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House Passes the Budget Deficit Act to Reduce the Size and Scope of the Federal Government

Last week, McMorris voted in favor of the Budget Deficit Act, legislation that will reduce the deficit by \$50 billion over five years.

"One of my top priorities is to promote economic growth, yet this can only happen if we get spending under control," said McMorris. "I am committed to reducing the deficit and restoring fiscal responsibility. The legislation passed today saves money by slowing the rate of growth for a variety of programs. It is necessary that we make commonsense reforms and restructure programs in such a way that benefits are actually going to those in our society who are the most vulnerable. The people deserve to know that their tax dollars are being spent wisely and we must address our current financial situation before it turns into a crisis for future generations."

The Deficit Reduction Act contains provisions that trim the deficit and reform government programs including: saving and strengthening Medicaid by adopting provisions offered by the bi-partisan National Governors Association; reducing waste, fraud, and abuse; rebuilding community first responder capabilities by freeing up vital spectrum airwaves; increasing heating assistance for low-income Americans by assuming a \$1 billion (50% increase) in additional funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); and expanding Welfare Reform by reauthorizing the successful welfare reform policies in TANF and providing an additional \$1 billion in funding.

McMorris Introduces Legislation to Improve Access to Medicaid

McMorris recently introduced H.R.4331:*Medicaid Access Project through Information Technology (MAP IT)*. The bill will allow for the creation of a demonstration project that will provide a more efficient and effective system for managing chronic disease by using health information technology on disease management for the Medicaid population.

Recent advancements in health information technology and the use of electronic medical records allows for innovative collaboration where patients, doctors and health educators can be brought together online to discuss patients health care needs. By providing online access for managing chronic disease, we can improve health care for Medicaid recipients and provide states with an alternative to cutting services or raising taxes.

The demonstration project will give chronic disease patients and caregivers access to their own medical records and to a single source of information on chronic disease. The program will include several channels of communication with health educators, as well as a Personal Health Record, to allow patients to record and track their own health information. Information and access methods will be tailored to the patient's needs. Physicians and other caregivers will have access to complete, current treatment and health status information for chronic disease patients, using the virtual case management tool. [Read More](#)

McMorris Holds Final NEPA Hearing in Washington D.C.

The House Task Force on Updating the National Environmental Policy Act, which is chaired by McMorris, held its sixth and final hearing last week and heard from federal officials and national representatives on their NEPA experiences. The Task Force will culminate all of the testimony and comments received over the last eight months and present its final recommendations to the House Committee on Resources. The report will be issued within the next month and will include the comments and testimony received from previous hearings and any recommendations the Task Force may have on improving NEPA.

[Visit the NEPA Taskforce website](#)

Local Projects Receive Federal Funding in Appropriation Bills

Gonzaga University - electric utility transformation program

Isothermal Systems Research Spray Cooling Technology

Spokane International Airport - demolition or relocation of seven buildings

Intermodal Freight Facilities, Port of Walla Walla

University District Improvements, Phases 2 and 3 - Spokane

Northeast Community Center Association, Spokane

Spokane Symphony

Fairchild Air Force Base - Resistance Training Facility

Recently Passed Legislation

McMorris voted in favor of the following bills that were passed in the House of Representatives:

H.R. 2528 - Military Quality of Life and VA Appropriations

H.R. 3058: - Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies Appropriations Act

H.R. 4241 - The Deficit Reduction Act

H.R. 1790 - Child Medication Safety Act

H.R. 1751 - Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act

S. 1894 - Fair Access Foster Care Act

H.R. 2862 - Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations,

H.R. 2419 -Energy and Water Development Appropriations

Out and About in Eastern Washington

McMorris will attend the following events and meetings during Thanksgiving recess:

11/22 - Fox Theater Renovation Event, McMorris will speak at 11:30 am

11/30 - Pacific Northwest Grain Convention at Coeur d'Alene Resort

12/1 - Keynote speaker at Washington Water Resources Association Annual Meeting

12/2 - Tour of UPS Facility in Spokane Valley

12/2 - Guest speaker at St. Vianney's School

12/2 - Guest speaker at Apollo College

12/2 - Guest Speaker at St. George's School

12/4 - Spokane Forum Radio Show, 6 am on KPTQ-AM, KQNT-AM, KISC-FM, KIXZ-FM, and KCDA-FM

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