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◆ Fort Collins Coloradoan ◆

## Locals bring concerns to Musgrave open house

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Whether there to challenge her, support her or thank her, nearly 100 Colorado residents lined up Wednesday afternoon with some kind of message for Republican U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave at her Loveland office.

The open house is an annual event at all five of

Musgrave's offices in the Fourth Congressional District and gives the public a chance to voice its concerns face-to-face with the congresswoman.

While waiting in line, Fort Collins resident Frank Moore said he planned to talk to Musgrave about his concerns with eminent domain and illegal immigrants. He

said he would ask that she try to generate some support back on the Hill to deny services to illegal immigrants.

"(The congressional delegates' job is to represent the U.S.," Moore said. "If we don't tell them what we want, they don't know which way to go."

Similarly, Margaret Smith, president of the

Northern Colorado Chapter of the United Nations Association - U S A , waited to discuss U.N. funding with the congresswoman.



MUSGRAVE

"I want to encourage her to think kindly on funding because the United Nations can't do its job if it's not properly funded," Smith said.

Karla Flook, a representative for the Cure-Search National Childhood Cancer Foundation simply used the open house as an opportunity to thank Musgrave for her

support of the foundation. Immediately before speaking to members of the public, the congresswoman and staff met with local officials and business owners to discuss some pressing issues, including meth labs, transportation and Referendum C spending. Musgrave emphasized

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education reform.

"The education of our youth is critically important to prepare them for a global economy," she said.

Musgrave said she also hears regularly from Colorado citizens about immigration and supports national efforts to tighten border security.

Fort Collins city council member Diggs Brown was among those who attended the meeting.

"It's always good to hear what's going on at the national

level and how it ties into local politics and what the congresswoman can bring to the table for Fort Collins," Brown said.

Musgrave applauded the efforts of local leaders.

"Local government, in my opinion, is a big job," she said. "There's an enormous amount of work."