



Legislative Bulletin.....February 12, 2002

Contents:

H.Con.Res. __— Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

H.Con.Res. __ — Commending President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcoming him to the United States

H.Con.Res. 313— Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the crash of Transporte Aereo Militar Ecuatoriano (TAME) Flight 120 on January 28, 2002

H.R. 2998— Radio Free Afghanistan Act (Concur in Senate Amendments)

H.R. 3699 — To revise certain grants for continuum of care assistance for homeless individual and families

H.Con.Res. __ — Commending the National Child Passenger Safety Week

H.Con.Res. __— Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust (Ney)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 12, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The concurrent resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda on April 9, 2002, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. The resolution further prescribes that the physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions set by the Architect of the Capitol.

Additional Background: On April 12, 1951, the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) proclaimed Yom Hashoah U'Mered HaGetaot (Holocaust and Ghetto Revolt Remembrance Day) to be the 27th of Nissan (a month in the Jewish calendar). The date falls beyond Passover but within the time span of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The name later became known as Yom Hashoah Ve Hagevurah (Devastation and Heroism Day) and later simplified to Yom Hashoah. This year the 27th of Nissan falls on April 9.

In 1980, Congress established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and mandated it to lead the nation in commemorations of the victims of the Holocaust. The commemorations are called Days of Remembrance.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, (202) 226-9719

H.Con.Res. ____ — Commending President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcoming him to the United States (Pitts)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on February 12 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Text of Resolution:

Commending President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcoming him to the United States.

Whereas President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan has shown courageous leadership in cooperating with the United States in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas President Musharraf has shown great fortitude in confronting extremists and outlawing terrorism in Pakistan;

Whereas the efforts of President Musharraf in fighting terrorism are both in the national interest of Pakistan and of great importance to Pakistani-American relations;

Whereas the war against terrorism underscores the importance of strengthening the historic bilateral relationship between the United States and Pakistan;

Whereas President Musharraf has worked to improve the political representation of minorities in Pakistan; and

Whereas the Pakistani-American community in the United States makes important contributions to the United States and plays a vital role in developing a closer relationship between the peoples of the United States and Pakistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress commends President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcomes him to the United States.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing Constitutional Authority is available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.Con.Res. 313— Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the crash of Transporte Aereo Militar Ecuatoriano (TAME) Flight 120 on January 28, 2002. (Crowley)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 12, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The concurrent resolution contains six whereas clauses regarding a Transporte Aereo Militar Ecuatoriano flight 120 en route to Ecuador that crashed on January 28, 2002 in Columbia, killing an estimated 92 people. H.Con.Res. 313 resolves that Congress: (1) “sends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash” and (2) “commends the professional emergency personnel from Ecuador and Colombia who responded to the tragic crash of TAME Flight 120 with courage, determination, and skill.” Also the Clerk of the House is required to transmit an enrolled copy of H.Con.Res. 313 to the Presidents of Ecuador and Colombia.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, (202) 226-9719

H.R. 2998— Radio Free Afghanistan Act (Concur in Senate Amendments)(Royce)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 12, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Note: The House first passed H.R. 2998 on November 7, 2001 405 - 2 (Roll no. 429).
<http://clerkweb.house.gov/cgi-bin/vote.exe?year=2001&rollnumber=429>

Summary: **(Senate changes indicated in red bold)** H.R. 2998 as passed the House authorized the Broadcasting Board of Governors to make grants to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty for radio broadcasts to the people of Afghanistan in languages spoken in Afghanistan, and required Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), within 15 days of the bill’s enactment, to submit a plan for the establishment of these surrogate radio broadcasts (to be known as “Radio Free Afghanistan”).

H.R. 2998 as amended by the Senate also requires the plan to be submitted within 15 days but clarifies that the Board of Governors may not make grants until the report is submitted. The Senate amendments specify that the languages of Radio Free Afghanistan are to be Dari and Pashto. The Senate amendments ensure that FY2002

grants can be awarded without regard to the \$75 million per year legal limit on RFE/RL grants, a limit set in the US International Broadcasting Act of 1994.

The Senate amendments specify the authoring statutes under which Radio Free Afghanistan grants are expected to function: the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, and ‘other provisions of law consistent with such purpose.’ And the amendments also require that Radio Free Afghanistan “adhere to the same standards of professionalism and accountability” and oversight mechanisms as other services of RFE/RL, Incorporated.”

The Senate retains the House provision repealing the ban (contained in section 226 of Public Law 103-236) on any appropriated funds going toward the design, development, or construction of a U.S. short-wave radio transmitter in Kuwait.

Additional Information: From the mid-1980s until 1993, RFE/RL operated an Afghan-language service that broadcast to Afghanistan. According to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, currently the Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts a total of six hours per day to Afghanistan in Dari and Pashto. RFE/RL is a private corporation funded by the U.S. government, which has a record of conducting ‘surrogate broadcasting’--providing news and information primarily about the target country, thereby acting as a local news service in the absence of a free and indigenous media. The new program established in H.R. 2998 will be in addition to the VOA’s current broadcasts.

Cost to Taxpayers: The House-passed bill authorized \$27.5 million over 2 years (\$9.5 million in FY2002, \$8.0 million in FY2003 for the broadcasting operations of radio Free Afghanistan, and \$10.0 million in FY2002 for capital improvements), subject to appropriations. **The Senate amendments authorize \$17 million over 2 years by changing the FY2002 funding to \$8 million (\$1.5 million less), FY2003 funding to \$9 million (\$1 million more), and not allocating money for capital improvements)**

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, it establishes Radio Free Afghanistan.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, (202) 226-9719

H.R. 3699 — To revise certain grants for continuum of care assistance for homeless individual and families (Crenshaw)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered on February 12 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3699 directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to limit the amount of a grant (pursuant to the Notice of Funding Availability for Continuum of Care

Homeless Assistance Programs for FY 2001) to the Liberty Center for the Homeless Incorporated to \$459,600. The bill also states that if an award has been made in excess of that amount prior to enactment, the Secretary will modify the award and distribute excess funds to other applicants from the Jacksonville, Florida Continuum of Care.

Additional Background: In May 2001, the Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville submitted a consolidated grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) seeking \$4,596,000. The funding was to be dispersed to 11 projects in order of priority, including the Liberty Center for the Homeless. The Liberty Center was ranked the number one priority on this application.

The desired grant amount for the Liberty Center was \$459,600. As advised in a HUD assistance program in Gainesville -- reconfirmed by the Jacksonville HUD office -- the application sought \$4,596,000 for The Liberty Center. This was done with the understanding that if granted, the amount would be dispersed over a 10-year span.

Jacksonville HUD reversed that decision after conferring with Washington HUD and prioritized the full amount for Liberty Center. The grant was conditionally awarded in early December 2001 with the Liberty Center the only project awarded funding (\$3,484,778). HUD cannot make the revisions necessary to correct the error and award the proper amounts to Liberty Center and the other Jacksonville projects due to language in the 1998 HUD Reform Act. Under H.R. 3699, the Liberty Center would keep \$459,600 of the grant and the remaining funds (\$3,025,178) would be dispersed to the other 10 projects in the priority order they were listed on the application.

Cost to Taxpayers: None. The bill would simply redistribute grant funds already awarded.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.Con.Res. ____ — Commending the National Child Passenger Safety Week (Camp)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on February 12 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Resolution Text:

Commending the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for their efforts to remind parents and care givers to use child safety seats and seat belts when transporting children in vehicles and for sponsoring National Child Passenger Safety Week.

Whereas great progress has been made in increasing the use of child safety seats in vehicles, which has reduced the number of deaths of children involved in traffic accidents, but much more remains to be done;

Whereas more than half of all children killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2000 were completely unrestrained;

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 4 to 14;

Whereas child safety seats reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars; and

Whereas the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sponsors National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 10 through 16, 2002, to help remind parents and care givers that all children should be placed in child safety seats every time they ride in a car or truck: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress commends the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for its efforts to remind parents and care givers to use child safety seats and seat belts when transporting children in vehicles and for sponsoring National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 10 through 16, 2002.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing Constitutional Authority is available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630