



# The Daily Whip

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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004**

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
<b>10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business</b> <b>Unlimited "One Minutes"</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>

**\* DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN REP. EDWARDS' (D-TX) DISCHARGE PETITION (No. 8) TO ALLOW CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 548 WHICH PHASES-OUT THE BENEFIT-REDUCTION TO MILITARY SURVIVING SPOUSES. 188 MEMBERS HAVE SIGNED ON. CHECK THE CLERK'S WEBSITE TO SEE IF YOUR MEMBER HAS SIGNED ON:**

<http://clerk.house.gov/108/lrc/pd/petitions/Dis8.htm>

**\* AN IMPORTANT VOTE IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK ON A DEMOCRATIC MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FY05. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOUR BOSS WILL BE ABSENT.**

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

**H.R. 4227 - Middle-Class Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2004 (Rep. Simmons / Ways and Means Committee) (Subject to a Rule).** This bill extends for one year (through 2005) the increased alternative minimum tax (AMT) exemptions from the 2003 tax bill --- \$40,250 for single tax payers and \$58,000 for married couples filing jointly. Without action this year, the AMT exemption levels would revert back next year to the levels established in 1993 -- - \$33,750 for individuals and \$45,000 for married taxpayers --- which could increase the number of AMT filers from an estimated 3.5 million this year to nearly 10 million in 2005. H.R. 4227 would cost approximately \$18 billion over 10 years, and does not include any provisions to offset its cost. As with the tax bill considered last week, H.R. 4227 was not considered in the Ways and Means Committee before going to the floor.

The Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule that provides one hour of general debate; makes in order one amendment in the nature of a substitute to be offered by Rep. Rangel or his designee; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

- **Rangel Democratic Substitute (1 hour).** The Democratic substitute provides the framework for total reform of the AMT, is paid for, and would provide AMT relief that is broader and simpler than the relief contained in H.R. 4227. The substitute eliminates AMT liability for all taxpayers whose income is less than \$125,000 for single taxpayers and \$250,000 for married couples. Above those income levels, AMT liabilities would be phased in over a \$20,000 range for single taxpayers and \$40,000 range for married couples. The cost of the substitute is roughly \$19 billion and would be offset by restrictions on tax shelters that have been supported by House Democrats as offsets in other substitutes and have been approved in the Senate on a bipartisan basis. The substitute would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to promptly submit legislative recommendations to the Congress on a permanent fix to the AMT, and it would require the Committee on Ways and Means to act on those recommendations this summer. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**

# The Daily Whip

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

## Suspensions (6 bills):

- 1) **H.Res. 605** - Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of autism, supporting programs for increased research and improved treatment of autism, improving training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism (*Rep. Tierney / Energy and Commerce Committee*)
- 2) **H.R. 2771** - To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program (*Rep. Fossella / Energy and Commerce Committee*)
- 3) **H.R. 27** - Small Public Housing Authority Act (*Rep. Bereuter / Financial Services Committee*)
- 4) **H.Res. 402** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the urgent need for freedom, democratic reform, and international monitoring of elections, human rights, and religious liberty in the Lao People`s Democratic Republic (*Rep. Burton / International Relations Committee*)
- 5) **H.Con.Res. 326** - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the arbitrary detention of Dr. Wang Bingzhang by the Government of the People`s Republic of China and urging his immediate release (*Rep. Napolitano / International Relations Committee*)
- 6) **H.Con.Res. 398** - Expressing the concern of Congress over Iran`s development of the means to produce nuclear weapons (*Rep. Hyde / International Relations Committee*)

## Moore Motion to Instruct Conferees on S.Con.Res 95 – Budget Resolution for FY05

The motion instructs conferees to recede to the Senate bipartisan provisions that would extend "pay-as-you-go" budget enforcement to both mandatory spending and tax cuts. This motion is the same motion offered by Democrats on March 30 which Republicans defeated (209-209) after keeping a 5-minute vote open for almost half an hour. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**

## TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. and may consider the **Conference Report on H.Con.Res.393** – Republican Budget Resolution for FY05, and possible motions to instruct conferees.

### Daily Quote...

"A full year into an economic expansion that continues to pick up momentum, profits are growing rapidly, while wages are rising barely at all. In the fourth quarter of 2003, profits as a share of the total economy reached their highest level in more than 50 years. The share of the pie going to wages and salaries hit a 50-year low."

- From a news story in the *Boston Globe* today