



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District

Hill News

News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

This Week In Congress:

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS H.R. 4818

The Foreign Operations Appropriations legislation provides funding for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for fiscal year 2005. Attached to H.R. 4818 was an amendment I proposed, the "Small Business Amendment." This amendment will apply the uniform standards for government contracting. Currently, foreign contracts do not require that American businesses be included in procurement contracts. This amendment changes that. H.R. 4818 with the "Small Business Amendment" attached passed the US House with a vote of 365-41.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS H.R. 4613

This bill provides \$417 billion for the Department of Defense operations for fiscal year 2005. Included in this legislation is a "Motion to Instruct" calling for the highest possible level of funding for responding to the current crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. There are reports of thousands of villagers living in meager refugee camps where they are dying of disease and starvation and Arab militias backed by the Sudanese government continue to conduct mop-up operations against non-Arab villagers in a massive ethnic-cleansing campaign in the Darfur region. The motion was unopposed and passed unanimously.

UNITED STATES/AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE IMPLEMENTATION ACT H.R. 4759

This free trade agreement will enhance the already strong economic ties that exist between the U.S. and Australia. This pact has been called the "Manufacturing FTA" because of the extent the US manufacturing sector will benefit from the expanded market access provided by the agreement. More than 99 percent of remaining Australian duties on US manufactured goods will be lifted the day the agreement takes effect. I voted in favor of the bill helping it pass the US House 314-109. The measure cleared the US Senate the following day 80-16.

POSTPONE ELECTION DAY?

This week Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge stated that due to possible terrorist attacks it may be necessary to postpone the November 2, 2004 election. This is absurd. The Bush Administration should not instill fear or inject uncertainty into the election. If this Administration has any evidence that would warrant considering postponing the election, they should immediately share it with Congress. Instead of focusing on changing the date of the election, the Homeland Security Department should focus on reducing the risk of an attack.

OFFICE HOURS

I invite everyone to come by Harper Woods and visit my Mobile office next week. Congressional special liaison Jacob Bennett will be at the Harper Woods City Hall located at 19617 Harper Ave., on Tuesday, July 21st. Meet with Jacob who will be able to assist you with any federal concerns. For more information, contact Jake at (313) 965-9004.

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