



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	???

FLOOR SCHEDULE

H.R. 2738 - United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. DeLay - Ways & Means/Judiciary*) (*Closed Rule - two hours of debate*)

H.R. 2739 - United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. DeLay - Ways & Means/Judiciary*) (*Closed Rule - two hours of debate*)

H.R. 2210 - School Readiness Act of 2003 (*Rep. Castle / Education and the Workforce*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

H.R. 2765 - District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (*Rep. Frelinghuysen / Appropriations*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

H.R. 2427 - Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2003 (*Rep. Gutknecht / Energy and Commerce Committee*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Postponed Vote on the Ross Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 2005-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

Postponed Vote on the Bishop (NY) Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 2005-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

Solis Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit (Debate Only). The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 2005-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.R. 2738 - United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. DeLay - Ways & Means/Judiciary*) (*Closed Rule - two hours of debate*). Negotiations on this agreement were concluded on June 6 and it would be the first such agreement with a South American country. This agreement includes provisions regarding trade in manufactured goods, agriculture, banking and financial services, telecommunications, and intellectual and property rights.

H.R. 2739 - United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. DeLay - Ways & Means/Judiciary*) (*Closed Rule - two hours of debate*). This bill is the first trade agreement considered under the Trade Promotion Authority provided to the administration last year and was signed on May 6. Since Singapore already has mostly free trade, much of this agreement is focused on services, investment and intellectual property rights.

H.R. 2210 - School Readiness Act of 2003 (*Rep. Castle / Education and the Workforce*) (*Subject to a Rule*). This bill would turn a successful, federal-to-local program into a state-led experiment on low-income children.

- **H.R. 2210 block-grants the Head Start program.** Under the guise of improving state collaboration and results, the GOP legislation would block-grant the program to eight states with unproven preschool programs and would gut Head Start's comprehensive standards, lower the quality of services, and minimize accountability.
- **H.R. 2210 jeopardizes the educational achievement of low-income children.** Turning Head Start programs into unproven state preschool programs is not the answer. The No Child Left Behind Act was crafted because states did NOT have high educational standards and tough accountability for the educational achievement of low-income children. The GOP proposal would remove current high standards and accountability in the Head Start program and would exacerbate the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers.



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- **H.R. 2210 allows for use of federal funds to hire and fire Head Start teachers based on religion.** Under current law, churches and other faith-based organizations are permitted to operate Head Start programs as long as these organizations do not discriminate in the hiring or firing of employees based on religion. This bill REMOVES this civil rights protection and would permit faith-based organizations that receive funds under this act to hire or fire Head Start teachers and aides based on religion.
- **State control of Head Start is not necessary to improve collaboration.** Current law already requires extensive collaboration and coordination between Head Start and state agencies, and all states have a Head Start collaboration office.
- **Classic 'Bait and Switch.'** This bill makes bipartisan quality improvements to the Head Start program in non-block grant states, yet the block grant title would eliminate nearly all of these provisions. Democrats support improving teacher quality, accountability for results, and increasing the Head Start's focus on pre-literacy, language, and pre-math skills.

The Rules committee has recommended a structured rule that provides for one hour of general debate; makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report to be considered as the original bill; restricts the ability of Members to offer important procedural motions; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule also makes in order two amendments:

- **Woolsey/Edwards/Frank/Scott (VA)/Van Hollen (20 minutes)** – To restore civil rights protections to Head Start teachers. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**
- **Miller, George (CA) Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (60 minutes)** - Identical to the base bill, including all the changes to Title I; STRIKES language that would erode longstanding civil rights protections currently guaranteed to Head Start teachers, parents, and volunteers; and STRIKES the block grant from the underlying bill. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on Final Passage of H.R. 2210.

H.R. 2765 - District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Rep. Frelinghuysen - Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$466 million in federal funds for FY04. Funding in this bill include: \$163.8 million for of D.C. Courts; \$163.1 million for D.C. Court Services and Offender Supervision; \$35 million for Water and Sewer Authority; \$32 million for Defender Services in D.C. Courts; and \$17 million for resident tuition support. In addition, this bill includes \$10 million in federal funds to pay for vouchers for D.C. parents to send their children to private schools.

The Rules committee has recommended an open rule that provides for one hour of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; except for the sections included in the report, waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with the prohibition against unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions; restricts the ability of Members to offer important procedural motions; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

In addition, the Rule specifically makes in order (and waives points of order against) an amendment by Reps. Davis (VA)/Frelinghuysen/Boehner that creates a school voucher program in the District of Columbia. **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on this amendment.**

H.R. 2427 - Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2003 (Rep. Gutknecht / Energy and Commerce Committee) (Subject to a Rule). This bill permits pharmacists, wholesalers, and qualifying individuals to reimport FDA-approved prescription drugs made in FDA-approved plants, from 25 industrialized countries (Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, and countries in the European Union) into the United States. Also requires the use of counterfeit-resistant technology in drug packaging, similar to that used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on U.S. currency.

The Rules committee has recommended a closed rule that provides for one hour of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; provides that the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker; and provides one motion to recommit.

Daily Quote...

"The House [child tax credit] bill is an embarrassment - unaffordable and unfair. As to cost: Its \$82 billion price tag was unconscionable even before the grim new deficit projections. As to fairness: Consider a bill that's kinder to members of Congress than to soldiers or the working poor."

- The Washington Post in an editorial today