills

After Congress did not meet its established budget deadlines to fund the federal government, it spent another three months passing a series of temporary funding extensions. Just before Christmas, Speaker Pelosi and House leadership pushed through a massive 3,417 page pork-filled spending bill to fund our federal budget. Members of Congress were given less than 22 hours to review the bill. This “omnibus” bill came to fruition through inside-the-beltway partisan gamesmanship and Congressman Walberg did not support this budget-busting bill. The final bill contained more than \$12 billion in pork-barrel projects, including egregious items such as \$113,000 for rodent control in Alaska, \$213,000 for olive fruit fly research in France, and \$2 million for a monument named after a member of Congress, the Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service at City College, in New York City. This legislation also failed to stop the automatic pay raise for members of Congress. The American public is frustrated with Congress and allowing an increase in members’ salaries is the last thing Congress needs to be doing. This is why Congressman Walberg is cosponsoring legislation to force Congress to vote their pay raises because it should not be automatic.

Making Government Spending More Transparent

Thomas Jefferson stated during his Presidency, “We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant’s books, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them.”

Congressman Walberg supports further transparency in federal budgeting and bringing more openness to federal government spending. Examples of his work in this area:

- The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which created a free, searchable website for all federal contracts and grants. As of January 2008, the website is up and is located at www.federalspending.gov.
- In 2007, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revealed they would make all “earmarks” public and searchable online at <http://earmarks.omb.gov>.
- Federal agencies are now evaluated each year based on several criteria: competitive sourcing, financial performance, human capital, E-governance, and budget/performance integration. Evaluations of federal agencies are available at www.results.gov. Now the job is to find those that are failing to meet their objectives and streamline them.
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) evaluated each spending program of the federal government with a 25-question Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) test. Programs are rated as effective, moderately effective, adequate, ineffective, or results not demonstrated. This site is available at www.expectmore.gov.
- The Office of Federal Financial Management is compiling a comprehensive database of all real property owned by the federal government. The Federal Real Property Database is available at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/financial/fia_asset.html.

Congressman Walberg believes more can be done to find government agencies that are not performing and explore ways to streamline, improve, and consolidate government agencies and programs while prioritizing federal government spending.

Congressman Walberg’s Votes to Stop Pork Barrel Federal Spending

- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the Clover Bend Historic Site in Arkansas. *Amendment failed, 98-331.* (Roll Call No. 559, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$100,000 for the St. Joseph's College Theatre Renovation in Indiana. *Amendment failed, 97-328.* (Roll Call No. 560, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the Maverick Concert Hall preservation in New York. *Amendment failed, 114-316.* (Roll Call No. 561, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the Bremerton Public Library restoration in Washington. *Amendment failed, 98-333.* (Roll Call No. 562, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$140,000 for the Wetzel County Courthouse in West Virginia. *Amendment failed, 104-323.* (Roll Call No. 565, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$150,000 for equipment for the Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory. *Amendment failed, 97-330.* (Roll Call No. 566, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the W.A. Young and Sons Foundry in Pennsylvania. *Amendment failed, 104-328.* (Roll Call No. 567, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$100,000 to renovate a hall in Ohio. *Amendment failed, 66-364.* (Roll Call No. 568, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$1,200,000 for projects related to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Route. *Amendment failed, 86-343.* (Roll Call No. 569, 2007)
- Bars funding of \$231,000 for the Grace Johnstown Area Regional Industries Incubator and Workforce Development program in Pennsylvania. *Amendment failed, 87-335.* (Roll Call No. 590, 2007)



- Bars funding of \$500,000 for a project in the Barracks Row area of Washington, D.C. *Amendment failed, 60-361. (Roll Call No. 591, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$231,000 for the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association's SPUR urban center. *Amendment failed, 102-317. (Roll Call No. 592, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$129,000 for the Mitchell County Development Foundation for the home of the "perfect Christmas tree" project. *Amendment passed, 249-174. (Roll Call No. 593, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$231,000 for the West Virginia University Research Corporation's renovation of a small-business incubator. *Amendment failed, 101-325. (Roll Call No. 594, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$231,000 for the Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission. *Amendment failed, 107-318. (Roll Call No. 595, 2007)*

- To remove 148 requested earmarks from the bill. *Amendment failed, 48-372. (Roll Call No. 597, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$1,000,000 for the Center for Instrumented Critical Infrastructure in Pennsylvania. *Amendment failed, 98-326. (Roll Call No. 636, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$500,000 for the Emmanuel College Center for Science Partnership in Massachusetts. *Amendment failed, 79-337. (Roll Call No. 638, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$1,000,000 for nano-structured fuel cell membrane electrode assembly in California. *Amendment failed, 81-348. (Roll Call No. 639, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$34,000,000 for the Alaska Native Education Equity program and other programs. *Amendment failed, 74-352. (Roll Call No. 654, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$300,000 for its Bay Area Science Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Improvement Initiative. *Amendment failed, 89-341. (Roll Call No. 664, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$300,000 for the On Location Entertainment Industry Craft and Technician Training project at West Los Angeles College in Culver City, CA. *Amendment failed, 114-316. (Roll Call No. 667, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the American Ballet Theatre in New York City for educational activities. *Amendment failed, 118-312. (Roll Call No. 668, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$150,000 for the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, S.C. *Amendment failed, 70-360. (Roll Call No. 669, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$100,000 for the Kansas Regional Prisons Museum in Lansing, Kansas. *Amendment failed, 112-317. (Roll Call No. 670, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$2,000,000 for the Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service in New York City. *Amendment failed, 108-316. (Roll Call No. 678, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$200,000 for the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, MO. *Amendment failed, 96-327. (Roll Call No. 679, 2007)*

- Bars funding of \$300,000 for the Belmont Complex in Kittanning, PA. *Amendment failed, 87-335. (Roll Call No. 698, 2007)*



- **Bars funding of \$400,000 for the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Wausau, WI.** *Amendment failed, 68-356.* (Roll Call No. 699, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$50,000 for the National Mule and Packers Museum in Woodlake, CA.** *Amendment failed, 69-352.* (Roll Call No. 700, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$300,000 for the Friends of Cheat Rails-to-Trails Program in West Virginia.** *Amendment failed, 81-342.* (Roll Call No. 701, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$300,000 for the Houston Zoo in Texas.** *Amendment failed, 77-347.* (Roll Call No. 702, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$150,000 for the Edmonds Center for the Arts in Edmonds, WA.** *Amendment failed, 97-327.* (Roll Call No. 705, 2007)
- **Bars funding for "parking facilities".** *Amendment failed, 86-338.* (Roll Call No. 706, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$628,843 for grape genetics research in Geneva, NY.** *Amendment failed, 76-353.* (Roll Call No. 810, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$400,000 for the alternative uses of a tobacco grant in Maryland.** *Amendment failed, 94-337.* (Roll Call No. 811, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$489,000 for Ruminant Nutrition Consortium in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.** *Amendment failed, 74-355.* (Roll Call No. 812, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$2,500,000 for the Presidio Trust national park in San Francisco, CA.** *Amendment failed, 94-311.* (Roll Call No. 839, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$2,000,000 for the "Paint Shield for Protecting People from Microbial Threats."** *Amendment failed, 91-317.* (Roll Call No. 842, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$1,500,000 for the Doyle Center for Manufacturing Technology in Pittsburgh, PA.** *Amendment failed, 98-312.* (Roll Call No. 843, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$3,000,000 for the Lewis Center for Education Research in Apple Valley, CA.** *Amendment failed, 57-353.* (Roll Call No. 844, 2007)
- **Bars funding of \$39,000,000 for the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, PA.** *Amendment failed, 109-301.* (Roll Call No. 845, 2007)

IV. Protecting Michigan Jobs and Keeping America Competitive

With Michigan having the highest unemployment rate in the nation, it is critical to stem the loss of jobs in Michigan and increase America's global competitiveness. It is important to ensure there are good paying, high-skilled jobs in Michigan. Congressman Walberg is committed to ensuring that Michigan and America has the best tax, regulatory, and education systems in the world.



Congressman Walberg receives a briefing on new technology being developed in south-central Michigan

Fighting Against the \$400 Billion Tax Increase

Congressman Walberg understands what it is like to struggle, live on a meager income and have limited or no health care. One of his first jobs was as a furnace worker at a steel mill in Chicago, and he used the money earned at the steel mill to put him through college. When starting out his career his family did not have health coverage, so to help meet the family's needs his wife Sue worked a part-time job cleaning medical offices so their family could receive some needed health coverage. While things were tough, they knew that things would get better. He is confident Michigan has brighter days ahead if its leaders are willing to make educated and fiscally responsible decisions for Michigan's future. Michigan citizens are up to the challenge if given half a chance. Congressman Walberg has introduced the Tax Increase Prevention Act,¹³ which would prevent a \$400 billion tax increase on the American people, because the last thing Michigan families and small businesses facing rising health care costs, high energy prices, and a weak economy need is to be hit with higher taxes.

Nations Around the World Are Reducing Taxes

We see across Europe in nations like Estonia, Ireland, and the Czech Republic lowering and simplifying their tax rates leads to record job and economic growth as a result of these policies. In fact, even France's new President is planning to follow Germany in lowering the tax rate on job-creators. America's tax rate on job creators is the second highest in the developed world, and the U.S. is one of the only countries to tax our companies for bringing capital back to America to invest and grow business. The last thing we need to do is drive more capital investment and jobs away from our country with ill-conceived and short-sighted tax increases that are being trumpeted in Congress and in the press. Congressman Walberg will continue to fight the tax and spend status-quo in Washington.

Education, Research, and Technology allows America to Compete

Beyond making tax and regulatory policy more conducive to economic growth, education is the key foundation to ensuring America's children are well-educated and universities are on the cutting edge of technological advancements. To keep American education advancing, Congressman Walberg supported the America COMPETES Act.¹⁴ This legislation is part of the American Competitiveness Initiative, which is part of an overall strategy to help strengthen scientific education and research, improve development of new technology, attract the world's best and brightest workers, and provide 21st century job training. The America COMPETES Act

is a bi-partisan bill aimed at addressing the issues raised in the *National Academies* report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*.¹⁵ This legislation:

- Doubles funding for basic research programs in physical science. The increase in funding will help encourage scientists to explore promising new areas that are critical for America's competitiveness such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy.
- Improves instruction in mathematics by developing programs that will give teachers research-based tools and professional development to improve elementary, and middle school students' achievement in math.
- Institutes an Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Program, which would expand low-income students' access to AP/IB coursework by training more high school teachers to lead AP/IB in such courses as foreign languages, mathematics, and science in high-need schools.

This legislation focuses on three areas that are important for maintaining and improving U.S. innovation: 1) increasing research investment; 2) strengthening educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, from elementary through graduate school; and 3) developing an innovation infrastructure. In order for America to continue to stay competitive, we need to continue to improve on every level. It is essential that we continue to be a step ahead of the world in research and development as well as science, technology, engineering, and math education. This legislation will help with this by supporting Michigan's strong university and college system by investing in research and development, encouraging education, and nurturing a business environment that transforms new knowledge into new high wage jobs to make sure America remains a leader in the global marketplace.

Help Workers Re-tool, Re-train, and Compete for 21st Century Jobs

As we all know, Michigan is going through hard times and with increased international competition, we need to help re-tool and re-train our workers to compete and win in the 21st Century. This is why Congressman Walberg supported the Trade Adjustment and Assistance reauthorization.¹⁶ This legislation would increase federal payments to the Unemployment Trust Fund, extend trade adjustment assistance to additional workers, increase funding for job-training programs, expand unemployment insurance benefit coverage, and help people who lose their jobs keep their health insurance. This is common sense legislation which the President stated he opposes;¹⁷ standing up for Michigan's workers Congressman Walberg supported it and calls on the Senate to stop delaying, pass this important piece of legislation and send it to the President's desk.¹⁸

Making Housing More Affordable and Accessible

With falling home prices in Michigan and moves by homeowners to renegotiate their mortgages to avoid foreclosure, any forgiven debt to homeowners unable to repay their mortgages has been treated as taxable income. To help those struggling, Congressman Walberg supported the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act¹⁹ which passed Congress and was signed into law. This legislation fixes the tax code to eliminate the tax bill for homeowners on debt that

was forgiven by lenders to avoid foreclosure. This legislation prevents families from being punished by the tax collector when they are struggling most.

Congressman Walberg has worked in numerous ways to make housing more affordable including his support for the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act,²⁰ and supporting the Housing Assistance Council.²¹ Congressman Walberg has worked to reform the Federal Housing Administration by voting for the Expanding American Homeownership Act²² which would simplify the down payment process, offer borrowers flexible down payment options, modernize the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Program, and help more people afford and benefit from Mortgage Insurance. He has also opposed legislation that would levy a mortgage tax which would increase the cost of mortgages for consumers.

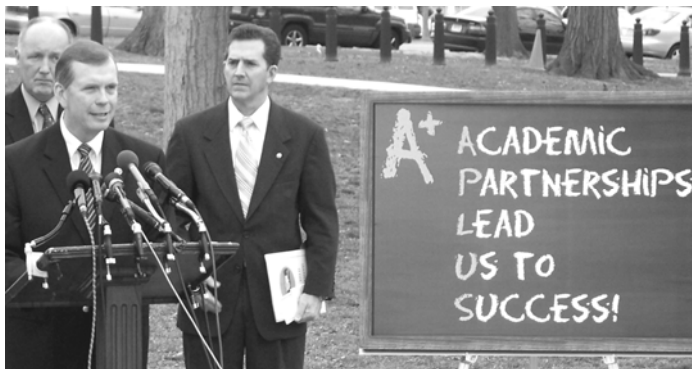
Currently, there are many ideas and legislative proposals on reforming and improving mortgage practices. Congressman Walberg looks forward to working to help people keep their homes, stop abusive lending practices, and increase homeownership in a responsible way. Any housing bill must not include burdensome regulations that would drive up costs for consumers, raise interest rates, and harm our economy.



V. Educating Our Children, Preparing for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Elementary & Secondary Education

For our nation, the quality education of our youth is of utmost importance if we are to remain competitive in a global economy. Traveling throughout the district, Congressman Walberg often hears from constituents who are upset with the bureaucratic mess of federal education programs, specifically No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This is why



Congressman Walberg introduces the A-PLUS Act

Congressman Walberg, as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, set-up county listening sessions with educators, parents, and school administrators to find ways to improve No Child Left Behind. Originally, No Child Left Behind aimed to provide greater school choice and reduce Washington's involvement in education, but instead, this expensive and largely unsuccessful legislation has broadened the scope of the federal government's role in education. Congress must support initiatives that return control to parents, teachers, and local school districts through flexibility, choice, and innovative reforms.

Providing Flexibility

One of Congressman Walberg's early acts in Congress was to become an original co-sponsor of the Academic Partnerships Led Us to Success Act (A-PLUS).²³ It will give states, teachers and parents the freedom and authority to determine what educational path is best for students to take. Specifically, it would allow each state to consolidate all of the federal education dollars that it would normally receive under the various education programs if it assumes responsibility for the state's education policies. A state that consolidates its federal dollars would no longer be required to comply with federal mandates. Each state would be required to maintain fiscal control and financial transparency and will be held accountable to parents and taxpayers.

Empowering Parents

School choice takes on many different forms across the country and at the various levels of government. At the state and local level, school choice exists for many parents through avenues such as residential choice, tax credits and deductions, scholarships, home schooling, and local lottery mechanisms, among others. However, at the federal level, school choice (especially *private* school choice) remains significantly limited.



Congressman Walberg helped introduce Empowering Parents Through Choice Act²⁴ as a member of the House Education & Labor Committee. This legislation would award scholarships to students attending schools identified as

in need of restructuring under NCLB. Schools begin the process of restructuring after they fall short of making adequate progress under NCLB for five consecutive years.

Reform through Innovation

America's educators make many sacrifices in order to ensure our nation's children receive a quality education. Unfortunately, the nation cannot afford to make this the most lucrative career in the world. As a result, we are having trouble recruiting and retaining teachers across the nation – especially in school districts that are chronically underachieving. Congressman Walberg believes we need to support measures to increase the pool of individuals to become qualified teachers, implement new pay structures so teachers receive rewards for performance, and support solutions to encourage younger adults to enter the profession.

The Troops to Teachers program provides stipends to retiring military personnel to obtain the necessary certification for a second career in teaching. Since its authorization in 1993, nearly 10,000 veterans have participated in the program - bringing important math, science, and foreign language expertise to our classrooms. Congressman Walberg is a cosponsor of the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act,²⁵ which corrects a Department of Education ruling that locks out schools in many rural areas and small communities from participating in this important program.

Congressman Walberg supported legislation²⁶ that helps states and local communities reward educators who improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. This would provide funds to states and local school districts to help them develop performance-based compensation systems that offer teachers and principals “recognition pay” for demonstrating progress in raising student achievement levels and closing the achievement gap. However, no federally-designed performance-based compensation system would be imposed upon states or schools – it would be up to each school district.

Finally, Congressman Walberg has supported legislation²⁷ providing upfront tuition assistance to qualified undergraduate students who commit to teaching in public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas. This legislation also qualifies students for certain loan forgiveness options if they pursue a career in early childhood education.

Higher Education

The ability of individuals to attend institutions of higher education is crucial to ensuring America remains a competitor in the global marketplace. Congress has a responsibility to help generations of American students successfully complete post-secondary studies and reap the benefits that come with higher education. Congressman Walberg believes policymakers have an opportunity and an obligation to enact meaningful reforms on behalf of American students, families, and taxpayers.

Making College More Accessible and Affordable

Congressman Walberg understands the difficulty many students face with the rising cost of college. The average student graduates with \$17,500 in loan debt, which is 45% more than just 11 years ago. In 2007, he supported legislation cutting interest rates on student loans²⁸ from 6.8% to 3.4%. This will save students and their families thousands of dollars over the life of an average loan.

It is also important to find solutions that will make college costs affordable for those who attend graduate school and fill critical needs, such as doctors. Congressman Walberg introduced

legislation that would restore protections for student loan borrowers graduating with high debt levels.²⁹ Known as the 20/220 rule, the provision allows borrowers such as medical students to defer their student loan payments early in their careers when their ratio of debt to income is particularly high. This legislation would restore this provision eliminated in 2007 by the House Democrats. Congressman Walberg is pleased this legislation will help new doctors begin practicing medicine in low-income communities hit by physician shortages by giving them additional time to pay off their higher education debts.

Increasing Opportunities for Low Income Students

Congressman Walberg is a strong supporter of the Pell Grant program that is the single largest source of grant aid for students seeking a postsecondary education funded by the federal government. Last year, Congressman Walberg was proud to support legislation that increases the maximum authorization of \$5,800 in the 2009-2010 academic year Pell grant to \$9,000 through the 2013-2014 academic year. Additionally, the legislation now allows students to qualify for Pell grants throughout the calendar year, increasing access for students that might require a more flexible academic schedule, such as the need to attend summer school.³⁰

It is also important to leverage funds with those who wish to engage in philanthropic activities and Congressman Walberg supported legislation³¹ that establishes partnerships with federal, state, and local government entities and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of first generation and low-income college students.

Ownership of Education

Congressman Walberg is co-sponsor of the Student Financial Readiness Act.³² This legislation would increase the yearly contribution limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year and index the contribution amount by the cost-of-living adjustment for Coverdale Education Savings Accounts.

Congressman Walberg also supports the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act.³³ This legislation seeks to make higher education more affordable by improving the tax treatment of education savings. This is not a new idea, as 529 accounts have been one of the most successful tools for college savings in a generation. Specifically, it makes permanent the education provisions included under the 2001 tax cuts and it expands the Student Loan Interest Deduction to allow borrowers to deduct the full amount of interest on their student loans while increasing the income eligibility to claim the deduction.

Not only have tuition rates exploded, but costs like textbooks are now placing a major strain on the affordability of higher education. While many of these required reading materials can be attained at the school library, any student will tell you that sharing these books is simply impractical. Congressman Walberg supports legislation³⁴ that contains a provision that expands the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit to include certain additional expenses, such as fees, books, and supplies and it also excludes Pell Grants and SEOG (grants for students with exceptional financial need) payments as mandatory reductions to eligibility for the Hope Credit.

VI. Lowering Gas Prices and Ending our Dependence on Middle East Oil

Energy Price Increases Are Hurting Families

At the beginning of 2008, as folks returned back to work, news broke that the price of oil reached a record high of \$100 per barrel. To put this in perspective, it is important to remember that a barrel of oil cost less than \$30 in December 2003.

Gas prices are above three dollars per gallon across south-central Michigan and have risen since the summer, causing families on a budget to cringe every time they travel to the pump. Uncertainty about the cost of filling up makes it hard for families to plan for the year ahead.



All of these factors make it crystal clear Congress needs to finally get serious about an energy plan that truly lowers prices at the pump, ends our dependence on Middle Eastern oil and makes real progress towards developing alternative energy.

America Needs to Reduce Dependency on Foreign Energy

America uses about a quarter of the world's oil supply to keep our economy moving, but we only produce about 40 percent of what we use. Our country's reliance on Middle Eastern oil also means we send large amounts of money overseas to countries that generally do not share our interests, putting our national security at risk.

America needs to break this dependence by diversifying our energy supply through American alternative energy sources and increasing our domestic energy production. The private sector with help from Congress, can help foster an energy revolution by encouraging investment in alternative fuels and renewable sources of energy.

Working to Reduce Home Heating Prices

Policies such as a twenty-three year moratorium on exploring and developing off-shore production of clean and green natural gas needs to be lifted. Natural gas provides twenty-three percent of our nation's energy, yet America is the only developed nation that prohibits off-shore production and exploration of this clean burning resource, and Americans are paying higher electricity and heating prices because of this. Congressman Walberg has co-sponsored legislation to lift this unreasonable prohibition in the outer-continental shelf and use the royalties from production to help support environmental restoration projects such as the Great Lakes Restoration Act and fund energy conservation programs.³⁵

Providing Solutions for Alternative, Renewable Energy Sources

Congress can take a leading role in facilitating development and provide incentives for investments in alternative energy. Congressman Walberg supports legislation that will increase our use of ethanol,³⁶ bio diesel,³⁷ solar,³⁸ and wind,³⁹ while supporting hydro-electricity⁴⁰ and providing incentives for green building construction.⁴¹

One of the keys to increasing efficiency and the use of alternative energy is investing in research and development of new technologies. Congressman Walberg is proud to have supported Michigan State University's \$125 million grant⁴² to research and develop technology for cellulosic ethanol. Research at MSU will help lead to breakthroughs on making ethanol out of wood chips, algae, or prairie grass. Also, one of his first votes in Congress was in support of the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act,⁴³ legislation that will aid

research efforts and help develop much-needed new technologies as we pursue environmentally sound alternative fuel sources. Congressman Walberg joined 214 members from across the aisle in support of this important legislation because it will help ensure our energy infrastructure is in place to handle alternative fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel.

He introduced legislation,⁴⁴ The Energy Independence through Bio-diesel Act, in the House that would create a 2% national standard for bio-diesel fuel. 55 billion gallons of diesel were consumed in 2005, and a 2% standard would create a 1.1 billion gallon market for clean-burning, home-grown, bio-diesel. Bio-diesel has higher oxygen content, is cleaner burning, and has high energy content, and passing his bill would be one modest step Congress can take right away.

As you know, entrepreneurs and American innovation are more likely to solve America's energy and environmental problems than Washington bureaucrats. We can solve our energy and environmental issues quicker and at a lower cost with innovation and new technology instead of government regulation and heavy-handed mandates.

To move toward energy independence, we also must increase our American energy production in environmentally sensitive ways. We need an energy policy that encourages conservation and allows exploration in Alaska, the Outer Continental Shelf and the Gulf of Mexico. By bolstering our own domestic production, we can increase American supply and bring down the prices of heating our homes and filling up our vehicles.

Opposing Higher Taxes on Energy and Excessive Job-Killing Mandates

The majority in Congress had it wrong in 2007 with their supposed Energy Bill.⁴⁵ It failed in many ways: 1) It failed to increase American energy production and supplies, 2) It failed to help families deal with heating costs, and 3) It failed to lower costs for U.S. consumers, farmers, and small business owners. The numerous changes in Speaker Pelosi's Energy Bill included \$21 billion in higher taxes on American energy production, \$3 billion in "Green Pork" that could waste your tax dollars on such things as an "indoor rain forest" in Iowa, and replace Beverly Hills police cars with Lexus hybrids. Additionally, it would kill Michigan jobs with onerous unfunded CAFÉ mandates that could add a \$5,000 regulatory tax on American made trucks and SUVs. Congressman Walberg knows that a plan like this will only serve to cost Michigan more jobs, make the U.S. more reliant on Middle East oil, and increase the price struggling families in Michigan pay to fuel up their cars and heat their homes.

One of Congressman Walberg's top priorities in 2008 is to get his colleagues in Congress serious about our future energy needs. He will continue to work for an energy policy that will result in more American energy production and reduced energy costs for American families, farmers, and small businesses. America also needs further investment in carbon-free nuclear power and to begin establishing itself again as a leader in commercial nuclear power and clean-coal technology.

VII. Keeping our land, water and air clean for our children

As Teddy Roosevelt once said, "A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself." As a forestry major in college, an outdoorsman and a conservationist, Congressman Walberg understands that protecting the environment is a responsibility all Americans must accept, both for our own sake and for that of our children.

Congressman Walberg is an original co-sponsor of two important pieces of environmental legislation vital to Michigan's future, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act⁴⁶ and the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act.⁴⁷

The International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act passed the House of Representatives with his strong support and is currently awaiting action in the Senate. This bill will help to curtail the importation of solid waste from Canada to Michigan. Canada continues to be the largest source of waste imports to Michigan, in 2006 Canada dumped more than 4.4 million tons of waste in Michigan.

Michigan's most beautiful and important resource is the Great Lakes. Congressman Walberg is an active member of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), which is working to implement a strategy for the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes. The group is working to prevent invasive species, such as Asian Carp and Sea Lamprey, from destroying the Great Lakes ecosystem.

As a member of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, Congressman Walberg is working with members on both sides of the aisle to increase the availability and use of alternative energy sources. He believes this is important not only because it will reduce our dangerous dependency on Middle Eastern Oil, but also because of the environmental benefits of using cleaner sources of energy from renewable resources and help assist distressed rural communities in Michigan.

Congressman Walberg joined with several colleagues and sent a letter to EPA to encourage rural water programs that assist small communities to remain a priority and keep Michigan a leader in safe and clean water.

Preserving Our Water Resources

Michiganers have a responsibility to care for the resources we have been entrusted with, and every day Congress waits to address these problems they get worse and the solutions get more costly. When President Bush vetoed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA),⁴⁸ critical legislation to help Michigan's waterways and the Great Lakes, Congressman Walberg stood up to the President and worked with his colleagues to override the veto. Lakes, rivers, and land surrounding Michigan waterways suffer damage every day through untreated sewage, toxic pollutants and aquatic invasive species, and this bill gives much-needed support to combating these problems.

Congressman Walberg worked on a section that will have the Corps of Engineers perform a necessary study on returning the Kalamazoo River in Battle Creek to a more natural



environment. The current channel has created the undesirable effect of poor in-stream habitat for aquatic organisms and a barrier to fish migration, along with increasing the water temperature above the tolerance of some fish species native to the river.

Congressman Walberg believes one of the best ways to address concerns of climate change is through technological innovation. The federal government can and should play a leading role in the development of new and cleaner energy sources. He will work to make sure that federal research support continues to stimulate private sector research. This includes sponsoring or co-sponsoring legislation that would greatly expand the use of cleaner burning alternative energy such as bio-fuels, ethanol, wind, and solar.

Proper Forest Planning

Congressman Walberg also supported an amendment to end taxpayer subsidies for commercial logging roads in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.⁴⁹ The Tongass National Forest represents our nation's most significant tract of old-growth forest and provides abundant habitat for a diversity of fish and wildlife species, many of which have declined substantially in the lower 48 states. Despite the fact that the federal government has always lost money with its commercial logging program in Alaska, \$1 billion over the past 25 years, the Forest Service is still planning new logging roads and timber sales in wild roadless forests. The US Forest Service typically loses an average of \$40 million each year logging the Tongass. According to Douglas Chadwick of National Geographic, "The government could pay each logger and mill worker \$146,250 a year to stay home and let the rainforest be." Congressman Walberg believes in responsible stewardship and that is why he joined a bi-partisan coalition to protect American taxpayers and pristine old growth forest.

Congressman Walberg will continue to improve and increase research for alternative fuels to help keep our land, water and air clean.

Stopping Canadian trash from being dumped in Michigan

Michigan needs the authority to protect the beauty of our land and conserve our natural resources. Since 1992, Michigan has not been able to control the millions of tons of trash entering our state from Canada.

Michigan instituted laws banning Canadian trash in 1988, but the Supreme Court struck down these laws a mere four years later and ruled that Congress has not granted such authority to state governments. Currently, there are 400 trucks per day dumping Canadian trash into our state, and the total amount of trash transported into Michigan comes to 4.4 million tons per year.

At this time, our state government has almost no say in whether or not Michigan should accept trash and hazardous waste from Canada. One of Congressman Walberg's first acts after taking office was to join a broad, bi-partisan coalition that is working to give Michigan the ability to control whether Canadian trash should be disposed of in Michigan.

With Congressman Walberg's strong support, the House of Representatives passed The International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act in April 2007⁵⁰ and the bill is currently awaiting action in the Senate. If passed into law, this bill would make the task of keeping Michigan green and beautiful much easier.

Congressman Walberg believes it is time Congress gave Michigan the power to make certain the beauty and safety of our land remains intact for generations of Michiganders to enjoy in the future. In 2008, Congressman Walberg will remain committed to seeing this legislation is signed into law and will encourage the Senate to quickly pass it in the New Year.

Supporting efforts to save, preserve and protect the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are a treasure essential to both Michigan and the entire nation. The lakes hold nearly one-fifth of the world's surface water, and forty-two million people rely on the Great Lakes for safe and clean drinking water. Sadly, our Great Lakes suffer damage every day through untreated sewage, toxic pollutants and aquatic invasive species. The ecosystem surrounding the lakes is breaking down.

Every 28 weeks, a new non-native species is discovered in the Great Lakes, and 24 billion gallons of raw sewage has been dumped into the lakes by antiquated wastewater treatment facilities. More than two-thirds of the wetlands that serve to cleanse water, prevent erosion and provide a home for fish and wildlife have been lost along the Great Lakes. Populations of aquatic life, such as perch and white fish, are disappearing in areas where these species formerly thrived. While this problem may seem overwhelmingly vast and unsalvageable, manageable solutions to the problem exist.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?
Visit www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration/

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Congressman Walberg joined a broad, bipartisan coalition in Congress that is working to implement a strategy for the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes. That strategy, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), is a wide-ranging, cooperative effort supported by a variety of individuals from all walks of life. GLRC was introduced early in 2007 by a bi-partisan coalition, including Congressman Walberg. The Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act⁵¹ takes the recommendations from the report and creates manageable real solutions to help protect and restore our Great Lakes.

Stop Invasive Species

The GLRC would help eliminate existing and prevent future aquatic invasive species from entering lakes while restoring the valuable Great Lakes wetlands. This would include halting the Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes by authorizing the last line of defense against the fish – an electric barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The \$4.1 billion sport and commercial fishing industry in the Great Lakes would be threatened if the Asian Carp makes it into the Great Lakes, and presently Asian Carp are in the Illinois River and are making headway. Fortunately, Congressman Walberg was able to join with his colleagues to authorize the Corps of Engineers to finish building the dual electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, over President Bush's objections. He will work to make sure the construction begins soon.

Update Waste Treatment Plants

The GLRC also updates city waste treatment plants to protect the lakes against sewage contamination and protect our beaches. It would clean up dangerously contaminated sediments in Great Lakes harbors and protect waterfront communities.

Preventing Hazardous Waste and Invasive Species

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored legislation assisting boat owners with the treatment of ballast water to keep the threat of invasive species low and also keep more boats in the water.⁵² He supported recognition of the value of clean beaches⁵³ and supported legislation for dedicated aquatic invasive species research.⁵⁴

Congressman Walberg has worked with the Great Lakes Task Force to push the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to make ballast water exchange in the St. Lawrence Seaway a priority,⁵⁵ make the Great Lakes a priority for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and apply pressure on the President to establish the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration as a national priority for the administration.

Also, when British Petroleum (BP) wanted to dump hazardous waste into Lake Michigan from an expansion of its facility in Whiting, Indiana, Congressman Walberg worked with a bi-partisan coalition to fight this, and fortunately BP heeded the call and is implementing technology to prevent the dumping of hazardous waste into Lake Michigan.⁵⁶

Every day we wait to address these problems, they get worse, and the solutions get more costly, which is why Congressman Walberg supports the passage of this comprehensive solution during this session of Congress. It is time for Congress to invest in restoring the Great Lakes so that Michigan's economy, environmental health, and quality of life aren't diminished. Congressman Walberg looks forward to playing a leading role in this legislation's passage.



VIII. Improving Affordability and Access to Health Care for All Americans

Affordable health insurance is out of reach for too many families in southern Michigan and throughout the state. As more Michiganders go without health insurance, not only do they face health risks, but health insurance becomes even more expensive as the cost of providing services to the uninsured is

passed onto those who have health insurance. Ultimately, this becomes an unsustainable cycle.

For over four decades, the American people have looked to Congress to improve the accessibility, affordability, and accountability of our nation's health care system. We must embrace common sense reforms that will increase access and reduce the number of uninsured Americans.

Congressman Walberg held a physician fly-in in October consisting of a number of doctors and health professionals who practice in the Seventh District. Hosting this event allowed the Congressman to meet directly with professionals in south-central Michigan and learn from their wisdom. Five other members of Congress participated in the meetings and spoke about the need for tort reform, health information technology, improving Medicare, and making health care patient-centered. The health care professionals had direct access to the Congressman, other members of Congress, and key policy makers from the Department of Health & Human Services and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Their participation, suggestions, questions, and advice were greatly appreciated



Congressman Walberg meets with physicians from the district on how to improve accessibility and affordability to health care

Making it Easier for Small Businesses to Purchase Health Care for Employees

With over 46 million people in this nation uninsured, it is obvious the current system is broken. Congress must support solutions that will increase an employer's ability to provide affordable options. That is why Congressman Walberg supports the creation of Association Health Plans (AHP's), the Small Business Health Fairness Act,⁵⁷ to allow small businesses to band together through associations and purchase quality health care for workers and their families at a lower cost. Specifically, it increases small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers, gives them freedom from costly state-mandated benefit packages, and lowers their overhead costs by as much as 30 percent.

Promoting Innovation in the States

The Congressman also agrees that policy makers must be open to considering all options in finding a solution. As a co-sponsor of the bi-partisan Healthy Partnerships Through Creative Federalism Act,⁵⁸ Congressman Walberg supports solutions breaking through the Congressional logjam by allowing a diverse array of ideas to be tried in specific states. Specifically, it would authorize grants to individual states, groups of states, or portions of states to carry out any of a broad range of strategies to increase health care coverage.

Stopping Lawsuit Abuse

With rising health care costs and a sharp increase in premiums for medical malpractice liability insurance, our health care system is threatened. Health care professionals must buy medical malpractice liability insurance to protect themselves from the costs of being sued. With these rising malpractice premiums, physicians are choosing to either raise their rates or stop practicing medicine all together, thus increasing costs and reducing access to quality health care. The Congressman supports the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act.⁵⁹ This malpractice liability bill will take important steps to limit lawsuit abuse, requiring clear and convincing evidence of malicious intent to injure or a deliberate failure to avoid substantially certain, unnecessary injury. This will drastically limit lawyers' ability to receive damages and reduce the liability of insurance carriers, helping to keep costs down for all of us.

Increasing Ownership and Choice

Making Health Savings Accounts More Affordable

“Patients and doctors should make all decisions about health care, not government bureaucrats or third parties.”

– Tim Walberg

Congressman Walberg agrees that is important to find solutions that will make health insurance more affordable for individuals. That is why he introduced the Increase Access to Health Insurance Act.⁶⁰ This would allow individuals the option of paying for their out of pocket health insurance premiums with their Health Savings Account contributions - making health insurance even more accessible. Additionally, this option could be extremely valuable for those who are switching jobs or for those who lose a job and need to pick up health insurance as a stop gap measure.

Giving Individuals the Same Tax Benefits as Corporations

Employer-provided health insurance and medical expense coverage are tax-exempt to the worker. But the same insurance premiums and medical expenses, if paid for by an individual, are not tax deductible. This tax discrimination effectively forces working and retired Americans to seek health insurance through their jobs and denies them freedom of choice. Rep. Walberg is a co-sponsor of the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act,⁶¹ which would offer a tax deduction for 100% of health care expenses.

MAKING HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE

- Congressman Walberg co-authored legislation to provide health insurance tax credits so middle-class families can afford to purchase private health insurance for their children.
- Congressman Walberg co-sponsored a bill to allow small businesses to join together to purchase quality health care for their employees and their families at a lower cost.
- Congressman Walberg co-sponsored legislation to allow families to receive the same tax deductibility that large corporations receive.
- Congressman Walberg voted against moving 2 million children from private health insurance to government health insurance and against giving government insurance to illegal immigrants..

Allow More Contributions to Health Savings Accounts

Several years ago, Congress had the wisdom to establish Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) that allow individuals with a high-deductible health plan to save pre-tax dollars in a personal, portable account for qualified medical expenses. Congress must build on this success, and Congressman Walberg is a co-sponsor of the Promoting Health for Future Generations Act, H.R. 2639.⁶² This legislation will permit larger contributions, allow coverage below the deductible for prescription drugs, and provide tax relief for premiums on Health Savings Accounts. The bill removes barriers that make it illegal for families to deposit their own money in an HSA after they receive care through Medicare or the VA. It also allows for a tax deduction for premiums paid for HSA products and allows HSA-compatible health plans to cover prescription drugs before beneficiaries meet the deductible.

Equal Access for Civilian and Military Retirees

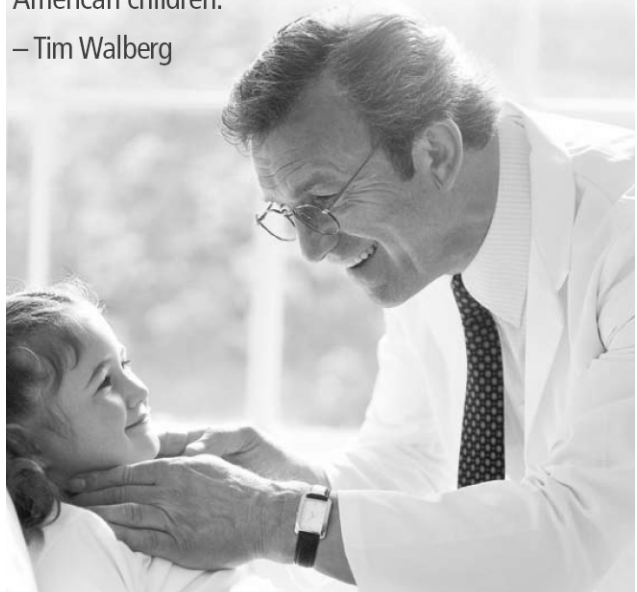
Congressman Walberg believes in fairness in the system, and he is a co-sponsor of premium conversion legislation.⁶³ This legislation would allow federal civilian and military retirees to pay their monthly health care premiums using pre-tax dollars. Also, it would allow active duty military members to apply a pre-tax rebate to the supplemental insurance premiums most purchase to cover gaps in TRICARE. These benefits are currently enjoyed by active federal employees, but existing law withholds this benefit from employees once they retire. Many private employees already have this benefit.

Making Health Care for Children More Affordable and Accessible

It is important to find solutions that will allow us to build upon the success of providing health insurance to children. As a supporter of the re-authorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program,⁶⁴ Congressman Walberg helped to co-author the More Children, More Health Care Act.⁶⁵ This legislation would allow 1.2 million children without health insurance to enroll in the program; this plan will put children first. The More Children, More Health Care Act also provides more affordable patient-centered health care coverage for 10.5 million kids, including 312,637 children in Michigan, through a federal tax credit for middle-class families to purchase quality coverage that best suits their needs, not the needs of Washington bureaucrats.

"I will continue to stand with patients and health care professionals to deliver more affordable and accessible health care and insurance for American children."

– Tim Walberg



Protecting Medicare for our Seniors

The Medicare program must evolve into the 21st Century to provide more choices and better benefits to its beneficiaries. While this program is meant to assist the needy, those in need should not expect inadequate or diminished service. Congress must make significant strides in updating the program to make the best use of

today's modern health care delivery methods to maximize the benefits for current and future participants.

Sustainability

The Congressman has voted to provide a temporary adjustment to the Sustainable Growth Rate for physicians and supports a permanent fix.⁶⁶ The Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula for physicians was last reformulated in 1997 as part of the Budget Act to curb the exponential growth in entitlement spending by tying the SGR to GDP. However, Medicare's physician expenditure growth has been very high in recent years – far outpacing GDP growth, and saddled with cumulative target deficits. Physicians should be reimbursed in a fair and equitable manner that takes into consideration the annual payment update based upon increases in practice costs. The current system could lead to the risk of decreased participation in the Medicare program and, ultimately, decreased access to health care for beneficiaries.

The Congressman is also a co-sponsor of the Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act.⁶⁷ This legislation would increase access to physical therapists by eliminating the Medicare requirement of obtaining a physician's referral or certification of the plan of care. There are numerous reasons to correct this provision for Medicare recipients in need of physical therapy, including the increased costs and burdens placed on Medicare patients.

Preserving Access to Medicare

The Congressman opposes unnecessary cuts to important Medicare programs that provide seniors with access to medical equipment that will help improve their quality of life. By opposing an out-of-control extension of the SCHIP program and the CHAMP Act,⁶⁸ Congressman Walberg stood strong against political pressure and stood against slashing Medicare by \$194 billion.

Specifically, the Democrats have proposed cutting Medicare spending for the 14,183 seniors in the 7th District who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Program.⁶⁹

HEALTH CARE REFORM MUST PROVIDE:

-  1. The right to pick your own doctor and the treatment that suits your needs.
-  2. The right to choose a prescription drug plan that suits your needs.
-  3. The right to a tax-free health savings account for emergencies.

In addition, the Democratic proposal would have cut:

- Payments for hospitals for inpatient care (\$2.7 Billion cut)
- Payments for inpatient rehabilitation services (\$6.6 Billion cut)
- Payments for skilled nursing facilities (\$6.5 Billion cut)
- Payments for certain drugs (\$1.9 Billion cut)
- Payments for home health care services (\$7.2 Billion cut)
- Benefits for those with End Stage Renal Disease (\$3.6 Billion cut)

The Democratic proposal would even:

- Require those seniors who are determined to need a motorized wheel chair to wait a month before being provided with one.
- Reduce the amount of time that the government will rent oxygen equipment for seniors from 36 to 13 months.

Furthermore, the CHAMP Act proposal dramatically reduces payments to Medicare Advantage plans, which nearly 20 percent of Medicare beneficiaries rely on for their Medicare benefits. These payment changes are so draconian that the likely effect will be to eliminate the private Medicare Advantage option in many areas for many beneficiaries – particularly in rural counties or small urban communities where Congress expressly intended to provide choices for beneficiaries.

The Congressman is also a co-sponsor of legislation that seeks to block proposed cuts to various aspects of the Medicare Program:

- HR 621 - This legislation repeals the limitation of Medicare payment to the supplier for such equipment (including portable oxygen equipment) to 36 months of continuous use and repeals the requirement that the equipment supplier transfer title to the individual at the end of such period, with payments continuing at specified monthly rates.⁷⁰
- This legislation would place a moratorium on physician payment reductions for imaging services that were instituted in the 109th Congress. Widespread use of digital imaging (X-Rays, CAT Scans, MRI's) equipment allows providers to easily exchange images across the Internet, facilitating greater and timelier physician consultation and improving the quality of care received by the patient. This same technology allows greater access to radiology professionals across the country for individuals living in rural and other medically underserved areas.
- Legislation to fix the 25% rule that places an arbitrary limit on the number of admissions that can come from any one in-patient hospital is justified. This is important for health care facilities such as Carelinks in Jackson.⁷¹
- The Centers' for Medicare and Medicaid Studies (CMS) policy, known as the 75% rule, are forcing patients – regardless of their needs – to be turned away from facilities that can provide them appropriate inpatient care. This legislation helps fix this rule which requires rehab facilities to guarantee at least 75% of their patients are receiving care for two or more conditions approved by Medicare. The problem is that many common ailments, such as joint replacements, are not eligible under Medicare's limited scope of allowed services. In many circumstances, it might be more appropriate and cost effective (in the long-run) to receive treatment at an inpatient rehabilitation hospital than an outpatient nursing facility.⁷²
- The Home Health Care Protection Act would prevent potential Medicare cuts from occurring. The highly skilled and often technically complex services that our nation's home health and hospice agencies provide have enabled millions of our most frail and

vulnerable seniors and disabled citizens to avoid hospital and nursing home stays. Preventing this kind of institutionalized care saves Medicare millions each year. Most importantly, they enable individuals to stay home – exactly where they want to be.⁷³

Preserving Access to Prescription Medications

Congressman Walberg has listened to seniors across south-central Michigan express a desire to choose their own individual prescription drug plan. Seniors clearly want greater access to the benefits and drugs they need, and many are extremely wary of giving the federal government the power to dictate their health decisions. He will continue to fight to ensure our seniors have more access at lower costs for their prescription drugs. America needs an effective drug plan for our senior citizens, and he believes that one of the best ways to accomplish this goal is to support our community pharmacists.



Congressman Walberg opposed legislation⁷⁴ that would have established a government-controlled plan where seniors would be denied access to the one-on-one care of a pharmacist with the ability to advise and counsel seniors about their choice of prescription medicine. Seniors appreciate choice, but when government begins negotiating drug prices, seniors will have to choose from a limited list of government-approved prescription drugs.

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored The Community Pharmacy Fairness Act,⁷⁵ which changes antitrust laws to give independent pharmacies more leverage when they negotiate reimbursement rates with insurance companies, pharmacy benefit managers, and Medicare Part-D plans. Specifically, it would allow pharmacies that are not owned or operated by a publicly traded company to band together and negotiate contracts with Pharmacy Benefit Managers' (PBM) rather than just the current take-it-or-leave-it contract. This will give them the same leverage may that much larger chains enjoy when negotiating Part D and other third party contracts.

Congressman Walberg co-sponsored the Fair and Speedy Treatment (FAST) of Medicare Prescription Drug Claims Act.⁷⁶ According to surveys conducted by the National Community Pharmacists Association in 2006, more than 90% of responding pharmacists say their cash flow is worse since the Medicare prescription drug benefit began on January 1, 2006, and more than 60% have sought outside financial assistance from banks, wholesalers, credit unions, or family members to cover the financial shortfalls. Currently, pharmacies are having a problem managing their cash flow because they are not receiving their prescription drug reimbursements in a timely fashion (more than 30 days). Since most pharmacists have to pay their wholesalers twice a month, they are facing issues covering the cost for future purchases. This legislation states that plans have to reimburse all "clean claims" every 14 days and facilitates a quicker reimbursement by specifying that claims submitted electronically shall be paid by electronic transfer of funds.

Preventing & Finding Cures for Disease

Congressman Walberg understands that Congress must also engage in the fight for finding cures for the diseases that prematurely end lives, devastate families, and drive up medical costs. The U.S. needs to remain competitive in scientific research, specifically in the areas of health and medicine. Throughout the past century the U.S. has been the leader in scientific breakthroughs in preventative medicine and life-saving cures. It is imperative that in the 21st Century we continue to guarantee that public-private research partnerships continue to thrive and improve the health and quality of life for millions of people.

This is why the Congressman believes it is imperative that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the agency in charge of the National Cancer Institute, receives adequate funding to continue their work fighting disease and illness. Last year, he signed a letter to increase funding for the NIH by 6.7% for FY 08. The NIH is the nation's premier institution for medical research and embodies our greatest hope for treating and curing all different forms of cancer and other highly deadly diseases.

As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, Congressman Walberg believes Congress must re-affirm our commitment to fight this chronic health problem which threatens the lives of millions. Unfortunately, diabetes is on the rise and lacks the funding to be controlled and prevented. That is why he sent a joint letter to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner expressing his support to provide significant funding for type-1 diabetes research as well as type-2 diabetes treatment and prevention programs.

The Congressman understands that prevention is the best medicine. By promoting wellness and preventive medicine in the workplace, we can have a significant impact on lowering health care costs for employers and working families. The Congressman is a co-sponsor of the Wellness and Prevention Act⁷⁷ that would provides tax incentives for businesses that open wellness programs and tax incentives for employees that join a wellness program. It will result in a healthier America and ultimately lower the cost of providing health care, while hopefully resulting in health insurance that is more affordable.



IX. Securing Our Borders and Ending Illegal Immigration

One of the topics Congressman Walberg receives the most feedback on from his neighbors in south-central Michigan is illegal immigration. The feedback is near unanimous among residents, business owners, and farmers that America's immigration system is broken and is in desperate need of repair.



Congressman Walberg has consistently stated that any and all attempts to enact immigration reform must not include amnesty for illegal immigrants. He believes any plan needs a common-sense work permit system, an increase in border security, and an end to the bureaucratic red-tape in the immigration system. In 2007, a group of Senators, along with the White House, announced a "grand compromise" on an immigration reform proposal that would grant amnesty to illegal immigrants, provide discounted tuition rates and federally subsidized loans to illegal immigrants, and deviate away from where the real focus should be: securing the border, creating a work permit program, and cutting bureaucratic red-tape.

The United States is a nation of immigrants and was founded on ideals that honor this tradition. For generations, freedom-loving people from around the world have come to America to make a better life for themselves and their families. Immigrants wanting to join our citizenry should be encouraged and assisted in doing so the same way millions of immigrants have legally done so for generations. Though the tenacity of individuals who immigrate to our nation is admirable, the government has a duty to secure our borders and ensure that those coming to our country do so legally. The U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement agency estimates that around 500,000 illegal immigrants enter the United States every year.

Secure the Border and No Social Security Benefits for Illegal Immigrants

As a member of the Immigration Reform Caucus, Congressman Walberg is actively pushing common sense legislation on securing America's borders and ending illegal immigration. He is a co-sponsor of the Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act,⁷⁸ which would dramatically increase interior enforcement and deter Social Security fraud. He has co-sponsored the English Language United Act,⁷⁹ which would make English the official language of the American government.



No Driver's Licenses for Illegal Immigrants

Congressman Walberg believes those who want to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants are wrong. He was an original co-sponsor of a resolution expressing the sense of Congress in opposition to states issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.⁸⁰ Additionally, he is a co-sponsor of the Prevention of Unsafe Licensing Act,⁸¹ which would prohibit states from

issuing licenses and identification documents to individuals that are not lawfully present in the United States. Unfortunately, Michigan has been one of ten states that have allowed illegal immigrants to receive driver's licenses. A driver's license allows access to numerous legal documents and activities in our country and granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants rewards those who have broken our laws and essentially amounts to backdoor amnesty. If the state legislatures do not stop this, then Congress must act.

No Taxpayer-Funded Health Insurance for Illegal Immigrants

Congressman Walberg opposed legislation that would have provided billions of dollars of taxpayer funded health care to illegal immigrants,⁸² and he opposed the budget busting Omnibus spending bill that cut funds and needlessly delayed the building the border fence.⁸³

Increase the Number of Border Patrol Agents

While we all agree there is a major need for immigration reform in the United States, reform needs to ensure the security and economy of our nation is protected, not threatened. This is why Congressman Walberg joined with a bi-partisan group of lawmakers (43 Democrats and 41 Republicans) to introduce the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act.⁸⁴ This legislation would directly address American concerns by securing our borders, creating a work authorization verification, reducing illegal immigration through interior enforcement, and increasing the number of U.S. Border Patrol by 8,000 agents. America welcomes people from around the world to come here to work, speak English, realize their dreams, and become Americans.

Assist Immigrants Who are Helping Us in the War Against Terrorists

Earlier this year Congressman Walberg voted for legislation which authorizes special immigrant status for certain Afghan or Iraqi translators or interpreters⁸⁵ working with the U.S. Armed Forces or federal agencies under the Chief of Mission in Afghanistan and Iraq. This legislation is aimed at those who have helped in our War on Terror, and if they are threatened, it is only right that Congress secures them and their family. This legislation was signed into law in 2007.

Cut Red-Tape for Legal Immigration

If we can secure our borders, we can build on solutions to strengthen our country and maintain our heritage of embracing legal immigration. We need to create a work permit program that eliminates bureaucratic red-tape and meets the evolving needs of industries like agriculture, landscaping, construction and tourism. So, merely opposing amnesty for illegal immigrants is not sufficient, especially if we want many of our local farms to survive. Throughout Capitol Hill debates on immigration and the Farm Bill in 2007, Congressman Walberg has consistently stated that our country needs a work permit program that meets the evolving needs of today's agriculture industry. One of biggest problems in today's immigration system is bureaucratic red-tape for agriculture employees. The current H2A program does not assist the average apple, dairy, or corn farmer. The H2A program is also not fair in comparison to the H2B program. Although these two programs are very similar, the H2A program requires more funding and paperwork, adversely impacting employers who rely upon this program.

Agriculture has traditionally been in the forefront of this debate, however we should not forget about landscaping, construction, tourism, and other industries employing temporary workers that have also been impacted by the bureaucratic red-tape, plaguing these programs.

While we all agree there is a major need for immigration reform in the United States, this reform needs to ensure the security and economy of our nation is protected. On behalf of south-central Michigan, Congressman Walberg will continue to push for secure borders and common-sense immigration reform.

X. Assisting Liberian Refugees and Helping the poor in Africa

Led Bipartisan Effort to Help Hard Working, English-speaking Legal Immigrants

Congressman Walberg understands our present immigration system is broken and the pain it causes families. In fact, Congressman Walberg worked with Congressman Patrick Kennedy (RI-D) and Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-D) to allow Liberian refugees who are under Temporary Protected Status the opportunity to apply for Permanent Residency Status. The Liberian Refugee Immigration Protection Act of 2007 addresses an urgent situation faced by Liberian



Congressman Walberg Introduces the Liberian Refugee Protection Act with Rep. Ellison and Rep. Kennedy

refugees who have legally come to America (many over a decade ago, but could not go back due to two long protracted civil wars), speak English, established careers, bought homes, raised American-born children, and became valued members of their communities.

Liberian refugees living in the United States under Temporary Protective Status had until October 1, 2007, and then they would have been forced to return to Liberia (in many cases, families would be split up). Liberia has an 85 percent unemployment rate, 26 doctors in the entire nation, and clean water and electricity is in short supply. Congressman Walberg built a bipartisan coalition, along with Congressman Kennedy, to convince the President to grant an 18 month extension to their Temporary Protective Status after they pushed legislation through the House to grant an extension.⁸⁶ The President granted this extension on September 12th, three weeks before the deadline.

Congressman Walberg and his wife had a Liberian refugee, Richard, stay in their home for nearly a year. Richard came from dire circumstances in Liberia, as his wife was brutally assaulted and he was beaten and forced to leave his country. He still has scars from when he was beaten with the blunt end of a rifle. During the time the Walberg's friend lived in their home, Congressman Walberg developed an appreciation for his culture and was deeply moved by his commitment to his family and his homeland. He pursued higher education and worked several jobs so he could send financial assistance back to Liberia.

Just as the Walbergs found with their Liberian friend, America has a special relationship with Liberia. The country was founded as Africa's first republic in 1821 by former American slaves, and Liberia's capital city, Monrovia, is named after American President James Monroe. Liberia suffered greatly in recent years, and the nation has been torn apart by two long Civil Wars over the past two decades, but Liberia has made great strides in its recovery.

Many of the Liberians in America on Temporary Protected Status have now resided here legally for over seventeen years. These men and women could not return to their home countries because of the danger involved, but they also never had the opportunity to become American citizens. Congressman Walberg has been able to work with Congressman Kennedy to make a truly bi-partisan bill. There were never more than two Republicans on this legislation in any of the past Congresses, yet with Congressman Walberg's hard work there are over thirty co-sponsors, half of which are Republicans. This is progress that could not have happened without Congressman Walberg's dedication.

The *Adrian Daily Telegram*, in an editorial, clearly sums up this effort, “The fact that Walberg is working with a pair of Democrats whose beliefs... might appear at odds with his own is evidence that the new representative is more capable of teamwork than many in the House.”

The fact that these Liberians who all came here legally as refugees, after years of living here and contributing to our communities, are about to be kicked out of America, shows how broken our immigration system is. Congressman Walberg will continue to work in a bi-partisan way to enact common-sense immigration laws that will fix the current predicament.

Congressman Walberg also has interests throughout Africa, having visited numerous African nations. His daughter, Heidi, served as a missionary in Kampala, Uganda and has had contact with the atrocities that are happening in Uganda. In fact, two of her colleagues were martyred at the hands of Lord’s Resistance Army. He has also provided continued humanitarian assistance to Ugandan families, including one whose mother has AIDS.

Directing Resources to Effective African Anti-Poverty Efforts

Throughout 2007, Congressman Walberg has been active pressuring the World Bank to increase its commitment to micro finance and credit. He had the opportunity to witness such innovative poverty relief measures during his visit to Uganda. He has joined with a group of bi-partisan colleagues in meeting with World Bank President Robert Zoellick and with the group pressuring the World Bank’s President to: 1) increase its investment in microfinance; 2) commit half of those funds to the very poor; 3) require the use of cost-effective poverty measurement tools to measure the poverty level of borrowers and thereby ensure compliance with that goal; and 4) report the results.

Micro credit is one of the most effective and cost efficient anti-poverty interventions available today, but the World Bank invests merely one percent of its overall budget in micro finance. Congressman Walberg pledges to continue working with his colleagues to find common sense solutions to improve the lives of the poor and very poor worldwide.

XI. Human Life, Adoption, and Defending Our Values

Congressman Walberg believes all human life is sacred, from the moment of conception until a natural death. The Congressman is committed to protecting a culture of life and encouraging adoptions and the values of south-central Michigan while in Congress. With new scientific advances emerging on an almost daily basis, sometimes we must consider the moral ramifications of such discoveries, and it is crucial to stand for what is right.

Culture of Life

Congressman Walberg's initial entry into politics came as a member of a right-to-life organization in his home county of Lenawee, Michigan. During his 16 years in the Michigan House of Representatives, he established a 100% pro-life voting record. He continued this record during his first year in the United States House of Representatives.

Opposed Taxpayer Money to Abortion Providers

During consideration of the House State Foreign Operations bill, Congressman Walberg voted to withhold funds from Planned Parenthood,⁸⁷ which is the largest abortion provider in the country. He also worked to preserve the Mexico City Policy,⁸⁸ which denies federal funds to international organizations that perform or promote abortion. This policy exists to create a clear distinction between family planning and abortion.

Parental Notification

He supports legislation that would make it a federal offense to transport a minor across a state line for an abortion if the action circumvents a state's parental involvement law and legislation requiring abortion providers to tell a parent if their minor child is going to have an abortion.⁸⁹

Human Life Protection

Congressman Walberg is an original co-sponsor of the Sanctity of Human Life Act.⁹⁰ Along with reaffirming that the right to life is guaranteed by the Constitution, this bill would define that the life of each human being begins at fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent. He also co-sponsored the Patients First Act,⁹¹ which would promote research and clinical trials using stem cells that are ethically obtained. With scientists making progress and recent breakthroughs such as discovery of stem cells in amniotic fluid and skin cells, this bill would prioritize ethical and promising research.



Encouraging Ethical Stem Cell Research

The Congressman is a co-sponsor of the Cures Can Be Found Act,⁹² which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax credits for donations of umbilical cord blood to stem cell research or storage facilities. This bill allows credits only for donations to facilities that do not engage in research on stem cells derived from human embryos.

Encouraging Adoptions

As a member of the bi-partisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption Congressman Walberg strongly supports efforts to encourage the placement of children in loving adoptive families. The Congressman has worked with organizations which familiarized him with the adoption process and the formidable costs associated with adopting a child.

Honoring Adopting Parents

In 2007, the Congressman nominated Kent and Marilyn Fannin of Jerome, Michigan for an "Angels in Adoption" award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. The Fannins have been involved with Family Services and Children's Aid of Jackson and Lenawee Counties for several years and serve as both adoptive and foster parents.

Easing Financial Burden of Adoption

The Congressman is a co-sponsor of the Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act, which would make permanent the \$10,000 child adoption tax credit set to expire in 2010. He also supports the Helping Families Adopt Orphans Act, legislation that directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that any "covered individual" (an individual whose Application for Advanced Processing of Orphan Petition was approved on or after July 1, 2005) may file a Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative for at least two years after the approval of the individual's application.

Honoring Birthparents

Congressman Walberg is a co-sponsor of a resolution which honors birthparents who carry out an adoption plan.⁹³ This resolution recognizes birthparents as an often overlooked yet vital part of the adoption process. The Congressman also supports a resolution honoring the contributions of all public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private entities dedicated to finding homes for foster children and assisting foster families in securing their future success.

The Congressman signed a letter, along with 200 members of Congress, to the President of Guatemala and to UNICEF to address the problem of the Guatemalan adoption processing cases being ceased as of January 1, 2008.⁹⁴

Preserving America's Culture

Congressman Walberg believes that south-central Michigan values must be preserved, and that if we are not diligent in preserving these values, they will be eradicated by activist judges who wish to establish a society diametrically opposed to the things most Americans hold dear, such as love of God and love of country.

Protecting Public Expressions of Religion

The Congressman has co-sponsored the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2007,⁹⁵ which would amend the statutes by which lawsuits brought against state and local officials arising out of a public official's expression of faith, this bill would ensure no monetary damages, costs, or attorney's fees shall be imposed against that public official or the governmental entity by whom they are employed.



Encouraging Greater Involvement of Fathers

Congressman Walberg believes strongly in strengthening families, and he is a co-sponsor a resolution which encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.⁹⁶

Preserve "In God We Trust" and the Pledge of Allegiance

The Congressman also believes we must protect American traditions and is a co-sponsor of the Pledge Protection Act.⁹⁷ This bill would amend current law with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance. He is also a co-sponsor of the Loyalty to Our Legacy Act,⁹⁸ which would require the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the national motto "In God We Trust" are each displayed prominently in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) on a permanent basis. This bill also prohibits the AOC, in preparing and producing any exhibit or other material relating to the CVC, from removing or refusing to include any language, symbol, writing, document, or record on the grounds that they include a religious reference or Judeo-Christian content.

Internet Sex Offender Prohibition Act

The Congressman co-sponsored the Internet Sex Offender Prohibition Act,⁹⁹ which would include a mandatory penalty of 5 to 20 years in prison for any individual required to register as a sex offender who knowingly accesses an Internet website with the intent to communicate with an unsuspecting child under the age of 18. This bill will help strengthen the laws that apply to sex offenders and the worldwide sexual exploitation of children.

XII. Protecting the Second Amendment

The Constitution clearly states that every citizen of this nation has the fundamental right to bear arms. Millions of Americans responsibly enjoy the use of firearms for recreation, collection, and protection. The rights of these individuals should not be infringed upon. No matter how many restrictions are placed on law-abiding individuals, guns will always be available on an illegal market. Making it more difficult for those who simply wish to protect their families and property is not the solution. Furthermore, it could be argued that even in communities where guns have been outlawed, many times they remain even more dangerous, not less.

Repeal the District of Columbia Gun Ban

Congressman Walberg supports a repeal of the District of Columbia gun ban.¹⁰⁰ Those who reside in Washington, D.C. have just as much of a Constitutional right to defend themselves as any other citizen of the United States. The District of Columbia has impeded the Constitutional rights of Americans for decades and the result has been a colossal failure as it remains one of the most dangerous cities in the nation involving crimes with illegal guns.

Citizens' Self-Defense

With recent events across the nation and a rising crime rate in many of our major cities, it is becoming more and more apparent citizens need options to protect themselves. That is why the Congressman believes the protection of life and property is paramount for our families, and he is a co-sponsor of the Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 2007.¹⁰¹ This law protects the right of law-abiding citizens to use firearms in defending themselves, their families, or their homes. It would also allow people whose self-defense rights have been violated by any government entity to bring legal action in federal court.

National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity

He is a co-sponsor of the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.¹⁰² Within the sovereignty of each state exists the right to create laws governing by what means their citizens can purchase and carry firearms. However, complications arise when the laws governing firearms vary from one state to the next. This legislation seeks to remedy this situation by stating a law-abiding individual may carry a concealed firearm in any state, as long as it is in accordance with the terms of the license and laws of the state of the person's residence.

XIII. Protecting the Promise of Social Security

The first baby boomer signed up for Social Security in October 2007, and 80 million baby boomers are scheduled to follow in the next 22 years. The first wave will begin in 2008 as 3.2 million Americans turn 62. Caseloads for Social Security will go from 50 million today to over 84 million people in 2030.

Social Security Lock-Box

It is critical to preserve the solvency and promise of Social Security and Medicare for the millions of American seniors who have paid into these programs throughout their lifetime and are currently receiving benefits or scheduled to soon receive Social Security benefits. To preserve these programs, Congressman Walberg introduced the bi-partisan Social Security and Medicare Lock Box Act of 2007.¹⁰³

The Social Security system is generating surplus tax revenues, but by 2017, it is expected to enter into a deficit, and this is of great concern. Retirees who will collect Social Security and Medicare benefits are expected to grow by 76 percent while the number of workers is expected to grow by only 6 percent. However, masking the total general government fund deficit by borrowing from the Social Security and Medicare surpluses only extends the future pain our nation will have to confront. Congress should not be spending these surpluses on questionable new programs and pork-barrel spending.



Facts about Social Security And why we need to protect it

1. Social Security system is scheduled to run a deficit by 2017.
2. In 1950, there were 16 workers for every beneficiary. By 2030, there will be only two.
3. Social Security faces an unfunded liability of more than \$12.8 trillion.
4. The Supreme Court ruled in *Flemming v. Nestor* that there is no legal right to promised Social Security benefits.

Congressman Walberg's Social Security and Medicare Lock Box Act will help safeguard these funds for future retirees and help ensure accountability for our seniors, future retirees, and children. Time and again, leaders in Washington have dipped into the Social Security trust fund to pay for unrelated, wasteful government spending. We need to lock away these funds by taking Social Security 'off-budget' to ensure our future retirees receive the promises that have been made to them.

America's senior citizens have worked hard for their retirement. Congress needs to change the status quo to make sure it is there for senior citizens and for future generations.

Congressman Walberg looks forward to working in a non-partisan way to make sure that we keep the promise of Social Security while working to create more wealth and security for future retirees.

Expanding the Ownership Society

Congressman Walberg supports a system that encourages workers today to invest and save for the future to ensure they will have a more comfortable life and higher standard of living during retirement. Additionally, maintaining a solvent Social Security system will ensure we keep millions of retirees out of poverty. Individuals should be able to invest their funds in personal savings accounts, if they choose, including into various mutual funds. Today's retirees should see no changes, and younger workers should have the choice of receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits under the current system or under the new ownership-based system.

It is critically important for the President and Congress to address the Social Security and Medicare issues in the near future. As we know, the current Social Security system needs to be reformed so future generations will have a safety net for retirement. Congressman Walberg favors a Social Security proposal in which Personal Social Security Savings Accounts would be optional, with workers having the choice of continuing to depend on the current system with current benefits or a new system where the individual can take control. He is working with colleagues to develop strong proposals that move the debate in the right direction: toward choice, stability, and predictability for Americans. Congressman Walberg looks forward to working in a non-partisan way to make sure that we keep the promise of Social Security while working to create more wealth and security for future retirees, by preserving the promised benefits of pensions and allowing more options for saving and investing.



XIV. Creating Growth and Opportunity for All Americans

Tax Increase Prevention Act

Creating jobs, growth, and opportunity for Michigan's families must remain a top priority of our leaders in Washington. That's why Congressman Walberg has voted against every tax increase proposed by the new majority in Congress and why he introduced the Tax Increase Prevention Act.¹⁰⁴

The last thing Michigan's working families who are battling with higher gas prices, raising medical costs, and increasing tuition rates need is a \$400 billion tax increase on working, saving, investing, having children, and paying back their college loans. If Congress enacts the Walberg Plan by passing the Tax Increase Prevention Act, millions of Americans will benefit from the continuation of:

- A \$500 per child tax credit.
- A full repeal of the Death Tax.
- Small Business tax relief.
- Reduced capital gains tax – including on home sales.
- Lower taxes on income and dividends.

A recent Heritage Foundation study revealed that failing to enact this plan would raise taxes by \$3,019 for each person in south-central Michigan. Additionally, the study revealed that this tax increase would cost the Seventh Congressional District 2,272 jobs and the economy \$207 million. And an additional five million low-income families across America who currently pay no income tax would be hit with a tax bill.¹⁰⁵ Ultimately, 100 percent of Americans would feel the effects of this massive tax increase.

Fortunately, Congressman Walberg is working hard to ensure that the American economy is not crippled by a massive tax increase. We have felt in Michigan how higher taxes, more regulation, and bloated budgets fail citizens by leading to layoffs instead of growth and employment. Congressman Walberg's legislation provides American families, farmers, and job-creators the certainty to plan for the future and grow their businesses. If his bill becomes law, the American people will see none of the tax increases Democrats are proposing on things like marriage, childbirth, adoption, earning money, saving money, paying college loans and dying. Congress needs to leave more resources with the hard-working people and small businesses that make our communities strong by accepting no more tax increases.

Fix Alternative Minimum Tax

Congress established the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) in the 1960s to ensure the nation's 155 wealthiest paid an income tax, because many were using deductions to escape having any tax obligations. The AMT was never indexed to inflation, meaning millions of taxpayers, especially middle-class Americans, will now be hit with a massive tax increase unless Congress fixes this problem. Middle-class Americans were never intended to be hit by the AMT, and without an AMT patch, 23 million taxpayers face an average tax increase of \$2,000. Taxpayers in our middle-class would lose mortgage and child tax deductions and pay thousands more in federal taxes. House leadership failed to protect middle-class families from the onerous



Congressman Walberg introduces the Tax Increase Prevention Act, which is cosponsored by 121 members of Congress

alternative minimum tax (AMT) until the end of December when Congressman Walberg pushed leadership to pass a clean tax relief package without raising taxes on pension and investment funds,¹⁰⁶ like the majorities original proposal planned to do. However, with the late passage of the AMT fix, tax refunds for millions of Americans will be delayed this year and this is unacceptable.

Simplify the Tax Code

Congress has not provided predictability to families and small business owners in regards to taxes and the nine million word tax code continues to become more complicated and convoluted and is in desperate need of reform. This is why Congressman Walberg helped introduce the Taxpayer Choice Act.¹⁰⁷ This legislation would simply repeal the AMT and give taxpayers a choice between a new simplified tax code or the current hideously complex tax code. Taxpayers would be able file their taxes under the existing tax structure or under the Simplified Tax, which has two simple tax rates on taxable income: 10 percent for the first \$100,000 earned by joint filers (\$50,000 for single filers) and 25 percent for income exceeding those levels. The combination of the personal exemption and individual deduction would make a family of four pay no income tax up to \$39,000, and there would be no other deductions or credits.

Congressman Walberg is committed to making the federal tax system simpler and fairer. He is open to other tax reform that will relieve paperwork, encourage investment and savings, and create a more dynamic and vibrant American economy.

Abolish the IRS and Replace with Fair Tax

Another approach to tax reform is the Fair Tax Act of 2007,¹⁰⁸ which the Congressman is a co-sponsor. This act would repeal the entire tax code from payroll taxes to individual income taxes, along with the capital gains and death tax, and replace with one simple, revenue-neutral personal consumption tax. A constitutional amendment to repeal the income tax would be necessary first, so taxpayers do not end up with an income and consumption tax. This legislation would abolish the IRS, reduce the cost of goods and services, grow the economy, cut tax compliance costs by 90 percent, and encourage investment and savings. These are just some of the positive results that would come from enactment of the Fair Tax.

Promote Research and Development

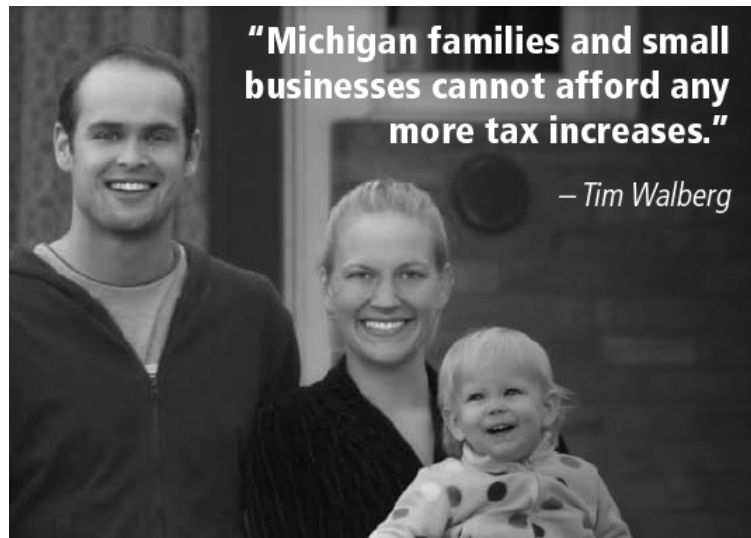
Congressman Walberg has been on the forefront of doing all he can to help Michigan's comeback by providing incentives for manufacturers and their employees to innovate, grow and expand. Congressman Walberg is pushing for an extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit. American auto manufacturers spend \$20 billion a year on R & D, and this investment should be encouraged. One positive step Congress can immediately take to continue similar innovation is to make permanent the Research and Development Tax Credit. The Research and Development Tax Credit¹⁰⁹ would keep high-tech, high-paying jobs in America by maintaining important incentives and enable American companies to grow and compete globally and ultimately produce additional high-paying American jobs.

No More Tax Increases

One of Congressman Walberg's first votes was against a rule change by the new House majority to make it easier to raise taxes.¹¹⁰ Unfortunately, this rule change making tax increases easier passed and a whole swath of tax increases passed the House despite Congressman Walberg's opposition and objections. These tax increases include higher taxes on energy, gas, electricity, and American energy production; higher taxes on investing, savings, and pension funds; and higher taxes for businesses who invest, expand and create manufacturing jobs in the United States. Congressman Walberg stood with the struggling families and business in Michigan to oppose these massive tax increases that totaled over \$500 billion, and in the end, successfully prevented these tax increases from becoming law.

Congressman Walberg is also working to prevent access to the Internet from being taxed,¹¹¹ give our members of the Armed Forces who are in combat needed tax relief,¹¹² end the inflation tax on capital gains,¹¹³ repeal the Death Tax,¹¹⁴ and provide tax relief for families who adopt children and help orphans.¹¹⁵

Congress needs to leave more resources with the hard-working people and small businesses that make our communities strong by accepting no more tax increases. Congressman Walberg will continue to be a strong advocate in Congress for the people of Michigan as he fights to simplify the tax code, fight any and all tax increases, and help leave more money with the struggling families in south-central Michigan.



XV. Veterans – Honoring those who gave so much for our country

Congressman Walberg has fought to improve veterans care and make sure our heroes receive medical care that meets world-class standards and is patient-centered. It is the least we can do to provide the highest quality medical care to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces when they are injured defending the freedoms we enjoy.



Increasing Veterans Funding

Congressman Walberg joined with a broad bi-partisan coalition to support the largest increase in veterans funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Affairs Department.¹¹⁶ Supporting this legislation which provides more than \$37 billion for veterans programs (a \$4.4 billion increase from last year) is the right thing to do for those who so proudly served our nation in combat. This legislation would provide \$600 million for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) care and traumatic brain injury research and care; \$4.1 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals and clinics; \$2.9 billion for mental health care and substance abuse treatment for veterans; and \$480 million for prosthetic research to help wounded veterans retain a positive quality of life. This bill also strongly supports active-duty members by providing \$21.4 billion for facilities needed to house and train military personnel abroad and at home.

Caring for Wounded Warriors

To assist our wounded warriors, Congressman Walberg co-sponsored legislation supplying every wound warrior a medical care case manager and advocate on behalf of the wounded soldier.¹¹⁷ He also sent a letter to the President in regards to the conditions at Walter Reed Hospital stating that those conditions needed to be approved immediately. Congressman Walberg has visited Walter Reed several times to meet with soldiers from Michigan while they are recovering.

Assistance for Employment and Retirement Benefits

Congressman Walberg is fighting to assist veterans once they return home by co-sponsoring legislation to direct the secretaries of Labor and Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on fields of employment for veterans.¹¹⁸ He also co-sponsored and voted for a bill to allow wounded warriors to keep bonuses they earned.¹¹⁹ Additionally, he co-sponsored a bill providing a legislative fix to return withheld taxes to disabled military retirees.¹²⁰

Honoring our Heroes

Congressman Walberg has co-sponsored a resolution honoring the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Reserve.¹²¹ He also co-sponsored legislation to establish a Select House Committee on POW and MIA Affairs¹²² to make sure we do all we can to find those who are missing or have been left behind



during our battlefields. Congressman Walberg co-sponsored a bill ensuring protesters cannot profit from targeting state laws protecting the rights of families to mourn the loss of their son or daughter who was killed in action by prohibiting picketing at military funerals.¹²³

Access to Education for Military Personnel

Additionally, Congressman Walberg introduced the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Enhancement Act.¹²⁴ In 1976, Congress created the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) as a recruitment and retention tool for the post-Vietnam era. Congress greatly expanded education benefits in 1984 and allowed individuals with VEAP accounts to transfer their benefits to the new MGIB in 1996.¹²⁵ However, those individuals who were on active duty before 1985 and did not participate in VEAP were not eligible to sign-up for MGIB, leaving a gap in available coverage for certain career military personnel.

Congress has voted several times in the last decade to allow VEAP participants opportunities to transfer to MGIB, but there has never been an opportunity for those who did not have VEAP accounts to sign up for the new program, excluding them from taking advantage of great educational benefits. The men and women who have served our country deserve the best treatment and care possible and the Congressman looks forward to working with his colleagues in a non-partisan manner to make sure Congress delivers on our responsibility. Congressman Walberg will work in a bi-partisan way to modernize the Montgomery GI Bill to bring it into the 21st Century.

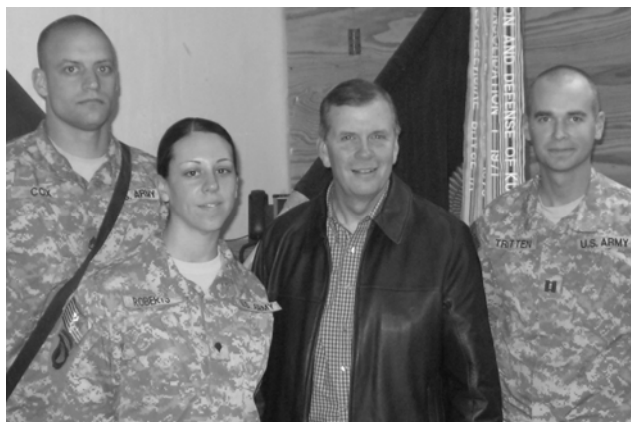


XVI. Funding our Troops, Securing our Nation and Winning the War on Terror

Congressman Walberg believes we need to continue our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan to defend freedom in our country and abroad. When our soldiers go into battle, we all can agree they deserve the best training, equipment, and resources to accomplish their mission. Congressman Walberg believes the least we can do is to provide the highest quality medical care to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces when they are injured defending the freedoms

we enjoy. He supported the largest funding increase in the history of the Veterans

Administration for veterans' health care,¹²⁶ and he worked with colleagues to pass legislation addressing poor conditions at Building 18 at Walter Reed.¹²⁷ The thousands of men and women serving in the military who have been wounded serving in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve the best treatment and care available and Congressman Walberg will continue to make sure they receive the resources and care needed.



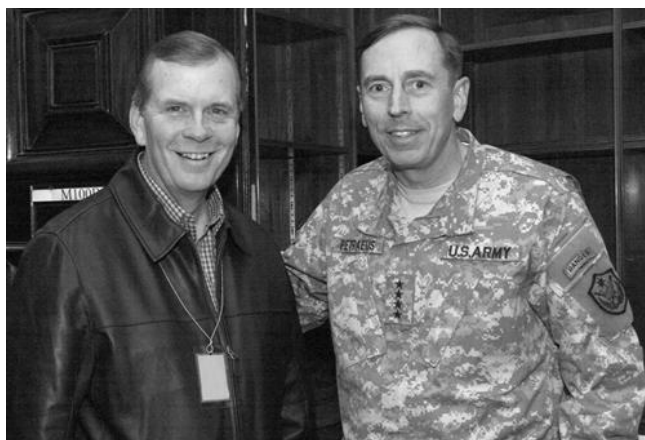
Congressman Walberg meets with Michiganders serving our country in Afghanistan

Setting Benchmarks for Success

In terms of the continued conflict in Iraq, Congressman Walberg believes mistakes have been made. These included not securing the border with Syria and Iraq, disbanding the Iraqi military (which created a million unemployed young men with weapons training), and our recovery effort getting trapped in the burdensome State Department bureaucracy. It is also extremely troublesome to read the reports of billions of dollars being wasted.

Trusting the Generals

Congressman Walberg wants our soldiers to return home as soon as possible, but a timetable for surrender and retreat will only hurt the people of Iraq and the United States. Setting timelines on American involvement in Iraq is good policy, but any such measure must not be public and must be known only by military commanders close to the situation. Congress needs to give General David Petraeus, the commander in Iraq confirmed unanimously by the Senate, a chance to fully implement his new strategy, instead of telegraphing a surrender date to terrorists.



Congressman Walberg meets with General David Petraeus to discuss progress during a visit to Iraq

The Success of the Surge

Granted, the level of violence remains high in the hot spots and many challenges persist. However, there has been a reduction in violence in Iraq. In fact, attacks in Iraq are the lowest levels since June 2006. From May to October 2007, there was an 85 percent reduction in violence in northwest Baghdad. The wounded warriors Congressman Walberg has met at Walter Reed hospital and those he met with in Iraq indicate our Armed Forces can secure Iraq enough so an Iraqi government and security forces can step up and our forces can stand down. Congress needs to move past posturing and partisanship and allow the men and women serving in Iraq the opportunity to crush the terrorists in the Middle East so our families will have a more secure future here at home.

Defense Facilities in Battle Creek

The Seventh Congressional District houses the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base and the Federal Center in Battle Creek is home to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) Headquarters and the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS). The Air National Guard has been serving on the front line on the War on



Congressmen Walberg and Upton discuss the needs of the 110th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard during a visit to Battle Creek

Terror and the DRMS and DLIS

efficiently and effectively handle the

logistics of our Armed Forces and save our the Defense Department money through efficiently coordinating purchases.

With the loss of the A-10s from Battle Creek, Congressman Walberg has been working hard on finding a bridge mission and working to keep the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) deliveries on time to ensure the Battle Creek base has a new mission. The Senate added a provision to the Department of Defense Authorization bill that would hold up the delivery of the JCA because of bureaucratic red tape. Congressman Walberg worked with his colleagues to ensure the Senate language was stripped out of the Defense Authorization bill.

Worked on Defense Authorization Bill

Congressman Walberg was named to the House-Senate Conference Committee on the Defense Authorization bill, and he effectively fought to ensure an important bi-partisan provision would be included in the final bill. The provision would allow spouses, parents, or children of military personnel currently serving or called to active duty to use their Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits for issues arising from deployment. This legislation also provided a 3.5 percent pay raise for our men and women in uniform, established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center to serve as a single point of contact for patients, families, and caregivers and increased the roll of the National Guard Chief in the Pentagon.

Congressman Walberg will continue to fight for and support the Battle Creek Air National Guard base and assist the base in finding a bridge mission. He will also work hard to supply our soldiers with the technology, support, materials, training, and supplies they need to win the Global War on Terror and bring them home as soon as possible.

XVII. Constituent Service

Academy Nominations

Each Member of Congress is privileged to have the opportunity to nominate young people to America's military service academies. To facilitate this process, Congressman Walberg put

together a 15-member committee from across the Seventh District

to assess the qualifications of applicants and recommend service academy nominations. On June 1, 2007, Congressman Walberg hosted his first annual Military Service Academy Day in which interested young people were able to listen to representatives of the academies and learn the application process. Around 150 people attended this first annual meeting.

On November 17, 2007, the 15-member recommendation committee interviewed the candidates, and on December 6, nine young people were nominated to the military academies. We should be thankful that so many young men and women are eager to serve our nation.



Congressman Walberg listens to constituent concerns during one of the nearly 100 town halls, coffees, and open office hours held throughout south-central Michigan

Art Contest

The Art Contest is an excellent opportunity for high school students to showcase their talents. The winner's painting adorns the walls of the Capitol complex, along with artwork from around the nation.

Veterans Fair in all seven counties

In order to link veterans and organizations with services for veterans, Congressman Walberg hosted a Veterans Fair in each of the seven counties that comprise the Seventh Congressional District.

Farm Bill Listening Sessions

The Farm Bill was up for re-authorization in 2007 and Congressman Walberg serves on the House Agriculture Committee, so he conducted a tour of the seven counties to listen to the views of farmers and others with an interest in the Farm Bill. This opportunity to hear directly from those impacted assisted greatly in formulating the Farm Bill to help south-central Michigan.

Education Listening Sessions

Education is vital to the ability of our young people to compete in the global marketplace, and teachers, administrators, school board members, and parents are critical to educational excellence. No Child Left Behind is up for re-authorization and Congressman Walberg has serious reservations about the law. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, he wanted to hear directly from the educators, parents, and administrators impacted by No Child Left Behind, so he hosted an education listening session in all seven counties.

Health Care Listening Sessions

Health care costs are rising and many Michigan citizens lack access to quality care. Congressman Walberg hosted five listening sessions with health care professionals to gather their input on how to make health insurance and health care more affordable and accessible and how to improve the overall system.

Town Hall Meetings, Coffees, and Office Hours

Congressman Walberg understands that listening to and learning from the people he represents is critical to effectively doing his job. In 2007, he hosted almost 100 meetings open to the public, such as town hall meetings, coffee hours, and open office hours.

Telephone Town Hall Meetings

A new technology available to members of Congress is the telephone town hall. These allow hundreds, even thousands, of constituents to listen to and participate in a telephone town hall meeting with their Congressman from the comfort of their home. This ability to interact enables Congressman Walberg and constituents to communicate even when he is in Washington D.C. Congressman Walberg held a dozen telephone town hall meetings this year.

Legislative Responses to letters, emails, and faxes

Congressman Walberg responded to over 31,000 letters, emails, phone calls and faxes from constituents in 2007. Constituent input on legislation is helpful in making decisions to help south-central Michigan residents.

Casework

Over 1,800 constituents contacted Congressman Walberg's office to receive assistance in dealing with federal government agencies. Issues have ranged from passports to cutting through the red tape to get veterans and Social Security benefits.

Website

The website walberg.house.gov provides constituents with updates on Congressman Walberg's legislative activities, along with information about available constituent services, visiting the nation's capitol, and information about our Congressional district. The website is regularly updated and Tim's Blog is a great way to stay updated.

Weekly Update

Congressman Walberg issues a weekly update to constituents highlighting the legislative and district activity for the week. To sign up for the update, please visit Walberg.house.gov and click on "Sign Up For Email Updates" in the upper right corner.

XVIII. Fighting for our district

2007 Federal Grants and District Funding

If you are interested in applying for a federal grant, Congressman Walberg and his staff want to help you research information efficiently and provide guidance on writing grant proposals. The Congressman encourages you to contact his office, toll free at 877-TIM-MI07, if you have any questions.

There are numerous resources on Congressman Walberg's website, walberg.house.gov/ConstituentServices/grants/, including taking a tutorial on ways to write grant proposals, ways to contact various federal offices if you have specific questions, and links to websites to find federal grants.

The following is a list of federal grants amounts awarded to organizations in Michigan's Seventh Congressional District in 2007.

- **Department of Defense awarded \$114,589 in grants**
- **Department of Education awarded \$17,304,882 in grants**
- **Department of Health & Human Services awarded \$5,009,199 in grants**
- **Department of Housing & Urban Development awarded \$35,122 in grants**
- **Department of Justice awarded \$232,734 in grants**
- **Department of Transportation awarded \$1,304,079 in grants**
- **Department of Agriculture awarded \$7,654,000 in grants**
- **Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$800,000 in grants**
- **Department of Homeland Security awarded \$443,347.62 in grants**
- **National Endowment for the Arts awarded \$50,000 in grants**
- **Office of National Drug Congrol Policy awarded \$2000,000 in grants**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \$45,000 in grants**

For more information on grants please visit walberg.house.gov.

District Funding Secured for Fiscal Year 2008

Below is a complete list of the appropriations projects for Michigan's Seventh Congressional district secured by Congressman Walberg for fiscal year 2008. It should be noted that these projects have zero budget cost and do not constitute new spending as each application seeks to be included as part of the budgeted appropriations process.

Projects are listed according to the appropriations bill they would be included in. Pursuant to House rules, Congressman Walberg has filed certifications with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the appropriate subcommittees stating that neither he nor his spouse have a financial interest in the project requests. Also, Congressman Walberg, in an effort to bring more transparency to the appropriations process, was one of only a handful of members to list all of the appropriations requests from Michigan's Seventh Congressional District in 2007 on his official website.

Congressman Walberg successfully secured over \$14 million in federal funding for the Seventh Congressional District.

- **Department of Defense funding for \$11,200,000**
- **Health and Education funding for \$840,000**
- **Transportation, Housing & Urban Development funding for \$833,000**
- **Agriculture research funding for \$1,190,000**

For more information please visit walberg.house.gov.

XIX. Constituent Services Available

Congressman Walberg wants to serve his constituents in any way he can, whether constituents need help with a federal agency, are trying to find out if federal grants are available for your project or are considering applying to a service academy.

All the information is available on his website, walberg.house.gov, which is provided as a service to the constituents of Michigan's Seventh Congressional District. If you ever have any questions that are not addressed online, please contact Congressman Walberg's Jackson office toll free at 877-TIM-MI07.

Flag Requests

Information on flag requests and an order form for constituents who wish to order flags

Gas Price Resource Center

Learn how your family can fight back against high gas prices.

Help With a Federal Agency

Federal Job Postings

Help with Federal Grants

Internships

Obtaining a Federal Document

Presidential Greetings

Federal Government Links

Kid's Page

Service Academy Nominations

Tour Requests

You may request tours of the Capitol, White House, and many other sites if you are visiting Washington, D.C.

XX. Just the Facts: 2007

Constituent Service:

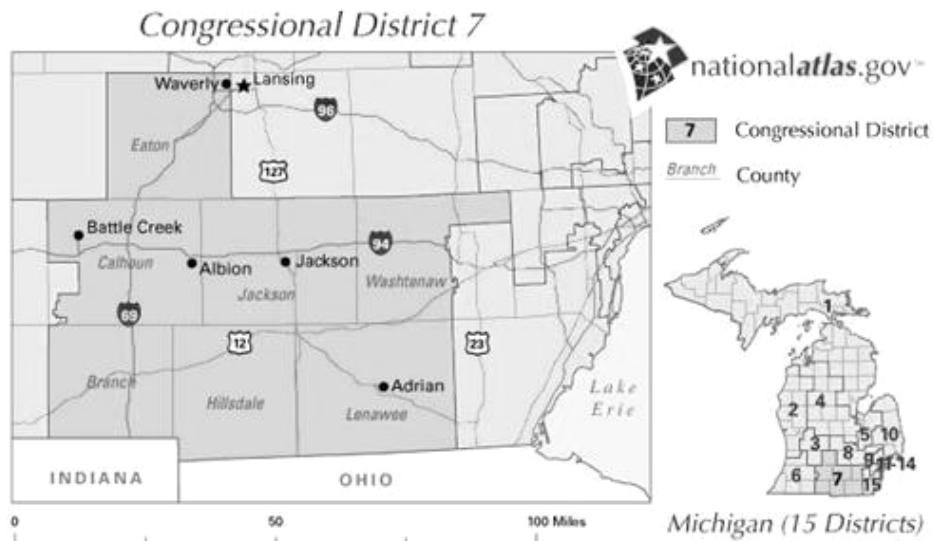
- Responded to over 31,000 letters, emails, and faxes on legislative issues.
- Helped over 1,800 constituents cut through the federal bureaucracy.
- Held almost 100 town hall meetings, coffee hours, and open office hours.
- Held a series of Veterans Fairs, Farm Bill listening sessions, education listening sessions, and health care listening sessions.
- Provided over 700 constituents with tours of the Capitol or White House.

Committees:

- House Education & Labor Committee
 - Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions Subcommittee
 - Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
- House Agriculture Committee
 - Conservation, Energy & Research Subcommittee
 - Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Subcommittee

Legislation:

- Introduced 9 pieces of legislation and 2 amendments (passed 2)
- Sponsored 72 pieces of legislation
- Cosponsored 168 pieces of legislation
- Voted 1,180 times on the House floor



Notes

- ¹ Roll Call Vote No. 7, 2007
- ² Roll Call No. 49, 2007; H.R. 476
- ³ H.R. 2102
- ⁴ Roll Call No. 973, 2007
- ⁵ H.R. 689
- ⁶ H.R. 137
- ⁷ H. J. Res. 1
- ⁸ H.R. 689
- ⁹ H.R. 631
- ¹⁰ H.R. 489
- ¹¹ H. Res. 283
- ¹² H.R. 2084
- ¹³ H.R. 2734
- ¹⁴ H.R. 2272
- ¹⁵ <http://www.nap.edu/>
- ¹⁶ H.R. 3920; Roll Call No. 1025, 2007
- ¹⁷ Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) 10/30/07
- ¹⁸ Passed 10/31/07; 264-157
- ¹⁹ H.R. 3648
- ²⁰ H.R. 1982
- ²¹ Roll Call No. 630, 2007
- ²² Roll Call No. 876, 2007
- ²³ H.R.1539
- ²⁴ H.R. 1486
- ²⁵ H.R. 711
- ²⁶ House E & L Comm. vote on Price Amdt. to H.R. 4137
- ²⁷ House E & L Comm. Vote - H.R. 4137
- ²⁸ Roll Call No. 32, 2007
- ²⁹ H.R. 4344
- ³⁰ House E & L Comm. Vote - H.R. 4137
- ³¹ H.R. 4137
- ³² H.R. 590
- ³³ H.R.1407
- ³⁴ H.R. 1407
- ³⁵ H.R. 2784
- ³⁶ H.R. 635
- ³⁷ H.R. 3781 & 2178
- ³⁸ H.R. 550
- ³⁹ H.R. 197
- ⁴⁰ Roll No. 829 – 2007
- ⁴¹ H.R. 539
- ⁴² Sent support letter (1/2007)
- ⁴³ H.R. 547
- ⁴⁴ H.R. 2178
- ⁴⁵ H.R. 6 (Roll No. 40 & 1140 – 2007)
- ⁴⁶ H.R. 518
- ⁴⁷ H.R. 1350
- ⁴⁸ H.R. 1495
- ⁴⁹ Roll Call No. 563, 2007
- ⁵⁰ H.R. 518
- ⁵¹ H.R. 1350
- ⁵² H.R. 2830
- ⁵³ H. Res. 186

⁵⁴ H.R. 268
⁵⁵ Colleague sign on letter (11/2007)
⁵⁶ H. Con. Res. 187 and colleague sign on letter (8/2007)
⁵⁷ H.R. 241
⁵⁸ H.R.506
⁵⁹ H.R.2580
⁶⁰ H.R 2948
⁶¹ H.R. 636
⁶² H.R. 2639
⁶³ H.R.1110
⁶⁴ Roll Call Vote No. 1184, 2007 & H.R. 3584, 2007
⁶⁵ H.R.3888
⁶⁶ Roll Call Vote No. 1184, 2007
⁶⁷ H.R.1552
⁶⁸ H.R.3262
⁶⁹ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
⁷⁰ HR 621
⁷¹ HR 3057
⁷² HR 1459
⁷³ H.R. 3865
⁷⁴ H.R.4, Roll Call No. 23, 2007
⁷⁵ H.R 971
⁷⁶ H.R.1474
⁷⁷ H.R.853
⁷⁸ H.R. 98
⁷⁹ H.R. 997
⁸⁰ H. Res. 800
⁸¹ H.R. 4176
⁸² H.R. 3963, H.R. 3162, & H.R. 976
⁸³ Roll call No. 1171, 2007
⁸⁴ H.R. 4088
⁸⁵ S. 1104; Roll Call No. 399, 2007
⁸⁶ H.R. 3123
⁸⁷ Roll Call No. 684, 2007
⁸⁸ Roll Call No. 534, 2007
⁸⁹ H.R. 1063
⁹⁰ H.R. 4157
⁹¹ H.R. 2807
⁹² H.R. 457
⁹³ H.Con. Res. 239
⁹⁴ Colleague sign on letter (9/2007)
⁹⁵ H.R. 725
⁹⁶ H. Res. 268
⁹⁷ H.R. 699
⁹⁸ H.R. 3908
⁹⁹ HR. 3144
¹⁰⁰ HR 1399
¹⁰¹ H.R.73
¹⁰² H.R. 861
¹⁰³ H.R. 4388
¹⁰⁴ H.R. 2734
¹⁰⁵ www.heritage.org
¹⁰⁶ Roll No. 1183, 2007
¹⁰⁷ H.R. 3818
¹⁰⁸ H.R. 25

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- ¹⁰⁹ H.R. 2138
¹¹⁰ Roll Call No. 9, 2007
¹¹¹ Roll Call No. 968, 2007 & H.R. 743
¹¹² H.R. 1085 & H.R. 1086
¹¹³ H.R. 1261
¹¹⁴ HR. 1586
¹¹⁵ H.R. 471
¹¹⁶ H.R. 2642, Roll No. 498 – 2007
¹¹⁷ H.R. 1538
¹¹⁸ H.R. 3646
¹¹⁹ H.R. 3793
¹²⁰ H.R. 2234
¹²¹ H. J. Res. 70
¹²² H. Res. 111
¹²³ H.R. 1613
¹²⁴ H.R. 4130
¹²⁵ P.L. 104-275
¹²⁶ H.R. 2642, Roll No. 498 – 2007
¹²⁷ H.R. 1538

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