



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



MAY 2, 2003

Hot News!

McCollum Ensures Funding for AIDS Orphans

Rep. Betty McCollum was successful in including an amendment dedicating 10% of HIV/AIDS assistance over the next five years to AIDS orphans in HR 1298, the *United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003*. The House passed the \$15 billion measure yesterday, by a vote of 375 to 41.

"America possesses the wealth, the knowledge, and the leadership to partner with the people of Africa to save lives, offer dignity to the dying, and provide opportunity to orphans struggling for survival. Our fight against AIDS at home, in Africa, and around the world is both a strategic and humanitarian battle that reflects the greatest strengths and the absolute goodness of the American people," McCollum said.

More than 12 million children in Africa have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

HR 1298 also includes a provision introduced by McCollum requiring the development of specific strategies to promote sustainability of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals (antiretrovirals) and monitor the effects of drug resistance on HIV/AIDS patients. It also requires monitoring and reporting to ensure that the extraordinary benefit of antiretrovirals are not diminished through illegal counterfeiting and black market sales of such pharmaceuticals.

HR 1298 directs \$3 billion annually toward prevention and treatment of global HIV/AIDS over the next five years. The legislation allows up to \$1 billion to be spent for Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Next Week on the House Floor

H.R. 1261 - Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act

H.R. TBA - Republican Tax Bill



Rep. McCollum recently returned from Peru where she visited successful village based water quality and maternal health projects. Above, she is pictured with Carlos Cardenas of CARE-Peru, a local farmer and Dr. Ken Yamashita of USAID at an avocado farm.

Rep. McCollum Hosts US Ambassador to Laos Visit

U.S. Ambassador to Laos, Douglas Hartwick, will join Rep. Betty McCollum in St. Paul next week for a variety of meetings. Rep. McCollum and Ambassador Hartwick will visit local businesses in the University Avenue area, meet with Rep. Cy Thao (D-65A) and Sen. Mee Moua (D-67), and discuss granting normal trade relations to Laos with local business leaders. In addition, they will meet with Hmong Veterans and Lao and Hmong community leaders.

"The United States and Minnesota have a strong connection with the people of Laos. Ambassador Hartwick understands this relationship, and I am looking forward to a successful and productive visit in the Twin Cities," McCollum said.

St. Paul is home to the largest Hmong population in the United States, most of whom fled their native Laos after the Vietnam war.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . 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