



Legislative Bulletin.....May 19, 2008

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 5

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$78 million over five years

Effect on Revenue: Increased minimally

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: Reduced by \$4.6 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: \$0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 5

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 4

**H.Con.Res. 300—Recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes
(Bordallo, D-Guam)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 300 would express the sense that Congress recognizes the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, by:

- “Strengthening awareness about ecological, economic, social, and cultural values of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

- “Improving understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and generating both practical and innovative solutions to reduce those threats; and
- “Initiating the prompt development and implementation of effective management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those ecosystems.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Coral reef ecosystems are among the world’s most biologically diverse and productive marine habitats, and are often described as the tropical rain forest of the oceans;
- “The coral reef research community has long established that coral reefs are subject to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic threats, including climate change;
- “The health of coral reef ecosystems is at serious risk due to a variety of human activities, both local and global;
- “Protecting and conserving coral reef ecosystems is an urgent issue, but they may be preserved if we act now;
- “A wide variety of destructive fishing practices, including the use of cyanide, other poisons, surfactants, and explosives, are contributing to the global decline of coral reef ecosystems; and
- “2008 has been declared the ‘International Year of the Reef’ by the coral reef research community and over 40 national and international coral reef research, conservation, and academic organizations.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 300 was introduced on February 15, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

S.J.Res. 17—A joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean (Stevens, R-AK)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S.J.Res. 17 would express the resolution of Congress that:

- “The United States should initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Arctic nations to negotiate an agreement or agreements for managing migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean and establishing a new international fisheries management organization or organizations for the region;
- “The agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and contain mechanisms, inter alia, for establishing catch and bycatch limits, harvest allocations, observers, monitoring, data collection and reporting, enforcement, and other elements necessary for sustaining future Arctic fish stocks;
- “As international fisheries agreements are negotiated and implemented, the United States should consult with the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Alaska Native subsistence communities of the Arctic; and
- “Until the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) come into force and measures consistent with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement are in effect, the United States should support international efforts to halt the expansion of commercial fishing activities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The decline of several commercially valuable fish stocks throughout the world’s oceans highlights the need for fishing nations to conserve fish stocks and develop management systems that promote fisheries sustainability;
- “Fish stocks are migratory throughout their habitats, and changing ocean conditions can restructure marine habitats and redistribute the species dependent on those habitats;
- “Changing global climate regimes may increase ocean water temperature, creating suitable new habitats in areas previously too cold to support certain fish stocks, such as the Arctic Ocean;
- “International fishing treaties and agreements provide a framework for establishing rules to guide sustainable fishing activities among those nations that are parties to the agreement, and regional fisheries management organizations provide international fora for implementing these agreements and facilitating international cooperation and collaboration;
- “Under its authorities in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has proposed that the United States close all Federal waters in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to commercial fishing until a fisheries management plan is fully developed; and
- “Future commercial fishing and fisheries management activities in the Arctic Ocean should be developed through a coordinated international framework, as provided by international treaties or regional fisheries management organizations, and this framework should be implemented before significant commercial fishing activity expands to the high seas.”

Committee Action: S.J.Res. 17 was passed by the Senate on October 4, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources the following day. On January 23, 2008, the

resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Con.Res. 325—Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission’s Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958, and for other purposes (*Stupak, D-MI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 325 would express the sense that Congress:

- “Celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission’s Historical Preservation and Museum Program; and
- “Respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission as evidence of the Commission successfully fulfilling its mission to protect, preserve, and present the historical and natural wonders of Mackinac Island.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was created, in 1895, to care for and manage Mackinac Island State Park;
- “Michilimackinac State Park and Mill Creek State Park were later added to the family of parks and historic sites under the authority of the Commission;
- “In 1958, Michigan granted authority to the Commission to restore and interpret Fort Mackinac and other historical properties at the Straits of Mackinac;
- “In 1958, the Commission began restoration, installed exhibits, and opened Fort Mackinac to the public;
- “For 50 years, the Commission has professionally and successfully developed, promoted, and improved the Mackinac State Historic Parks complex, which has been continuously recognized by the American Association of Museums; and
- “The Mackinac State Historic Parks complex has hosted more than 10,000,000 visitors since 1958, making it one of the most successful historic site complexes in North America and an important contributor to the tourism economy of northern Michigan.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 325 was introduced on April 9, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On April 11, 2008, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H. Res. 1074—Honoring the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial (*Herseth-Sandlin, D-SD*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 1074 would express the sense of the House that “on the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the mountain carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial, honors sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, the Ziolkowski family, and the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation for their dedication to honoring the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians and the spirit of Crazy Horse and his people.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, who never received any formal art training but nonetheless won 1st place for sculpture at the New York World’s Fair in 1939, came to the Black Hills of South Dakota as an assistant to Gutzon Borglum to help carve Mount Rushmore;
- “Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear contacted Korczak Ziolkowski in 1939 to encourage him to create another mountain memorial, saying in his letter of invitation: ‘My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too’;
- Crazy Horse was remembered by his people as a fierce warrior and visionary leader who was committed to preserving the traditional Lakota way of life;
- “Korczak Ziolkowski was dedicated as well to helping his country preserve freedom, enlisted in the Army, and was wounded in 1944 at Omaha Beach;
- “Korczak Ziolkowski returned to South Dakota after World War II in order to find a suitable mountain to carve in order to honor Crazy Horse and his people;
- “Korczak Ziolkowski and Chief Standing Bear dedicated the Crazy Horse Memorial on June 3, 1948;
- “The Ziolkowski family and the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation have continued to do it right, and have proceeded without government financial support, and remain dedicated to making steady progress on the Memorial’s humanitarian goals; and

- “The Crazy Horse Memorial will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the mountain carving on June 3, 2008.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 1074 was introduced on April 2, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 1464—Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007 (*Udall, D-NM*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1464 would establish a new grant program to provide money to individuals or groups that work to conserve rare cat and canine species in foreign countries. In order to fund the grant program, H.R. 1464 would establish the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund” within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and authorize \$5 million annually through FY 2013.

H.R. 1464 would require individuals or conservation agencies seeking funds through the program to submit a request detailing the purpose of the project and a description of how the project will be carried out. The Secretary of Interior would be required to notify applicants regarding approval within 180 days of receiving a proposal. All proposals would have to implement conservation programs that address the conflicts between humans and rare cats and dogs in order receive funding. Animals meeting the description of rare cats and dogs as defined by the bill would include the lion, the leopard, jaguar, the snow leopard, the clouded leopard, the cheetah, the Iberian lynx, the bush dog, the African wild dog, the Ethiopian wolf, the grey wolf, and Darwin’s fox.

H.R. 1464 would prohibit funds under this program from going to programs for captive breeding or display of rare cats and dogs. In addition, the bill would allow the Secretary to invest money from the fund without further appropriation.

Additional Information: The Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), which is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, currently funds programs that benefit certain endangered animals around the world. Under current law, there are specific funds for tigers, elephants, apes, turtles, migratory birds, and rhinoceroses. Many of the efforts funded by the MSCF are carried out in conjunction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered

Species. H.R. 1464 would establish new funds within the MSCF and add certain rare cats and dogs to the list of animals that are eligible to receive grant funding.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1464 would expand government by creating new grant programs and authorizing \$25 million over five years to fund rare cat and dog conservation in foreign countries. Some conservatives may believe that animal preservation programs overseas should be funded by private philanthropic organizations and not taxpayers. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1464 would increase direct spending without any offset.

Committee Action: H.R. 1464 was introduced on March 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On October 4, 2007, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee, as amended. On April 30, 2008, a full committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1464 would authorize the appropriation \$25 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period. CBO also states that H.R. 1464 would increase direct spending by \$200,000 annually by authorizing the Secretary to spend money earned through investments without further appropriation.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it creates a new grant program within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 1771—Crane Conservation Act of 2007 (*Baldwin, D-WI*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1771 would establish a new grant program to provide money to individuals or groups that work to conserve crane species in Africa, Asia, Europe, or North America. In order

to fund the grant program, H.R. 1771 would establish the “Crane Conservation Fund” within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and authorize \$5 million annually through FY 2013.

H.R. 1771 would require individuals or conservation agencies seeking funds through the program to submit a request detailing the purpose of the project and a description of how the project will be carried out. The Secretary of Interior would be required to notify applicants regarding approval within 180 days of receiving a proposal. All proposals would have to implement conservation programs that address the conflicts between cranes and humans in order to receive funding.

In addition, the bill would allow the Secretary to invest money from the fund and spend any money earned by such investments without further appropriation.

Additional Information: The Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), which is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, currently funds programs that benefit certain endangered animals around the world. Under current law, there are specific funds for tigers, elephants, apes, turtles, migratory birds, and rhinoceroses. Many of the efforts funded by the MSCF are carried out in conjunction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. H.R. 1771 would establish new funds within the MSCF and add create a distinct fund for all 15 species of cranes to the list of animals that are eligible to receive grant funding. Cranes are distributed around the world and found on every continent except Antarctica and South America. According to [House Report 110-635](#), six species of cranes are considered endangered and five are listed as vulnerable.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1771 would expand government by creating new grant programs and authorizing \$25 million over five years to fund crane conservation on four continents. Some conservatives may believe that animal preservation programs should be funded by private organizations and not taxpayers. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1771 would increase direct spending without any offset to pay for the spending growth.

Committee Action: H.R. 1771 was introduced on March 29, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On October 4, 2007, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee, as amended. On April 30, 2008, a full committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1771 would authorize the appropriation \$25 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period. CBO also states that H.R. 1771 would increase direct spending by \$200,000 annually by authorizing the Secretary to spend money earned through investments without further appropriation.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes it creates and new fund and grant program within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Natural Resources in [House Report 110-635](#), H.R. 1771 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Natural Resources, in [House Report 110-635](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 3323—Goleta Water Distribution System Conveyance Act of 2008 (Capps, D-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3323 would authorize the Secretary of Interior to convey all of the federal government's existing rights to the Goleta Water Distribution System of the Cachuma Project to the Goleta Water District, located in Santa Barbara County, California.

Additional Information: According to [House Report 110-631](#), the Goleta Water Distribution System is a water facility that stores flood water and provides it to some 80,000 residents in the Goleta Water District. The system is a part of the Cachuma Project, a water reclamation project that was authorized in 1948 and is partially funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. (USBR). The committee reports that the project produces 80% of the Goleta Water District's annual water. In 2002 the Goleta Water District completed a repayment plan that was made with the USBR when the distribution system was first built. H.R. 3323 would give control of the system to the Goleta Water District now that the debt has been repaid.

Committee Action: H.R. 3323 was introduced on August 8, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water and Power. On April 23, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee. On April 30, 2008, a full committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO score for H.R. 3323 would not have any budgetary impact.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Natural Resources in [House Report 110-631](#), H.R. 3323 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Natural Resources, in [House Report 110-631](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2649—Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2008 (Bilbray, R-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2649 would authorize the Secretary of Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of water treatment and reclamation projects on Lake Hodges in San Diego, California. The bill would limit the maximum amount of federal spending on the project to 25% of the total cost. CBO estimates that the federal share of the costs will amount to \$14 million over five years.

Additional Information: According to [House Report 110-634](#), the proposed Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Project “will provide a new source of water to the Olivenhain Water Treatment Plant.” The purpose of the plant will be to treat and distribute otherwise tainted water from Lake Hodges to supply clean water in the San Diego area. The project will be overseen by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

Committee Action: H.R. 2649 was introduced on June 11, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Water and Power. On April 23, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee. On April 30, 2008, a full committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO score for H.R. 2649 would authorize the appropriation \$14 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it directs the Secretary of Interior to participate in a local water project.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Natural Resources in [House Report 110-634](#),

H.R. 2649 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Natural Resources, in [House Report 110-634](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 4841—Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act (Bono-Mack, R-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4841 would approve a settlement agreement reached by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and three area water districts to settle a dispute regarding water in the San Jacinto River basin. As a part of the settlement, the Secretary of Interior would establish the San Jacinto Basin Restoration Fund and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Water Development Fund to carry out certain water treatment projects. Both funds would be authorized by this bill.

H.R. 4841 would authorize \$5 million annually for the San Jacinto Basin Restoration Fund and \$5.5 million annually for the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Water Development Fund through FY 2011. The federal money from the funds would be used to pay costs related to the construction and maintenance of waters and sewage treatment infrastructure.

Additional Information: According to [House Report 110-649](#), the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians is a federally recognized tribe near the San Jacinto River Basin in California. The tribe has been in a dispute with local water districts that established water facilities upriver from the tribe's water source. In 2000, the tribe filed suit against the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for damages related to water resources that were affected by the district's construction of the San Jacinto Tunnel. After years of legal battles the tribe reached a settlement with three water districts. The settlement must be approved by the government. As a part of the settlement, the Secretary of Interior would establish funds to reimburse the tribe for the cost of developing its own water collection facility as compensation for their grievance.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 4841 would authorize \$21 million in taxpayer funding for local water and sewage facility construction and maintenance as a result of an agreement reached by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and local water districts.

Committee Action: H.R. 4841 was introduced on December 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water and Power. On April 23, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was forwarded to the full committee. On April 30, 2008, a full committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO score for H.R. 4841 would authorize the appropriation \$21 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it provides funds for the federal government to participate in local water facility development.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Natural Resources in [House Report 110-649](#), H.R. 4841 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Natural Resources, in [House Report 110-649](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.Res. 1144—Expressing support for designation of a “Frank Sinatra Day”
on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra
commemorative stamp (*Serrano, D-NY*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1144 would state that the House “expresses support for designation of a ‘Frank Sinatra Day’ in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Over 150 years ago, United States commemorative stamps began honoring the people, places, and events that have shaped our country’s history;
- “More than 22,000,000 Americans, including children, collect and learn about our country through stamps, making it one of the most popular hobbies in the Nation and the world;
- “It is important that we pause to reflect on our Nation’s history and culture;
- “Stamps honor statesmen and soldiers as they fought for freedom and democracy, recognize our scientific and technological achievements, pay tribute to our artistic and cultural legacy, and celebrate the strength of our diversity;
- “Frank Sinatra, a monumental figure in American popular culture, has been selected as part of the 2008 commemorative stamp program;
- “On May 14, 1997, the President signed into law legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Frank Sinatra in recognition of his accomplishments as an entertainer and humanitarian; and

- “A dedicating ceremony of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp will be held in New York, and in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 13, 2008.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1144 was introduced on April 23, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 15, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Con.Res. 334—Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month (Shays, R-CT)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 334 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and
- “Urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;
- “The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;
- “The role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;
- “To maintain such a force, the youth of the United States must possess a commitment to military service sufficient to achieve the levels of recruitment and retention necessary to sustain the strength, vitality, and character of the Armed Forces;
- “On March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled ‘Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and

supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month,’ and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

- “It is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 334 was introduced on April 24, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 15, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1152—Honoring Arnold Palmer for his distinguished career in the sport of golf and his commitment to excellence and sportsmanship (Ferguson, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1152 would express the sense that the House:

- “Honors Arnold Palmer for his outstanding career in the sport of golf;
- “Commends Arnold Palmer for his dedication to charity and helping others; and
- “Expresses support for the United States Golf Association as it celebrates Arnold Palmer with the opening of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Arnold Palmer is an all-time great in the sport of golf, a highly successful businessman, an outstanding philanthropist, and a devoted family man;
- “Arnold Palmer’s golf career spanned more than 50 years and included 92 tournament victories in professional play, of which 62 were in the United States Professional Golf Association Tour;
- “Arnold Palmer was recognized as the Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year in 1960 and the Associated Press Athlete of the Decade for the 1960s;
- “Arnold Palmer is a prostate cancer survivor and has served as an important advocate for promoting cancer research and early detection;

- “Arnold Palmer’s philanthropic generosity has touched thousands across the United States;
- “Arnold Palmer’s charitable endeavors span across the United States, from the Arnold Palmer Prostate Center in Rancho Mirage, California, to the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies in Orlando, Florida;
- “Arnold Palmer possesses a charismatic personality and a sense of kindness and generosity that has endeared him to millions; and
- “The United States Golf Association has its headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersey, in the 7th Congressional District.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1152 was introduced on April 24, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 15, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1132—Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day (Poe, R-TX)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1132 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- “Calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;
- “Law enforcement officers selflessly protect our communities and our country from harm;
- “Law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;
- “More than 18,200 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;

- ‘September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;
- “181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;
- “Law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of this Nation for their service.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1132 was introduced on April 22, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 1, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1153—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (Hirono, D-HI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1132 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- “Calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;
- “Law enforcement officers selflessly protect our communities and our country from harm;
- “Law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;
- “More than 18,200 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;
- ‘September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;
- “181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;
- “Law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of this Nation for their service.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1132 was introduced on April 22, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 1, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1026—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club (*Bishop, D-GA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1026 would express the sense that the House:

- “Recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club;
- “Acknowledges the contribution of political spouses to public life in America and around the world through the Congressional Club for the past 100 years;
- “Honors the past and present membership of the Congressional Club;
- “Encourages all Americans to strive for greater friendship, civility, and generosity in order to heighten public service, elevate the culture, and enrich humanity; and
- “Encourages all Americans to seek out opportunities to give financially and to volunteer to assist charitable organizations in their own communities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Congressional Club was organized in 1908 by 25 women who were influential in Washington’s official life and who wanted to establish a nonsectarian and nonpolitical group that would promote friendship and cordiality in public life, and founded the Club to bring the wives of Members of Congress together in a hospitable and compatible environment in the Nation’s Capital;
- “The Congressional Club was officially established in 1908 by a unanimous vote in both the House and Senate and is the only club in the world to be founded by an act of Congress;
- “The resolution establishing the Congressional Club was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on May 30, 1908;
- “The Congressional Club extends the hand of friendship and goodwill globally by hosting an annual diplomatic reception to entertain the spouses of ambassadors to the United States;

- “The Congressional Club is solely supported by membership dues and the sale of cookbooks, and has never received any Federal funding; and
- “The Congressional Club will celebrate its 100-year anniversary with festivities and ceremonies during 2008 that include the ringing of the official bells of the United States Congress, a Founder’s Day program, a birthday cake at the First Lady’s Luncheon, an anniversary postage stamp and cancellation stamp, a 100-year pin/pendant designed by Past President Lois Breaux, and invitations to President and Mrs. Bush, Speaker and Mr. Pelosi, Chief Justice and Mrs. Roberts to visit and celebrate 100 years of public service, civility, and growth at the Congressional Club.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1026 was introduced on March 6, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On April 9, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 752—Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2008 *(Butterfield, D-NC)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 752 would require federal agencies, in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), to identify excess and unneeded electronic and computer equipment and donate it to schools, community centers, libraries, and other non-profit organizations. The bill would codify the Computers for Learning Program which was established by Executive Order 12999 in 1996.

H.R. 752 would allow federal agencies to donate excess equipment directly to applicable recipients or transfer equipment to the GSA for distribution. The bill would give preference to schools and facilities located in federally designated enterprise communities and empowerment zones as well as small towns and rural areas.

Additional Information: According to [House Report 110-625](#), the Computers for Learning Program (CLP) had mixed results following its inception in 1996. A 1997 study found that many small and rural areas were underserved by the program because it was difficult for agencies to distribute electronics equally. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, H.R. 752 includes small towns and rural areas among the areas designated for preferential distribution.

The bill also requires the GSA to conduct periodic studies to monitor the effectiveness of the program.

Committee Action: H.R. 752 was introduced on April 14, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 1, 2008, mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 752 would not have any budgetary affect.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in [House Report 110-625](#), H.R. 2649 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in [House Report 110-625](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (the “necessary and proper” clause).

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 5787—Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act of 2008 *(Moore, D-KS)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5787 would require federal agencies, in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), to develop streamlined processes for disposing of excess and unneeded property.

H.R. 5787 requires the GSA to issue guidance to federal agencies for the development and of implementation of plans to identify, evaluate, and dispose of excess property. In addition, each federal agency would be required to maintain an inventory of real property under its control and continually survey its property to determine what can be identified as excess.

The bill would also give the GSA the authority to pay for the costs of identifying excess property and preparing said property for sale (such as demolition or clean-up). Under current law, each distinct agency is responsible for those costs, which may discourage agencies from selling unused property.

H.R. 5787 would stipulate that any property that the federal government has given to a state or local government must revert to the federal government if it is not being used for its intended purpose. Any property that reverts to the federal government as a result would be immediately identified as excess and prepared for sale.

Finally, H.R. 5787 would stipulate that any funds from the sale of excess property be deposited into real property account held by the selling agency. Under current law, money from such sales is deposited into the treasury. Funds deposited in an agency's real property account would be used for identifying and preparing excess property for sale.

Additional Information: According to [House Report 110-651](#), the federal government's inability to dispose of excess property has been a concern for federal agencies for some time. According to the Office of Management and Budget, federal agencies have over 18,000 excess properties worth over \$13.8 billion. The Bush Administration has set a goal of reducing federal property inventory by 5% by 2015. The problem, according the Committee, is that the expense of preparing excess property for sale is borne by each agency; however, revenues from the sale of such property are put into the treasury. In order to incentivize the sale of federal property, H.R. 5787 would allow agencies to maintain an account for revenue received from the sale of excess property. Money from that account could be used to identify more excess property and prepare it for sale.

Committee Action: H.R. 5787 was introduced on April 14, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 1, 2008, mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 5787 would decrease direct spending by \$5 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period by making it easier for the federal government to sell excess real property.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in [House Report 110-651](#), H.R. 5787 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in [House Report 110-651](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (the "necessary and proper" clause).

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1142—Recognizing May 25, 2008, as National Missing Children’s Day (Lampson, D-TX)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1142 would express the sense that the House:

- “Recognizes National Missing Children’s Day and requests that all Americans join together to plan events in communities across America to raise public awareness about the issue of missing children and the need to address this national problem,
- “Recognizes that one of the most important tools for law enforcement to use in the case of a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photograph and urges all parents and guardians to follow this important precaution, and
- “Acknowledges that National Missing Children’s Day should remind Americans not to forget the children who are still missing and not to waver in the effort to reunite them with their families.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “May 25, 2008, will be the 26th National Missing Children’s Day;
- “National Missing Children’s Day honors our Nation’s obligation to locate and recover missing children by prompting parents, guardians, and other trusted-adult role models to make child safety an utmost priority;
- “In the United States nearly 800,000 children are reported missing a year, more than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members, and more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day;
- “Congress’ efforts to provide resources, training, and technical assistance has increased the capabilities of State and local law enforcement to find children and to return them home safely;
- “The 1979 disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz served as the impetus for the creation of National Missing Children’s Day, first proclaimed in 1983; and
- “Etan’s photo was distributed nationwide and appeared in media globally, and the powerful image came to represent the anguish of thousands of searching families.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1142 was introduced on April 23, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 1147— Congratulating the Northern Kentucky University Norse women’s basketball team, champions of the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II tournament (Davis, R-KY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1147 would express the sense that the House:

- “Commends the amazing performance of the Northern Kentucky University Norse in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women’s basketball tournament; and
- “Recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Norse championship.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On March 29, 2008, the Northern Kentucky University Norse defeated the University of South Dakota Coyotes 63-58 to become the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II women’s basketball national champions;
- “The Norse overcame a 9 point deficit with 6 minutes remaining to secure the victory;
- “The Norse had to win 10 of their last 11 games to make the tournament;
- “The team finished their extraordinary 2007-2008 season with a 28-8 record;
- “Angela Healy, a senior from Fort Thomas, was named the Elite Eight’s Most Outstanding Player; and
- “This championship marks the second time the North Kentucky University women’s basketball team has won the national title.’

Committee Action: H.Res. 1147 was introduced on April 24, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 2744—Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act
(Bishop, D-NY)**

Order of Business: H.R. 2744 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2744 would amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 with respect to hours-of-service requirements airline flight crews must meet to qualify for leave. The bill states that a flight attendant or flight crewmember will be considered to meet such requirements if he or she has been paid for or has worked 60% of the employer's monthly hour or trip guarantee, or the equivalent annualized over the preceding 12-month period.

Committee Action: H.R. 2744 was introduced on June 15, 2007, and was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor which held a mark-up of the bill on May 14 2008 and reported the bill, as amended, by 43-0.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 2744 was not available at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-0718.

H.Res. 1137—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes (*Oberstar, D-MN*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1137 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1137 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week;
- “Recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve the public infrastructure of the United States and the communities that those professionals serve; and
- “Urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government in activities and ceremonies that are designed

to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the Nation and to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Public works infrastructure, facilities, and services have far-reaching effects on the United States economy and the Nation’s competitiveness in the world marketplace;
- “Public works infrastructure, facilities, and services play a pivotal role in the health, safety, and quality of life of communities throughout the United States;
- “the public waterways, including locks and dams constructed, operated, and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, provide a safe, energy efficient, and cost effective means of transporting goods and services;
- “The Corps of Engineers, in partnership with local public entities, provides levees, reservoirs, and other structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction measures that protect millions of families, homes, and businesses;
- “Highway investment by all levels of government supported a total of 2,140,000 jobs in 2007;
- “Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates as much as \$6 in economic returns to the Nation’s economy;
- “The capital asset program of the General Services Administration is authorized annually to provide Federal employees with necessary office space, courts of law, and other special purpose facilities;
- “Since 1972 the Nation has invested more than \$250,000,000,000 in wastewater infrastructure facilities to establish a system that includes 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers, and 200,000 miles of storm sewers;
- “The Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is charged with the safe and secure movement of almost 1,000,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation and oversees the safety and security of 2,300,000 miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, which account for 64 percent of the energy commodities consumed in the United States;
- “The National Railroad Passenger Corporation annually provides more than 25,000,000 people with intercity rail service;
- “The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission report estimates that the United States needs to invest up to \$340,000,000,000 annually for the next 50 years to upgrade the Nation’s existing transportation network to a good state of repair and to build the more advanced facilities the Nation will require to remain competitive; and
- “Public works professionals are observing National Public Works Week from May 18 through 24, 2008.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1137 introduced on April 23, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation, which held a mark-up of the bill on May 15, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

H.Con.Res. 309—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (*Norton, D-DC*)

Order of Business: H. Con. Res. 309 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Con. Res. 309 would express the sense that the House of Representatives that on June 6, 2008, the 2008 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

Committee Action: H. Con. Res. 309 was introduced on March 4, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which held a mark-up of the bill on May 15, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

**H.Res. 339—Supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
(Burgess, R-TX)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 339 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 339 would express the sense that the House:

- “Recognizes the contribution motorcycles make to the transportation mix;
 - “Encourages all road users to be more aware of motorcycles and motorcyclists’ safety;
- and

- “Supports the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Approximately 7,000,000 motorcyclists ride on our Nation’s roads and highways to commute, travel, and recreate;
- “Motorcycles are a valuable component of the transportation mix;
- “Motorcycles are fuel-efficient and decrease congestion while having little impact on our Nation’s transportation infrastructure;
- “the United States is the world leader in motorcycle safety, promoting education, licensing, use of protective gear, and motorcycle awareness;
- “The motorcycling community is committed to decreasing motorcycle crashes through licensing, training, education, enforcement, personal responsibility, and increased public awareness;
- “According to a comprehensive study conducted on motorcycle crash causation in the United States the ‘Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures’ (Hurt Report), in approximately two-thirds of fatal car-motorcycle crashes, the driver of the car was at fault;
- “Motorcycle awareness is beneficial to all road users and will help to decrease car-motorcycle crashes;
- “May is designated as ‘Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month’; and
- “National Highway Traffic Safety Administration promotes Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month to encourage riders to always wear helmets and other protective gear, never drink and ride, be properly licensed, and get training and to remind all riders and motorists to always share the road.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 339 was introduced on April 26, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure which held a mark-up of the bill on May 15, 2008, and ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

H.Con.Res. 305—Recognizing the importance of bicycling in transportation and recreation (*Blumenauer, D-OR*)

Order of Business: H. Con. Res. 305 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Con. Res. 305 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes that increased and safe bicycle use for transportation and recreation is in the national interest;
- “Supports policies that:
 - (A) “Establish national target levels for increased bicycle use, reduce the number of motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT), improve bicycle safety to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and collect data needed to monitor progress;
 - (B) “Increase intermodal travel between public transportation and bicycles;
 - (C) “Provide incentives for State and local governments to adopt and implement complete street policies designed to accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and people of all ages and abilities;
 - (D) “Encourage bicycle use in communities where significant segments of the population do not drive and where short trips are most common;
 - (E) “Expand funding for core Federal transportation programs that support non-motorized infrastructure, education, and encouragement programs by:
 - (i) “Safeguarding existing funding sources for nonmotorized transportation from inequitable treatment in the Federal transportation funds rescission process;
 - (ii) “Supporting funding for core Federal transportation programs that support nonmotorized travel, including transportation enhancements, safe routes to school, and recreational trails; and
 - (iii) “Ensuring that highway safety improvement program funds are spent in proportion to the percentage of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities in each State;
 - (F) “Facilitate the development of a coordinated system of United States bicycle routes across the country that cross state borders and connect metropolitan regions;
 - (G) “Create bicycle-friendly Federal land protection legislation, such as national recreation areas, to encourage regulations and management practices for mountain biking as an environmentally friendly nonmotorized use of natural surface trails;
 - (H) “Provide flexibility in Federal transportation law that would speed up the delivery of nonmotorized infrastructure without sacrificing necessary environmental protections;
 - (I) “Provide Federal tax or funding incentives to--
 - (i) “States that adopt motor vehicle laws that protect the rights of bicyclists to share the road;
 - (ii) “Businesses that expand bicycle-friendly programs for their employees;
 - (iii) “The health care industry to develop more member discount programs, that target increased physical activity such as bicycling and walking; and

(iv) “Provide bicycle commuters the transportation fringe benefits currently provided to people who commute by car or mass transit; and

(J) “Build upon the ‘Green the Capitol Initiative’ as a model, create and provide an environmentally sustainable and healthy working environment for employees that includes the promotion of bicycling as a transportation alternative;

- “Encourages the Department of Transportation to provide leadership and coordination by reestablishing the Federal bicycle task force to include representatives from all relevant Federal agencies.”

Committee Action: H. Con. Res. 305 was introduced on February 28, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which held a mark-up of the bill on May 15, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

H.R. 6074—To amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal and for other purposes (*Kagen, D-WI*)

Order of Business: H. R. 6074 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 6074 would amend the Sherman Act to make it illegal “for any foreign state, or any instrumentality or agent of any foreign state, to act collectively or in combination with any other foreign state, any instrumentality or agent of any other foreign state, or any other person, whether by cartel or any other association or form of cooperation or joint action:

- “to limit the production or distribution of oil, natural gas, or any other petroleum product;
- “to set or maintain the price of oil, natural gas, or any petroleum product; or
- “to otherwise take any action in restraint of trade for oil, natural gas, or any petroleum product;

when such action, combination, or collective action has a direct, **substantial**, and **reasonably foreseeable** effect on the market, supply, price, or distribution of oil, natural gas, or other petroleum product in the United States.” (emphasis added)

A foreign state engaged in conduct in violation of the provision above would not be immune, under the doctrine of sovereign immunity, from the jurisdiction or judgments of U.S. courts in any action brought to enforce this section.

In other words, the bill would authorize the U.S. Justice Department to file anti-trust lawsuits in any federal district court against the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and OPEC (or other such organization) could not claim immunity against such suits. No court could refuse to make a determination in such a lawsuit because it involves actions of foreign countries.

NOTE: Key operative terms in the legislation, such as “substantial” and “reasonably foreseeable” are not defined.

Additional Background: This legislation amends the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), which is the anti-trust statute that makes it a federal crime to contract or conspire to restrain trade (among the states and/or with foreign nations).

There are certain instances in current law (28 U.S.C. 1605(a)) in which foreign states are made explicitly NOT immune from prosecution in U.S. courts (such as matters involving federal property, and commercial activity carried on by the foreign state in the U.S.). H.R. 2264 would add the oil “cartel” provisions to this list of *exceptions* to foreign state immunity.

The “Act of State Doctrine” is the general practice of U.S. courts that a foreign nation’s domestic actions may not be questioned in a U.S. court. H.R. 2264 would explicitly waive the Act of State Doctrine for cases involving OPEC.

RSC Bonus Fact: OPEC is an organization of 12 oil-exporting countries that seek to “coordinate their oil production policies in order to help stabilize the oil market and to help oil producers achieve a reasonable rate of return on their investments. This policy is also designed to ensure that oil consumers continue to receive stable supplies of oil.” OPEC Members are: Algeria, Angola, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Thus, although OPEC is generally regarded as a collection of Middle East countries only, in reality, its Member-countries are from various parts of the world, including Africa, South America, and East Asia.

See the OPEC homepage here:

<http://www.opec.org/home/>

In addition, a similar bill, H.R. 2264, No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2007 (*Conyers, D-MI*) was passed by the House under suspension of the rules on May 22, 2008 by a [vote of 345-72](#).

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation could set a precedent that could encourage other countries to sue the United States for export activities in which it is dominant. Some conservatives may also be concerned with the creation of an industry-specific exception to the list of sovereign immunity exceptions in current law,

which contain only general provisions not linked to a specific industrial product. In addition, the United States imports the majority of its petroleum from OPEC nations, thus, allowing lawsuits against OPEC in U.S. courts does not seem likely to make such imports cheaper or more readily available.

Some conservatives may also argue that this bill is unenforceable—how will the U.S. require that a foreign government or governments show up in U.S. courts? Furthermore, this bill does not address the need for more petroleum, as it won't provide any additional petroleum, nor will it bring the price at the pump down. Many conservatives may feel that this legislation represents a political stunt that may actually contradict the Democrats own policies in recent years. Many conservatives may feel that a position which should demand less reliance on foreign oil should not be requiring foreign oil producers to supply more oil to the U.S.

Committee Action: H.R. 6074 was introduced May 15, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score exists, but the legislation does not authorize any funds.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, the bill would allow lawsuits in federal courts against foreign nations for industry-specific violations.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: Currently, no House Report exists.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov

S. 2168—Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2007 *(Leahy, D-VT)*

Order of Business: S. 2168 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2168 would expand laws against identity theft and increase the punishments for individuals convicted of identity theft crimes. Specifically the bill:

- Allows courts to require individuals convicted of identity theft crimes to pay restitution to their victims for time spent in an attempt to remediate the damage done by the crimes.

- Grants protection from identity theft to organizations as well as individuals.
- Adds crimes (such as mail fraud) to the list of crimes that can be prosecuted as identity theft.
- Adds protections of material on computers owned by the federal government or financial institutions.
- Establishes the crime of “cyber-extortion” if an individual attempts to extort with information obtained from a computer.
- Makes “conspiracy to commit computer fraud” a crime.
- Authorizes the court to seize computers that are used to commit identity theft or cyber crime.

Committee Action: S. 2168 was introduced December 4, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, S. 2168 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting the bill could increase revenues and direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such impact would be insignificant.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: Currently, no House Report exists.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov

H.R. 3480—Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2007 (*Carney, D-PA*)

Order of Business: H. R. 3480 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3480 would direct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review and amend its sentencing guidelines to provide an increased sentence for any offense involving the desecration or theft of, or trafficking in, grave markers of veterans.

Committee Action: H.R. 3480 was introduced on September 6, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which held a mark-up on May 14, 2008, and ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, “implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 3480 would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: Currently, no House Report exists.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov

S. 2829—A bill to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes (*Kennedy, D-MA*)

Order of Business: S. 2829 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2829 would make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis. Specifically, the bill would stipulate the years which up to 5,000 special visas can be given out to Iraqis that worked for or with U.S. and fear violent reprisals for their cooperation.

Committee Action: S. 2829 was introduced April 8, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no official action. On April 28, 2008, the bill passed the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score exists, but such coin-minting legislation usually yields some revenue for the federal government.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited

tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: Currently, no House Report exists.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov

H.R. 5571—To extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates (*Lofgren, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5571 would amend the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 to extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates. The program allows state governments to sponsor special three year visas for foreign medical professionals who work in underserved areas in the U.S.

Committee Action: H.R. 5571 was introduced on March 10, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, which held a mark-up of the bill on April 2, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 5571 was not available at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-0718.

H. Con. Res. 353—Recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer (*Jackson-Lee, D-TX*)

Order of Business: H. Con. Res. 353 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Con. Res. 353 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors Lyndon B. Johnson for his fortitude in passing the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- “Extols the contributions of Lyndon B. Johnson to the United States, and his commitment to eliminating poverty in the War on Poverty through the Economic Opportunity Act;
- “Commends Lyndon B. Johnson for establishing the Medicare Act of 1965 that has helped millions of Americans; and
- “Recognizes the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “August 27, 2008, marks the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was born in Stonewall, Texas, to Samuel Ealy Johnson, Jr., a Texas representative, and Rebekah Baines, on August 27, 1908;
- “upon graduation, Lyndon B. Johnson enrolled in Southwest Texas State Teachers’ College, where he vigorously participated in debate, campus politics, and edited the school newspaper;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson had several teaching positions throughout Texas, including at the Welhausen School in La Salle County, at Pearsall High School, and as a public speaking teacher at Sam Houston High School in Houston;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson went to work as a congressional assistant at the age of 23;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson served the 10th Congressional District in the Texas House of Representatives from April 10, 1937, to January 3, 1949;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson became a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserves in December 1941;
- “During World War II, Lyndon B. Johnson was recommended by Undersecretary of the Navy James Forrestal to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who assigned Johnson to a three-man survey team in the southwest Pacific;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was conferred the Silver Star, which is the military’s third highest medal, by General Douglas MacArthur;
- “In 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson was elected to the Senate at the age of 41;
- “in 1951, Lyndon B. Johnson was elected Senate minority leader at the age of 44 and elected Senate majority leader at the age of 46, the youngest in our history;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was elected Vice President at the age of 52, becoming president of the Senate;

- “Lyndon B. Johnson’s congressional career and his leadership spanned the stock market crash, the Great Depression, World War II, the nuclear age, the Cold War, the space age, and the civil rights movement, some of the most turbulent years in American history;
- “Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was appointed as head of the President’s Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, through which he worked with African-Americans and other minorities;
- “An hour and 38 minutes after the assassination of President Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as President aboard Air Force One;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was a bold leader;
- “As President, Lyndon B. Johnson believed that government could guarantee human rights, could lift people out of poverty, and provide access to quality education and health care throughout the Nation;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was an idealist, a force of nature, and had the energy and determination and leadership to turn those dreams into reality;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was a ‘can-do’ President because no matter how difficult and daunting the task at hand, he never rested until it was completed;
- “In 1964, the Johnson Administration passed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned de jure segregation in the Nation’s schools and public places;
- “the Johnson Administration passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed obstructive provisions that were rendered impractical and impartial to potential voters;
- “in January of 1965, the Johnson Administration introduced the Great Society, which included provisions for aid to education, Medicare, urban renewal, beautification, conservation, the development of depressed regions, a wide-scale fight against poverty, and the removal of obstacles to the right to vote;
- “In 1967, President Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court;
- “During Johnson’s presidency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration made spectacular steps forward in space exploration when 3 astronauts successfully orbited the moon in December 1968;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson died at 4:33 p.m. on January 22, 1973, at his ranch in Johnson City, Texas, at the age of 64;
- “Lyndon B. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980; and
- “Lyndon B. Johnson is honored, venerated, and revered for his drive to establish equality for all Americans, illustrated in the momentous legislation passed during his Administration.”

Committee Action: H. Con. Res. 353 was introduced on May 16, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

H.Res. 1106—Expressing support for designation of April 2008 as “National Autism Awareness Month’ and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism (David Reichert, R-WA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1106 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1106 would express the sense that the House:

- “Expresses support for designation of a ‘National Autism Awareness Month’;
- “Recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services;
- “Supports the goal of devoting new resources to researching the root causes of autism, identifying the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promoting understanding of the special needs of people with autism;
- “Stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention significantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life;
- “Recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers who have the skills and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and
- “Recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism can be, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;
- “Autism affects an estimated 1 in every 150 children in the United States;
- “Autism is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;
- “Autism can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;
- “It costs approximately \$80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities;

- “The cost of special education programs for school-age children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;
- “The cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of \$90,000,000,000 per year;
- “Despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and
- “April 2008 would be an appropriate month to designate as ‘National Autism Awareness Month’ to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1106 was introduced on April 14, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Education and Labor. Neither committee considered the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson; brad.watson@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9719

.H.Res. 1124—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month, and for other purposes (*Janice Schakowsky, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1124 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1124 would express the sense that the House:

- “There should be established a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; and
- “Applauds the actions of medical professionals and other caregivers, researchers, patients and their families, and others who strive to combat and raise public awareness of brain tumors and brain cancer.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Brain tumors are the leading cause of death from solid tumors in children under the age of 20, and are the third leading cause of death from cancer in young adults ages 20-39;
- “More than 190,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a brain tumor each year;

- “Of these tumors, approximately 40,000 are new cases of primary brain tumors and approximately 150,000 are metastatic brain tumors, where a cancer spread from another part of the body to the brain;
- “Some 10-15 percent of all persons with cancer will experience a metastatic brain tumor at some point;
- “Brain tumors may be either malignant or benign, but can be life-threatening in either case;
- “Treatment of brain tumors is complicated by the more than 120 different types of such tumors;
- “The North American Brain Tumor Coalition established a Brain Tumor Action Week during the first week of May 2007 and each subsequent first week in May;
- “The Tug McGraw Foundation is recognized for their work to support research that will improve the quality of life in the physical, social, spiritual, and cognitive areas of patients dealing with brain cancer;
- “The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to eradicate brain tumors, providing support for families, and increasing public awareness about the severity and prevalence of childhood brain tumors;
- “The Southeastern Brain Tumor foundation is recognized for their work to instill hope, knowledge and comfort by offering information, education, and support services to all affected by brain tumors;
- “The Michael Quinlan Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to support those affected by brain tumors through educational, emotional, financial, and spiritual services;
- “The Brain Tumor Action Network is recognized for their work to bring awareness to the general public about brain tumors and to educate and empower brain tumor survivors, their families and friends; and
- “There is a need for greater awareness of brain tumors and brain cancer on the part of the public, including awareness of symptoms and warning signs, treatment options, research needs, and public policy implications.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1124 was introduced on April 22, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson; brad.watson@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9719

H. Res. 1022—Reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad (Capps, D-CA)

Order of Business: H. Res. 1022 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 1022 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “affirms its commitment to promoting maternal health and child survival both at home and abroad through greater international investment and participation; and
- “recognizes maternal health and child survival as fundamental to the well-being of families and societies, and to global development and prosperity.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “an estimated 536,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth every year which is equivalent to one death every minute;
- “an estimated 15 percent of pregnancies and childbirths involve unpredictable and often life-threatening complications that require emergency care;
- “girls under 15 are estimated to be 5 times more likely to die during childbirth than women in their 20s;
- “nearly all these deaths are preventable;
- “survival rates greatly depend upon the distance and time a woman must travel to get skilled emergency medical care;
- “care by skilled birth attendants, nurses, midwives, or doctors during pregnancy and childbirth, including emergency services, and care for mothers and newborns is essential;
- “the poorer the household, the greater the risk of maternal death, and 99 percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries;
- “newborns whose mothers die of any cause are 3 to 10 times more likely to die within 2 years than those whose mothers survive;
- “more than 1,000,000 children are left motherless and vulnerable every year;
- “young girls are often pulled from school and required to fill their lost mother’s roles;
- “a mother’s death lowers family income and productivity which affects the entire community;
- “in countries with similar levels of economic development, maternal mortality is highest where women’s status is lowest;
- “the United States ranks 41st among 171 countries in the latest UN list ranking maternal mortality;
- “the overall United States maternal mortality ratio is now 11 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates among industrialized nations;
- “United States maternal deaths have remained roughly stable since 1982 and have not declined significantly since then;
- “the Centers for Disease Control estimates that the true level of United States maternal deaths may be 1.3 to 3 times higher than the reported rate; and
- “ethnic and racial disparities in maternal mortality rates persist and in the United States maternal mortality among black women is almost four times the rate among non-Hispanic white women.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 1022 was introduced on March 5, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Neither Committee took no official action.

Additional Information: This legislative bulletin reflects updated text of the resolution not found yet on LIS. All language referencing human rights and global initiatives have been replaced with language regarding child survival.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; 202-226-0718; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov.

H.Con.Res. 134—Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities (*Rep. Wynn, D-MD*)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 134 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 134 would express the sense that the House:

- “Open access to mental health treatment and services and public awareness of mental illness is of paramount importance;
- “There is an important need for improved access to care, treatment and services, including employment and housing for those diagnosed with severe and persistent mental health disorders, and improved public awareness of mental illness; and
- “An appropriate month should be recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness and mental illness among minorities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families in America and victimizing both those with the illness and those who care for and love those afflicted;
- “According to the National Alliance for Mentally Ill (NAMI), the direct and indirect costs to the workplace resulting from mental illness total over \$34,000,000 annually;
- “The National Institute of Mental Health has reported that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time and 45 percent of those with any mental disorder

meet criteria for two or more disorders, with severity strongly related to comorbidity (including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer);

- “According to the 1999 Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Illness, more than 54,000,000 Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, although fewer than 8,000,000 seek treatment;
- “According to a report from the Office of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association, although mental illness impacts all people, African Americans experience a much greater unmet need for mental health services and receive a lesser quality of care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities;
- “The three major brain diseases--schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression--adversely affect the economy, contribute to the rise in incarceration rates, and erode the quality of family life of those involved;
- “Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek mental health treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis;
- “The faith, customs, values, and traditions of a variety of African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and other underserved groups must be taken into consideration when attempting to treat and diagnose mental illnesses;
- “There is a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain diseases in order to assist with advocacy for persons of color with mental illness, so that they may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society;
- “There is a need for culturally competent mental health service delivery for people of color;
- “Community mobilization of resources is needed to educate, advocate for, and train mental health providers to help remove barriers to treatment of mental disorders;
- “Access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance;
- “There is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screening, partner with mental health providers, and seek the appropriate referral to specialists and to encourage timely and accurate diagnosis;
- “Bebe Moore Campbell through her dedication and commitment sought to move communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access to mental health treatment and services, and improve community outreach and support for the many loved ones who are unable to speak for themselves.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 134 was introduced on April 30, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson; brad.watson@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9719

H.Res. 369—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month (*Rep. Berkley, D-NV*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 369 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 369 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month and urges the people of the United States to observe appropriate programs and activities with respect to osteoporosis, including talking with their health care professionals about their bone health.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Osteoporosis, a disease characterized by low bone mass, structural deterioration of bone, and increased susceptibility to fractures, is a public health threat for an estimated 44 million Americans;
- “In the United States, 10 million individuals already have the disease and almost 34 million more are estimated to have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis;
- “One in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her or his remaining lifetime;
- “Building strong bones during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense against developing osteoporosis later;
- “Osteoporosis is often thought of as an older person’s disease, but bone health is a concern for any age;
- “Substantial risk has been reported in people of all ethnic backgrounds;
- “Although osteoporosis often has no symptoms in its early stages, a bone mineral density test can be used to assess fracture risk and to establish the diagnosis and severity of the disease in people at risk before they start fracturing their bones;
- “Osteoporosis is responsible for more than 1.5 million fractures annually;
- “The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service says that caring for bone fractures from osteoporosis costs America \$18 billion annually; and
- Optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D; weight-bearing exercise; and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 369 was introduced on May 3, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson; brad.watson@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9719
