



Washington Weekly

June 8, 2007



U. S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

This e-newsletter summarizes events taking place in the U. S. Congress that affect the State of Michigan, with particular emphasis on Michigan's 13th Congressional District. A printable version of this e-newsletter will also be available on my website: www.house.gov/kilpatrick.

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action for the Week Ending 05/25/07

H.R. 1700, Community Oriented Police Program – This bill authorizes \$6.9 billion in FY 2008 through FY 2013 for the Community Oriented Policing Services program. It also adds a number of new policing activities, including programs to reduce the distribution and abuse of illegal drugs, for which the program could award grants. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this legislation, which passed the House by a vote of 381 to 34.

H.R. 1252, Fuel Price Gouging – This bill prohibits and sets civil and criminal penalties for price gouging for fuels in areas experiencing an “energy emergency.” It permits states to bring lawsuits against retailers for price gouging. The Congresswoman supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 284 to 141.

H.R. 67, Veteran Outreach – This bill establishes a Veterans Affairs Department (VA) program to assist states with outreach to veterans and their families. The outreach would inform veterans about benefits and programs for which they are eligible and help them in applying for them. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted for this measure, which received unanimous support.

H.R. 612, Veterans' Health Care – This legislation extends the eligibility period for veterans to receive VA hospital care, medical services, or nursing home care after their discharge or release from two years to five. The bill applies to veterans who served in combat during or after the 1991 Gulf War. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this measure, which passed the House unanimously.

H.R. 1470, Chiropractic Care for Veterans – This bill requires that chiropractic care be available at no fewer than 75 veterans' medical centers by December 31, 2009, and at all veterans medical centers by December 31, 2011. The Congresswoman voted for this bill, which passed by a vote of 421 to 1.

H.R. 2199, Combat Traumatic Brain Injuries – This measure authorizes new research centers for traumatic brain injuries and requires the establishment of a comprehensive program to treat traumatic brain injuries at VA health centers. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this legislation, which passed the House unanimously.

H.R. 2239, Vocational Rehabilitation for Veterans – This bill extends eligibility for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits to current members of the armed forces who are hospitalized or are receiving outpatient medical care. The eligibility would apply to those who have a disability of at least 10 percent incurred or aggravated while on active duty and who are likely to be discharged from the service due to that disability. The Congresswoman voted for this bill, which passed unanimously.

H.R. 2316, Lobbying Disclosure – This measure requires lobbyists to file quarterly electronic reports that would be available to the public. Lobbyists and their employees would have to certify they have not provided, requested, or directed any gift, including travel, to a Member of Congress or an officer or employee of either chamber. It also amends House rules to prohibit a lobbyist whose spouse is a Member from lobbying that

travel, to a Member of Congress or an officer or employee of either chamber. It also amends House rules to prohibit a lobbyist whose spouse is a Member from lobbying that Member's office. The bill requires Members and senior staff to disclose negotiations over future jobs to the ethics committee and to recuse themselves from any related issues. The Congresswoman supported this legislation, which passed by a vote of 396 to 22.

H.R. 2206, Emergency Funding Resolution/Domestic and Social Programs – This bill appropriates \$22.2 billion in emergency spending for FY 07. It includes \$650 million for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, \$2.9 billion for hurricane relief, and \$1.1 billion for anti-terrorism homeland security activities. It also increases the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour over two years. Congresswoman Kilpatrick voted for this bill, which passed by a vote of 348 to 73.

H.R. 2206, Emergency Funding Resolution/Iraq and Afghanistan – This legislation appropriates \$97.8 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It establishes 18 economic and political "benchmarks" for the Iraqi government and requires the President to report on progress toward meeting these benchmarks. It permits, but does not require, the President to withhold reconstruction funds if the benchmarks are not met. Congresswoman Kilpatrick did not support this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 280 to 142.

To read more about these measures or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

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