



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



APRIL 11, 2003

Hot News!

Special Education Update

Rep. Betty McCollum introduced an amendment which would provide full mandatory funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with other members on the Education and the Workforce Committee. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) and committee Democrats supported an amendment that would designate mandatory funding to fully meet the federal commitment to special education within six years. Under the McCollum proposal, Minnesota would receive \$396 million annually by 2009.

Mandatory funding is important because it guarantees funding for schools to set their budgets accordingly.

Cathy Miller, a member of the District 622 School Board said, "For too long, the federal funding gap has been a burden shifted onto schools and local taxpayers, forcing communities like North Saint Paul, Oakdale and Maplewood to make difficult decisions - either raise taxes or cut educational services for children."

Voters in North Saint Paul, Oakdale and Maplewood approved an \$11 million education levy referendum last year.

McCollum Calls GOP Budget "Deficit Disaster"

"Congress did not pass a budget, it passed a deficit disaster. This Republican disaster stimulates our national debt, not our economy. This year alone, our nation stands in a nearly \$400 billion deficit hole. How does digging the deficit another \$380 billion deeper help families in Minnesota?" said Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04).

- - *Statement regarding Congressional Budget for FY 2004
April 11, 2003*



Pictured with Rep. Betty McCollum are representatives from the Epilepsy Foundation. They discussed the Congresswoman's continued support for increased funding for epilepsy research, programs and services.

House Republicans vote to open ANWR to drilling

This week House Republicans approved HR 6, the House Energy Policy Act, which allows for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Rep. McCollum supported an amendment that would protect ANWR from industrial development, but it ultimately failed.

"We need a balanced approach in addressing our energy needs. I also believe in diversifying our sources of power by using wind, solar and other innovative power supplies," McCollum said, "This bill fails to do that."

The ANWR region is already under stress because of global warming and an increase in pollution. In addition, it is home to irreplaceable wilderness and wildlife that sustain the culture and traditions of Alaska's native people. Drilling in ANWR would permanently damage Alaska's coastal plain.

The US Senate passed legislation that would protect ANWR from drilling on March 19, 2003 with a vote of 52-48.

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