

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3781–S3984

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 991–1002, S.J. Res. 10, and S. Res. 125–129. **Page S3835**

Measures Reported:

S. 39, to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–39)

S. 558, to provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3834–35**

Measures Passed:

Financial Literacy Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 126, designating April 2007 as “Financial Literacy Month”. **Pages S3980–81**

National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 127, designating April 8, 2007 as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day”. **Page S3981**

Legal Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 128, to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in *United States v. Philip G. Balcombe, Sansi G. Coonan, John S. Dear, Jan Lustig, Michella A. Marusa, Martin J. Ryan, Eleanor M. Vouselas, and Bruno Keller*. **Pages S3981–82**

Legal Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 129, to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in *State of Alaska v. Robert S. Mulford and Don G. Muller*. **Page S3982**

Congressional Gold Medal: Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 474, to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D., and the bill was then passed. **Pages S3982–83**

Older Americans Act of 1965: Senate passed S. 1002, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reinstate certain provisions relating to the nutrition services incentives program. **Pages S3983–84**

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1591, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3785–89, S3793–S3822**

Adopted:

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 798 (to Amendment No. 680), to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. **Pages S3817–18**

Kennedy Amendment No. 680, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. **Pages S3793, S3798, S3818**

Rejected:

By 48 yeas and 50 nays (Vote No. 116), Cochran Amendment No. 643 (to Amendment No. 641), to strike language that would tie the hands of the Commander-in-Chief by imposing an arbitrary timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, thereby undermining the position of American Armed Forces and jeopardizing the successful conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Pages S3785–89, S3804–16**

Pending:

Cochran (for Lugar) Amendment No. 690, to provide that, of the funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS” and “ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND” (except for the Community Action Program), up to \$50,000,000 may be made available to support and maintain a civilian reserve corps. **Page S3796**

Wyden Amendment No. 709, to reauthorize the secure rural schools and community self-determination program and to provide funding for the payments in lieu of taxes program. **Pages S3793–94, S3796–97, S3798–S3800**

Obama Amendment No. 664, to appropriate an additional \$58,000,000 for Defense Health Program for additional mental health and related personnel, an additional \$10,000,000 for operation and maintenance for each of the military departments for improved physical disability evaluations of members of the Armed Forces, and an additional \$15,000,000 for Defense Health Program for women’s mental health services. **Pages S3794–96, S3797–98**

Burr Amendment No. 716 (to Amendment No. 709), to require that payments to eligible States and eligible counties only be used for public schools.

Pages S3798–S3800

Webb Amendment No. 692, to prohibit the use of funds for military operations in Iran. **Page S3803**

Coburn Amendment No. 648, to remove \$100 million in funding for the Republican and Democrat party conventions in 2008. **Page S3818**

Coburn Amendment No. 649, to remove a \$2 million earmark for the University of Vermont.

Page S3818

Coburn Amendment No. 656, to require timely public disclosure of Government reports submitted to Congress. **Page S3818**

Coburn Amendment No. 657, to provide farm assistance in a fiscally responsible manner. **Page S3818**

Coburn Amendment No. 717, to make certain provisions inapplicable. **Page S3818**

Coburn Amendment No. 718, to make certain provisions inapplicable. **Page S3818**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, that there be 30 minutes of debate to run concurrently with respect to Wyden Amendment No. 709 and Burr Amendment No. 716 (both listed above), with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Wyden and Burr, or their designees; that the Burr Amendment No. 716 be modified to be a first-degree amendment, and that no amendments be in order to Burr Amendment No. 716 or Wyden Amendment No. 709; that there then be 30 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill, with the time equally divided and controlled between the Majority and Republican Leaders, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on or in relation to Wyden Amendment No. 709, to be followed by a vote on or in relation to Burr Amendment No. 716, and then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill; that on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, it be in order for Senator Hagel to propose Amendment No. 707 and there be 90 minutes of debate under his control, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the amendment be withdrawn.

Pages S3816, S3984

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 115), George H. Wu, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Pages S3789–92, S3984

Messages from the House: **Page S3832**

Measures Referred: **Page S3832**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S3832**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S3832**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S3832–34**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3835–37**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3837–47**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3831–32**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3847–S3979**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3979**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3979**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3979**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—116) **Pages S3792, S3815–16**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 8:01 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3984.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James R. Clapper, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, who was introduced by Senator Warner, Claude M. Kicklighter, of Georgia, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, who was introduced by Senator Akaka, S. Ward Casscells, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn and William Charles Ostendorff, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, who was introduced by Representative Everett, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

EXCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAMMING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine competition and consumer choice relating to exclusive sports programming, after receiving testimony from Robert D. Jacobson, iN DEMAND LLC, and Robert A. Dupuy, Major League Baseball, both of New York, New York; Stephen F. Ross, The Pennsylvania State University Institute for Sports Law, Policy and Research, University Park; Carl Vogel, Echostar Satellite LLC, Englewood, Colorado; and Chase Carey, DIRECTV, Inc., Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 110th Congress:

Subcommittee on Health Care: Senators Rockefeller (Chairman), Kerry, Bingaman, Lincoln, Wyden, Stabenow, Cantwell, Salazar, Hatch, Grassley, Snowe, Kyl, Thomas, Roberts, and Bunning.

Subcommittee on Taxation, IRS Oversight, and Long-term Growth: Senators Conrad (Chairman), Baucus, Wyden, Cantwell, Schumer, Stabenow, Salazar, Kyl, Lott, Roberts, Snowe, Crapo, and Hatch.

Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure: Senators Bingaman (Chairman), Conrad, Kerry, Lincoln, Wyden, Cantwell, Salazar, Thomas, Smith, Hatch, Bunning, Lott, and Crapo.

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy: Senators Kerry (Chairman), Rockefeller, Conrad, Schumer, Bunning, Lott, and Kyl.

Subcommittee on International Trade and Global Competitiveness: Senators Lincoln (Chairman), Baucus, Rockefeller, Bingaman, Schumer, Stabenow, Smith, Crapo, Snowe, Thomas, and Roberts.

Senators Baucus and Grassley are ex officio members of each of the Subcommittees.

U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities and challenges in the United States-China economic relationship, after receiving testimony from Senator Dorgan; Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia University, New York, New York; Daniel DiMicco, NUCOR Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina; Norman R. Sorensen, the Principal International, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa, on behalf of Principal Financial Group; and Steven Chu, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California.

THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Employee Free Choice Act, focusing on restoring economic opportunity for working families, after receiving testimony from Cynthia L. Estlund, New York University School of Law, New York, New York; Laurence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.; Peter J. Hurtgen, Morgan, Lewis and Bockius LLP, Irvine, California, former Member and Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board; and Errol Hohrein, Greely, Colorado.

SAFE MEDICINE AND MEDICAL DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring safe medicines and medical devices for children, after receiving testimony from Susan Belfiore, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey; Richard L. Gorman, American Academy of Pediatrics, Baltimore, Maryland; Samuel D. Maldonado, Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Raritan, New Jersey; Robert M. Campbell, Jr., University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; and Ed Rozynski, Stryker Corporation, Washington, D.C.

FBI OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on the review by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

DOD/VA COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on health care issues, and challenges encountered by injured servicemembers during their recovery process, after receiving testimony from Michael J. Kussman, Executive-In-Charge, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Ellen Embrey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs/Force Health Protection and Readiness; Major Ladda Tammy Duckworth, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, Springfield; Denise Mettie, Wounded Warrior Project, Jacksonville, Florida; Bruce M. Gans, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, West Orange, New Jersey; and Jonathan D. Pruden, Gainesville, Florida.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 1705–1723; 1 private bill, H.R. 1724; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 40; H. Con. Res. 101–102; and H.Res. 273; 276–280, were introduced. **Pages H3183–84**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3184–86**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 477, to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs relating to stroke, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–75);

H.R. 1132, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–76);

H.R. 727, to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–77);

H. Res. 274, providing for consideration of H.R. 1538, to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–78); and

H. Res. 275, providing for consideration of H. Con. Reg. 99, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 (H. Rept. 110–79).

Pages H3182–83

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Berkley to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H3083**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at noon. **Page H3084**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Roy Smith, Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. **Page H3084**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Monday, March 26th:

Supporting the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day: H. Res. 266, to support the goals and ideals of Pro-

fessional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 417 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 193. **Pages H3098–99**

Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 1401, to improve the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses in the United States, by a recorded vote of 299 yeas to 124 noes, with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 201. **Pages H3099–H3149**

Agreed to the King (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Homeland Security with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 304 yeas to 121 noes, Roll No. 200. Subsequently, Representative Thompson (MS) reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Pages H3146–49**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Page H3111**

On a demand for a separate vote on certain amendments agreed to in the Committee of the Whole:

By a recorded vote of 222 yeas to 197 noes, with 5 voting “present”, Roll No. 198, agreed to the Thompson (MS) Manager’s amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that makes technical and clerical changes to H.R. 1401, clarifies the relationship between the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation in carrying out certain portions of the bill, and modifies the whistleblower protections for federal employees and contractors to make them more similar to those granted in H.R. 985 (agreed to in the Committee of the Whole by a recorded vote of 224 yeas to 199 noes, with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 194) and

Pages H3123–28, H3138–39, H3141–45

By a yeas-and-nays vote of 234 yeas to 184 nays, with 4 voting “present”, Roll No. 199, agreed to the Cohen amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that establishes a program to coordinate with state and local governments to minimize the need for transportation of toxic inhalation hazardous materials by rail (agreed to in the Committee of the Whole by a recorded vote of 237 yeas to 188 noes, Roll No. 195). **Pages H3129–31, H3139–40, H3145–46**

Earlier, agreed to amendments in the Committee of the Whole:

Arcuri amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, to conduct an assessment of the safety and security vulnerabilities of placing high voltage direct current electric transmission lines along active railroad rights-of-way; **Pages H3128–29**

Castle amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to study foreign rail security practices that are not currently used in the U.S. and submit a report on recommendations for implementing such practices; and **Pages H3131–32**

Lynch amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that provides that no later than 1 year after the Secretary issues the detailed worker training guidance required under Section 109, the Secretary must submit a report to Congress on the progress of providers of covered transportation in meeting the Section's worker training requirements. **Pages H3137–38**

Rejected in the Committee of the Whole:

Flake amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that sought to strike section 203, "Transportation Security Administration Breeding Program Increase" which authorizes an increase in the number of domestically bred canines under the Transportation Security Administration's Puppy Program; **Pages H3134–35**

Sessions amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 110–74) that sought to prohibit funds in this act, except those noted in Section 108, from being used by Amtrak for any of the Top 10 worst revenue losing long-distance routes as noted by its September 2006 monthly performance report, unless the Secretary deems a route or a portion of a route as critical to homeland security (by a recorded vote of 130 ayes to 299 noes, Roll No. 196); and **Pages H3132–34, H3140–41**

Flake amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 10–74) that sought to strike the section of the bill that provides a new Homeland Security grant program, "Over-The-Road Bus Security Assistance" (by a recorded vote of 98 ayes to 332 noes, Roll No. 197). **Pages H3135–37, H3141**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Pages H3149–50**

H. Res. 270, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 191, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 190. **Pages H3089–98**

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Hinchey, Hill, Loretta Sanchez, Cummings, and Doggett. **Page H3153**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007: H.R. 1562, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand certain rules with respect to housing in the GO Zones; **Pages H3150–53**

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007: H.R. 1132, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers; **Pages H3153–57**

Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2007: H.R. 727, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care; and **Pages H3157–61**

Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act: H.R. 477, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs relating to stroke. **Pages H3161–64**

Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007: The House began consideration of H.R. 835, to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians. Further consideration is expected to continue Wednesday, March 28th. **Pages H3164–67**

H. Res. 269, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 192, after agreeing to order the previous question. **Pages H3087–89, H3098**

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Brady (TX), English (PA), and Paul. **Page H3170**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3167.

Senate Referrals: S. 474 was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and S. 1002 was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. **Page H3182**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3096–97,

H3097–98, H3098, H3098–99, H3139, H3139–40, H3140, H3141, H3145, H3145–46, H3148, and H3149. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

RURAL AMERICA CREDIT AVAILABILITY

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research held a hearing to review credit availability in rural America. Testimony was heard from Glen L. Keppy, Associate Administrator, Farm Service Agency, USDA; Nancy C. Pellet, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Farm Credit Administration; and public witnesses.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on State and Local Grants, and on Bureau of Prisons. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Regina B. Schofield, Director, Office of Justice Programs; Carl R. Peed, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services; and Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director, Office of Violence Against Women; John F. Clark, Director United Marshals Service; Harley Lappin, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons; and Stacia Hylton, Trustee, Office of the Federal Detention Trustee.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on the SEC. Testimony was heard from Christopher Cox, Chairman, SEC

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Priorities in Enforcing Immigration Laws and Temporary Worker Program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Julie Myers, Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Emilio Gonzalez, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Jim Taylor, Deputy Inspector General.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on National Park Service. Testimony was heard

from Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies continued appropriations hearings. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Will continue tomorrow.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on Government Printing Office: Budget/Printing Technology in the 21st Century. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GPO: William Turri, Acting Public Printer; Michael Wash, Chief Technology Officer; and Robert Tapella, Chief of Staff.

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on International Organizations and International Peacekeeping Programs. Testimony was heard from Kristen Silverberg, Assistant Secretary, International Organization Affairs, Department of State.

TRANSPORTATION, HUD AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Housing Needs of Special Populations. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: Orlando Cabrera, Assistant Secretary, Public and Indian Housing; and Brian Montgomery, Assistant Secretary, Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner.

ARMY GROUND FORCE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces held a hearing on Army ground force acquisition programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: James I. Finley, Deputy Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Army, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; and LTG John M. Curran, USA, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and Paul L. Francis, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, GAO.

MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the state of the military health care system. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: MG Gale S. Pollock, USA, Acting Surgeon General of the Army; VADM Donald C. Arthur, USN, Surgeon General of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; and LTG James G. Roudebush, USAF, Surgeon General, Department of the Air Force; and public witnesses.

ARMY/AIR NATIONAL GUARD READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on the readiness of the Army and Air National Guard. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG H. Steven Blum, USA, Chief, National Guard Bureau; LTG Clyde A. Vaughn, USA, Director, Army National Guard; and LTG Craig R. McKinley, USAF, Director, Air National Guard.

MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for missile defense programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG Henry A. Obering, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency; LTG Kevin T. Campbell, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Charles E. McQueary, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation; Brian Green, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Strategic Capabilities.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR CLASSIFICATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on Providing Fairness to Workers Who Have Been Misclassified as Independent Contractors. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled “Climate Change—International Issues, Engaging Developing Countries.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHILDREN’S DENTAL CARE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Insuring Bright Futures: Improving Access to Dental Care and Providing a Healthy Start for Children.” Testimony was

heard from Christine Farrell, Medicaid Policy Specialist, Department of Community Health, Medical Service Administration, State of Michigan; and public witnesses.

SUBPRIME/PREDATORY MORTGAGE LENDING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Subprime and Predatory Lending: New Regulatory Guidance, Current Market Conditions, and Effects on Regulated Financial Institutions.” Testimony was heard from Sheila Bair, Chairman, FDIC; John Reich, Director, Office of Thrift Supervision; JoAnn Johnson, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration; E. Wayne Rushtop, Senior Deputy Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury; Sandra F. Braunstein, Director, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

NATURAL DISASTER INSURANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Perspectives on Natural Disaster Insurance.” Testimony was heard from Representatives Taylor; Klein of Florida; Mahoney of Florida; and Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 982, ADVANCE Democracy Act of 2007; H.R. 1405, amended, Wildlife GAINS Act of 2007; H.R. 1441, Stop Arming Iran Act; H.R. 1469, Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007; H.R. 1681, amended, American Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2007; and H.R. 1678, Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007.

The Committee also favorably considered and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that the following measures be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Res. 100, Expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala and encouraging the Government of Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; H. Res. 125, amended, Expressing deep concern over the use of civilians as “human shields” in violation of international humanitarian law and the law of war during armed conflict, including Hezbollah’s tactic of embedding its forces among civilians to use them as human shields during the summer 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and the State of Israel; H. Res. 158, amended, Observing the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the

British slave trade and encouraging the people of the United States, particularly the youth of the United States, to remember the life and legacy of William Wilberforce, a member of the British House of Commons who devoted his life to the suppression and abolition of the institution of slavery, and to work for the protection of human rights throughout the world; H. Res. 196, Supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day; H. Res. 240, Urging all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) who have yet to ratify the May 2006 Amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany; and H. Res. 267, Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of British marines and sailors held captive by Iran; and H. Con. Res. 100, Condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society.

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment held a hearing on U.S.-China Relations. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Christensen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia held a joint hearing on Can Iraq Pay for its Own Reconstruction? Testimony was heard from David Satterfield, Senior Adviser, Coordinator for Iraq, Department of State; and Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

SECOND CHANCE ACT; CRIMINAL OFFENDERS MENTAL ILLNESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action H.R. 1593, Second Chance Act of 2007.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Criminal Justice Responses to Offenders with Mental Illness. Testimony was heard from Steven Leifman, Judge, Criminal Division, Miami-Dade County Court, Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami, Florida; Lieutenant Richard Wall, Los Angeles Police Department; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—FEDERAL LAND RECREATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Held an oversight hearing on Access Denied: The Growing Conflict Between Fishing, Hunting, and Energy Development on Federal Lands. Testimony was heard from Dan Gibbs, Representative, General Assembly, State of Colorado; and public witnesses.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT EXTENSION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia approved for full Committee action H.R. 1124, To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 9 to 3, a structured rule. The rule provides four hours of general debate on H. Con. Res. 99, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, with three hours to be equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Maloney of New York and Representative Saxton of New Jersey or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The Rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule permits the Chairman of the Budget Committee to offer amendments in the House to achieve mathematical consistency. The rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption. Testimony was heard from Chairman Spratt and Representatives Cooper, Scott of Virginia, Berkley, Ryan of Wisconsin, Porter, Kirk, Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania and Jordan of Ohio.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule. The rule provides one hour and twenty minutes of general debate on H.R. 1538, Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007, with one hour equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Armed Services and twenty minutes equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clauses 9 and 10 of Rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report except for those arising under clauses 9 and 10 of Rule XXI. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Skelton and Representatives Sestak, Welch of Vermont, Lowey, Stupak, Kennedy, Pascrell, Hunter, Kline of Minnesota, Moran of Kansas, Bilirakis, Shays, Weller of Illinois and Pearce.

CRUISE SHIP CRIMES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on Crimes Against Americans on Cruise Ships. Testimony was heard from Salvador Hernandez, Deputy Assistant Director, FBI, Department of Justice; RADM Wayne Justice, USCG, Assistant Commandant for Response, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL FUEL TAX/HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing on the Structure of the Federal Fuel Tax and the Long-Term Viability of the Highways Trust Fund.

Testimony was heard from David B. Marron, Deputy Director, CBO; and public witnesses.

MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARITY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity. Testimony was heard from Representatives Kennedy and Ramstad; and public witnesses.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session held a hearing on Integration of Domestic Intelligence. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Labor, 9:45 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Agency for International Development and foreign assistance programs, 10 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Navy, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for United States Forest Service, 2 p.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Treasury, 3 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Strategic Forces Program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program, with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program, 3:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine the future of the Coast Guard Dive Program, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Subcommittee on Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine reducing government building operational costs through innovation and efficiency, focusing on legislative solutions, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine risks and reform, focusing on the role of currency in the U.S.-China relationship, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 193, to increase cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and foreign governments and entities in order to secure the strategic and economic interests of the United States, S. 613, to enhance the overseas stabilization and reconstruction capabilities of the United States Government, H.R. 1003, to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, S. Res. 30, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to address global climate change through the negotiation of fair and effective international commitments, S. Res. 65, condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance, S. Res. 76, calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, and Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan, and the nominations of Paul J. Bonicelli, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Curtis S. Chin, of New York, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Eli Whitney Debevoise II, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Sam Fox, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Belgium, Zalmay Khalilzad, of Maryland, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Margrethe Lundsager, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, Katherine Almquist, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Douglas Menarchik, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. (Reappointment), Ford M. Fraker, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a promotion list in the Foreign Service, 11:45 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing on effective strategies for engaging parents and communities in schools, 3 p.m., SD-430.

Committee on Rules and Administration: business meeting to consider S. 223, to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form, 10 a.m., SR-301.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine affordable drug coverage that works for Wisconsin, focusing on preserving senior care, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review proposals to amend the program crop provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, 10 a.m., 1302 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Rural Development, 2:30 p.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Department of Energy: Nuclear Energy/Office of Civilian Nuclear Waste/Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Ensuring that the Department of Homeland Security's Research and Technology Investments Pay Off, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Department of Interior: Office of Insular Affairs/Departmental Management/Office of the Solicitor, 9:30 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on public witnesses, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Army Budget, 10:30 a.m., H-143 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, on Latin America and Caribbean, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, on Federal Railroad Administration/National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Military Commissions Act and the continued use of Guantanamo Bay as a detention facility, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on outside perspectives on transitioning security to the Iraqi security forces, 1:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Budget Request on information technology, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on Protecting the Health and Safety of America's Mine Workers, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "Status of the Digital Television Transition," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to mark up the following: H.R. 1515, to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain communities as metropolitan cities for purposes of the community development block grant program; H.R. 1427, Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007; H.R. 1675, Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007; and H.R. 1676, Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007 and to continue markup of H.R. 1257, Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, hearing on Opening up of the Bad Arolsen Holocaust Archives in Germany, 1:30 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight and the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, joint hearing on African Opinion on U.S. Policies, Values and People, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, hearing on Trade, Foreign Policy and the American Worker, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing on Poverty and Inequality in the Americas: The Unaddressed Problem, 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, to mark up H.R. 1684, Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 1593, Second Chance Act of 2007; and H.R. 1281, Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, oversight hearing on Royalties at Risk?, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hearing on Allegations of Misconduct at the General Services Administration, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, to mark up the following measures: H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds, Science and Math Scholarship Act; H. Con. Res. 76, Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments; and H. Res. 252, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.'s, historic achievement in becoming the first United States astronaut to orbit the Earth, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on Shaping the Message, Distorting the Science: Media Strategies to Influence Science Policy, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Regulation, Health Care and Trade, hearing entitled "The Value of Health IT to Solo and Small Medical Practices," 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Mental Health Services, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, to mark up the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, hearing on National Security Letters, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook, 10:30 a.m., SH-216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 28

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1591, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, and vote on, or in relation to, certain pending amendments.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Complete consideration of H.R. 835—Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007. Consideration of H.R. 1538—Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007. Begin consideration of H. Con. Res. 99—Revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 through 2012.



Congressional Record

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