



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



March 19, 2004

Hot News!

McCollum Statement on the 1 year Anniversary of Iraq Invasion

One year after beginning the war in Iraq, the U.S. House of Representatives considered House Resolution 557. Rep. Betty McCollum addressed the resolution on the floor of the House:

"Today, we are asked to commemorate a pre-emptive war. President Bush told the world there was "no doubt" Iraq was concealing weapons of mass destruction, but this Republican resolution instead re-interprets history.

It would have the American people believe President Bush took our nation to war because, in 1988, Saddam gassed the Kurds, while President Reagan appeased the Iraqi regime. Or, because Saddam punished the Marsh Arabs by draining the marshlands, while the first Bush Administration watched.

This resolution memorializes the horrors of a dictator to justify the flawed premise for pre-emptive war, but it fails to acknowledge the 565 American patriots who sacrificed their lives. This resolution exploits the sacrifices of our troops and the suffering of the Iraqi people, all for partisan gamesmanship.

Our nation is at war. Our troops, their families and the American people deserve honesty from this House and the White House.

We all support our troops. We all want a safer world. The American people deserve the truth."

Investigations Begin Into GOP Medicare Legislation

This week, the Ethics Committee of the U.S. House began a formal investigation into accusations of bribery surrounding the Medicare reform vote in November 2003. Rep. Nick Smith, R-Mich., who voted against the bill, accused key Republican leaders of trying to pressure him into voting for the measure with promises of financial support for the House candidacy of his son.

A separate investigation is underway into whether the former Medicare administrator threatened to fire the program's actuary whose analysis consistently had shown the legislation would cost \$500 billion to \$600 billion, instead of the White House estimate of \$395 billion. After enactment of the law, the White House admitted that the cost could rise above \$500 billion.

"The actions taken by the Bush Administration to pass the Medicare bill are deceitful," said Rep. McCollum. "They have intentionally misled Congress and the American people."

McCollum Speaks with Student Leaders



Congresswoman Betty McCollum speaks to students from the Public Leadership Education Network, a consortium of women's colleges, participating in a Congressional Mock Hearing in Washington, D.C.

The Week Ahead

March 23 — Rep. McCollum meets with students from the Minnesota State College Students Association to discuss higher education issues.

March 23 — Chairman Dan Gioia of the National Endowment for the Arts will meet with Rep. McCollum to discuss the President's FY2005 Budget for the arts.

March 24 — Minnesota representatives from the American Association of School Counselors Association will visit with Rep. McCollum on No Child Left Behind and other education issues.

March 24 — Rep. McCollum meets with the Minnesota Primary Care Association to discuss expanding health coverage for uninsured Minnesotans.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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