

Minnesota's 4th District
E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



JULY 3, 2003

Hot News!

McCollum Defends Workers' Rights

Rep. Betty McCollum recently joined more than 100 of her Democratic House colleagues in sending a letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao urging her to withdraw proposed regulations that take overtime pay away from millions of middle class and lower-income workers.

In March, the Administration delivered a Labor Department plan with proposed changes that would alter the definitions of who qualifies for overtime pay and in doing so, would deny millions of workers and their families overtime pay. The proposed regulations will take away overtime benefits from nearly 8 million workers in the United States, including first responders, nurses, grocery clerks, health technicians and many more.

"How can we justify cutting overtime pay for the emergency workers and others in our communities? These critical positions are already understaffed, and many workers are forced to put in more than 40 hours a week," said McCollum.

The proposed changes by the Labor Department would likely reduce take-home pay and free time for many workers.

"In the letter to Secretary Chao, McCollum joined her colleagues in outlining the reality facing today's working families, "At least one in five employees now has a workweek that exceeds 50 hours. Protecting the 40-hour workweek is vital to balancing work responsibilities and family needs."

"The reality is that these workers depend on overtime pay to make ends meet for their families everyday. Fair labor standards were put into place to protect workers. This change will hurt the economic security and working rights of millions of American men and women," said McCollum.

The proposed overtime changes are the most dramatic attempt to alter the 40-hour workweek since it was established under the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938.



Candace YaKoub of St. Paul and a student at St. Paul Academy and Summit Schools visited Rep. McCollum's Washington office last week. YaKoub was a participant in Presidential Classroom, a program that provides an opportunity for high school students to learn about the federal government.

McCollum Hears Education Concerns From Immigrant Students

This week, Rep. McCollum heard from students, teachers and others concerned about limited opportunities for immigrant children to pursue higher education.

"Our children and families are under attack from Republican cuts to education and health care both in Washington and here in Minnesota. Unfortunately, immigrants and other vulnerable people are the most frequent victims of this assault. Families must join together to send a clear message that we will not stand by as the fabric of our community is torn apart. We must restore the hope and opportunity on which our nation was built," said Rep. McCollum.

At the meeting, hosted by ISAIAH, an interfaith alliance, Rep. McCollum agreed to co-sponsor H.R. 1684, the Student Adjustment Act, which would allow certain immigrant students to remain in the country to attend a college or university.

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