



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



May 7, 2004

### Iraqi Human Rights Abuses Are a Failure of Leadership by President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld

This week, Congresswoman Betty McCollum said that reports of prisoner abuse in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay by U.S. military personnel and private intelligence contractors indicate a grievous abdication of leadership and responsibility by President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Rep. McCollum demanded an immediate Congressional investigation into this human rights scandal and the attempted cover-up by the Defense Department. McCollum said Secretary Rumsfeld is now "an obstacle to any successful outcome in Iraq and President Bush should remove him immediately."

"The abuse of Iraqis in U.S. detention is an appalling violation of human rights," said McCollum. "Congress must investigate the failures in the chain of command both at the Pentagon and in Iraq. The explicit photographs and reports of sexual abuse, exploitation and humiliation by U.S. military and intelligence personnel indicate a fundamental breakdown in the chain of command as well as what appears to be a deliberate tactic used by interrogators."

McCollum is calling for a full investigation by the Congress into what occurred in the prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay. It is reported that 25 prisoners have died in U.S. custody in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Republican Leadership in Congress has cheered on the White House Iraq policy and has been derelict in their responsibility to extend congressional oversight. The international community is looking for assurances that our high standards of conduct are more than empty rhetoric. This White House has squandered U.S. credibility in the world and it is now up to Congress to reassure the international community that we will live by our own high standards."

In addition, McCollum is calling on President Bush to immediately remove Defense Secretary Rumsfeld. Evidence exists to conclude that Secretary Rumsfeld failed to respond adequately and early enough to the allegations, long before they were made public.

Yesterday, McCollum joined Reps. Martin Sabo and Jim Oberstar in opposing H.Res 627, a House measure condemning the abuse of Iraqis, because the resolution had critical omissions and failed to call for Congressional investigations into the human rights abuses in Iraq.

### Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Meets with McCollum



Children from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation meets with Congresswoman McCollum in her St. Paul office. From left to right, are Evan Reimer, Cory Leegard, Casey and Noah Reimer, Elizabeth Stai, Rob Mancini and Brandon Stai.

### The Week Ahead

**Sunday, May 9th — Rep. McCollum joins Minnesota delegation at the Million Mom March on Washington, D.C.**

**Tuesday, May 11th — Rep. McCollum will meet with the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota to discuss financial services issues.**

**Wednesday, May 12th — Education and Workforce Committee Hearing on College Access and Opportunity.**

**Thursday, May 13th — International Relations Committee Hearing on the Imminent Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq.**

**Thursday, May 13th — Over 50 students from St. Pascal's Elementary School from East Side St. Paul will visit with Rep. McCollum.**

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

**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