



The Daily Whip

democraticwhip.house.gov • (202) 225-3130

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

*** TODAY, THERE WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE VOTE ON THE JOURNAL AT 10:00 A.M., WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER-ELECT STEPHANIE HERSETH FROM SOUTH DAKOTA. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO REMAIN ON THE FLOOR AFTER THE JOURNAL VOTE FOR HER SWEARING-IN.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Journal Vote

Swearing-in of Member-elect Stephanie Herseth (D-SD)

H.R. 444 - Back to Work Incentive Act of 2003 (Rep. Porter - Education & the Workforce) (Closed Rule - One Hour of Debate). This bill would authorize a pilot program to allow unemployed workers to receive job-training vouchers. These vouchers, termed "Personal Reemployment Accounts" (PRAs), could be as small as \$500 (but are capped at \$3000) with the actual amount of the voucher to be determined by state or local workforce boards. PRA recipients could purchase job-training and child-care services, or use the funds to cover some transportation expenses. However, federal job-training services would no longer be free, but would have to be purchased for a one-year period. PRA recipients would be able to keep the balance of their account if they gain employment.

The Republican agenda has failed to create jobs and to respond to the needs of American workers and the needs of our economy. They have failed to respond to the immediate needs of unemployed Americans by refusing to extend unemployment benefits to over 1.5 million workers who have exhausted their benefits. Although Republicans tout H.R. 444 as "a new and innovative approach" to "help unemployed Americans find new jobs and return to work quickly," their proposal is a misguided response to the needs of American workers.

- **H.R. 444 caps services for unemployed job seekers.** This bill would force workers to pay for services that would otherwise be free through one-stop centers and, once the PRA is depleted, workers would be denied important training opportunities for up to a year, unless they pay for them out-of-pocket. This misguided policy only cuts off job seekers from the very training and skill development that may make them employable.
- **H.R. 444 undermines existing job-training programs by establishing an untested job-training voucher program.** This bill does not provide new resources for the new voucher scheme, which would require shifting available funds from proven, successful job-training methods to fund the PRAs. Rather than having comprehensive one-stop service centers to provide them quality job-training and other reemployment services, workers will be left to seek services with inadequate resources and questionable providers.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.R. 444.

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) H.R. 3866 - Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004 (Rep. Sensenbrenner - Judiciary)**



The Daily Whip

democraticwhip.house.gov • (202) 225-3130

2) H.Res. 656 - Condemning the crackdown on democracy protestors in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People`s Republic of China on the 15th anniversary of that tragic massacre
(Reps. Cox/Pelosi / *International Relations*)

Motion to go to conference on H.R. 1261 - Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003. Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees.

Motion to go to conference on H.R. 3550 - Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"What Republicans really ought to worry about though, is this generic preference. When you ask people you want a Democrat or Republican in the House, by nine or 10 points now they say they want a Democrat. And that's a bad sign for Republicans."

- Fred Barnes, *Fox News*, 06/02/04