



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



JANUARY 23, 2004

Hot News!

McCollum Reacts to the State of the Union

President Bush delivered his annual State of the Union speech this week before a joint session of Congress.

Rep. Betty McCollum attended the event with her colleagues and offered this statement in response to the president's speech:

The future of middle class American families is at stake in 2004. Tonight's State of the Union Address gave President Bush a forum to defend his record as he begins campaigning for re-election. As Minnesotans we must ask ourselves: 'Are our families, our nation and our world healthier, more prosperous and more secure after three years of George Bush and Republican control of Washington?'

The year ahead offers an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to America's families. Reflecting on the state of our union, I believe that it is indeed strong, due to the spirit of the American people - the creativity, optimism, hard work, and faith of everyday Americans.

By 2000, President Clinton had built a thriving new American economy, and in three short years President Bush's flawed policy choices have destroyed it. The policy decisions made by George Bush and the Republican Congress have exported millions of jobs and resulted in record federal deficits. The Bush Administration chose to commit our troops to a deadly quagmire in Iraq and lavish massive tax cuts on Wall Street investors while middle class families are forced with ongoing economic challenges.

We need to restore our commitment to America by investing in our children, our elderly, our veterans, and our workers. We must focus on job creation to invigorate the economy and balance the federal deficit. It is time that Washington re-focus its priorities and restore hope and opportunities to our families.



David Moreno joined Rep. Betty McCollum in her Washington DC office as they participated in WCCO Radio's Pat Miles show this week to discuss their impressions of the president's State of the Union address. Moreno, 13, and his "Big Brother" Jim Diesing were invited to attend the event as representatives of the nation's growing mentorship movement. McCollum met with Moreno, his mother Josefina and Diesing and talked about the president's speech and the importance mentoring can have on a child's life. Rep. McCollum is co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus and is a strong advocate of mentoring.

The Week Ahead

January 26 - Rep. Betty McCollum will join a diverse group of individuals and organizations representing the business, farming, labor and environmental communities to discuss the impact of trade agreements on Minnesota.

January 27 - Rep. Betty McCollum will meet with President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg of the George Washington University to discuss the challenges facing international students and universities with the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

January 31 - Rep. Betty McCollum will join students at the College of St. Catherine to discuss "Women in Public Policy".

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