



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



JULY 25, 2003

### Hot News!

#### Republican Head Start Bill Fails Children

Rep. Betty McCollum said thousands of Minnesota children could be left behind by HR 2210, the Republican Head Start Authorization Act. After a week of delay by Republican leaders, the overhaul of Head Start was narrowly approved by a vote of 217 to 216. Every Democrat and eleven Republicans joined in opposing this bill.

"Republican leaders are determined to dismantle our most successful investment in early childhood education," McCollum said.

This legislation would give states a block grant that will limit accountability and allow states to reduce performance standards – allowing for increased class size, increased child-teacher ratios, cutting off services for three year olds.

"Last year Head Start programs in Minnesota served over 16,000 children – less than half of those eligible. Head Start works, and all children that qualify should have the opportunity to enroll. This program does not need to be overhauled – it needs to be funded. Passing this bill will leave thousands of Minnesota children behind," McCollum said.

Among the most radical changes to Head Start is a provision shifting the funding to a block grant to states. In Minnesota where state leaders are already cutting services for young children by 14% this year, such funding would be even less likely to be used for early childhood development.

Head Start has been praised for providing comprehensive services, including early education, health, nutrition, and social services, primarily to low-income preschool-aged children. Sadly, for the first time this bipartisan issue has become partisan, putting the interest of our children at risk.

McCollum supported a Democratic substitute to the Head Start bill which would preserve current protections including specified minimum for class sizes, child-teacher ratios and curriculum effectiveness. Unfortunately, this measure failed by a vote of 217 to 216.



Rep. McCollum discusses the future of U.S.-Lao relations with Prince Soulivong Savang (center) of the Lao Royal family. The royal family supports normalized trade (NTR) between the U.S. and Laos.

#### McCollum Hears from 4th CD Families on Economy, Education

Rep. Betty McCollum begins the August district work period with community events focused on the economy, education and health care. McCollum will spend **Monday July 28** at a WomenBuild site with her staff. WomenBuild is an effort by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to bring women of all ages and abilities together in the construction of homes and providing ownership opportunities for families in need.

McCollum will spend **Tuesday July 29** in Maplewood. Her visit includes stops at city hall, a tour of Second Harvest Food Shelf, Schroeder Milk and a meeting with staff and students of Tri-District Community Culture/Environmental Sciences School.

In addition, McCollum will visit Fairview Hospital on **Thursday July 31** to discuss nurses training.

*For more information on any these events, contact the St. Paul district office at 651-224-9191.*

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)

**Washington Office:** 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

**St. Paul Office:** 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056