



Legislative Bulletin.....May 1, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: 0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 252 — Recognizing the 45th anniversary of John Hershel Glenn, Jr.'s historic achievement in becoming the first United States astronaut to orbit the Earth (*Space, D-OH*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 252 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 252 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “honors the 45th anniversary of John Herschel Glenn, Jr.’s landmark mission piloting the first manned orbital mission of the United States; and
- “recognizes the profound importance of John Glenn’s achievement as a catalyst to space exploration and scientific advancement in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including

- “John Glenn enlisted in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps in 1943;
- “John Glenn served in combat in the South Pacific and also requested combat duty during the Korean conflict
- “as a test pilot, John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record in 1957 by completing the first flight to average supersonic speeds from Los Angeles to New York;
- “John Glenn was a pioneer in the realm of space exploration and was selected in 1959 as one of the original 7 astronauts in the United States space program, entering the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Project Mercury;

- “on February 20, 1962, John Glenn piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 ‘Friendship 7’ spacecraft on the first manned orbital mission of the United States;
- “after launching from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, John Glenn completed a 3-orbit mission around the planet, reaching an approximate maximum altitude of 162 statute miles and an approximate orbital velocity of 17,500 miles per hour; and
- “after retiring from the space program, John Glenn continued his public service as a distinguished member of the Senate, in which he served for 24 years.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 252 was introduced on March 15, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up on March 28, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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**H.Con.Res. 95 — Honoring the career and research accomplishments of
Frances E. Allen, the 2006 recipient of the A.M. Turing Award
(Woolsey, D-CA)**

Order of Business: H.Con.Res 95 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 95 would express that the Congress:

- “honors the pioneering life work of Frances Allen in computer research and development and salutes the Turing Award Committee for recognizing, through the selection of Frances Allen, that creative women have contributed mightily to the development of this important field.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including

- “Frances Allen joined IBM in 1957 early in the history of the computer industry and just after an IBM team developed Fortran, one of the first high-level programming languages;
- “Allen during her 45 year career at IBM rose from being a teacher of Fortran to highest level of IBM technologists;
- “in 1989 Allen was the first woman to be named an IBM Fellow and in 1995 became President of the IBM Academy of Technology, a global organization of IBM technical leaders charged with providing technical advice to the company;

- “Allen made fundamental contributions to the theory and practice of program optimization, which translates the users’ problem-solving language statements;
- “Allen's work led to remarkable advances in compiler design and machine architecture that are at the foundation of modern high-performance computing; and
- “Allen has now been honored as the first woman recipient of the Turing Award, computer science’s most prestigious award, which is equated by some to the Nobel Prizes.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 95 was introduced on March 30, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on April 24, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 316 — Recognizing the accomplishments of Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather, and George F. Smoot for being awarded Nobel Prizes in the fields of chemistry, physiology or medicine, and physics (*McNerney, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 316 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 316 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather, and George F. Smoot for advancing scientific discovery and dedicating their careers to scientific research;
- “recognizes the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for their support of the physics Nobel Prize winners; and
- “congratulates the achievement of Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather, and George F. Smoot for being awarded Nobel Prizes in science.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including

- “according to the National Academies landmark report ‘Rising Above the Gathering Storm’, the United States is in peril of losing its global competitive

edge unless we make substantial investments in science, math, research, and innovation;

- “Nobel Prize is a prestigious international award administered annually by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and has since 1901 recognized the world's most outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace;
- “on December 10, 2006, in Stockholm, Sweden, the following five American scientists were awarded the three Nobel Prizes for science. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Roger D. Kornberg from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, for his studies of the molecular basis of eukaryotic transcription. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Andrew Fire from the Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, and Craig Mello from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, for their discovery of RNA interference through gene silencing by double-stranded RNA. The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to John C. Mather from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and the University of Maryland and George F. Smoot, a National Science Foundation grantee from the University of California at Berkeley for their discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation; and
- “Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather, and George F. Smoot have represented the United States and have served as unofficial ambassadors of science overseas.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 316 was introduced on April 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which reported the bill on April 24, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 334 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month (*Miller, D-NC*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 334 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 316 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Community College Month; and

- “congratulates the Nation’s community colleges, and their students, governing boards, faculty, and staff, for their contributions to education and workforce development, and for their vital role in ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “there are more than 1,200 community colleges in the United States;
- “there are more than 11 million students enrolled in for-credit and not-for-credit programs at community colleges nationwide;
- “in 2007, community colleges in the United States will award more than 500,000 associate’s degrees and 270,000 associate’s certificates;
- “community colleges have educated more than 100,000,000 people in the United States since the first community college was founded in 1901;
- “community colleges contribute more than \$31,000,000,000 annually to the Nation’s economic growth and, by helping to provide a skilled workforce, are critical to our Nation’s continued success and prosperity in the global economy of the 21st century; and
- “the American Association of Community Colleges, the Association of Community College Trustees, and more than 1,200 community colleges nationwide recognize April as National Community College Month.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 334 was introduced on April 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Con.Res 112 — Supporting the goals and ideas of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day (McCarthy, D-NY)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 112 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 112 would express that the Congress:

- “supports the goals and ideas of National Child Care Worthy Wage Day, and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities and to work together to resolve the early childhood care and education staff compensation crisis.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including

- “approximately 63 percent of the Nation's children under 5 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work;
- “the early care and education industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;
- “the average salary of early care and education workers is \$18,180 per year, and only 1/3 have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;
- “the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills, and to help them be ready for school;
- “providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and **resources may be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;** [emphasis added]
- “child care workers should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience; and
- “the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 112 was introduced on March 30, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which held took no official actions.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of 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. 298 — To commend the University of Florida Gators for their historic win in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament (Stearns, R-FL)

Order of Business: H.Res. 298 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 298 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “commends the University of Florida Gators for their historic win in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament;
- “recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Gators’ victory; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Florida President J. Bernard Machen and head coach Billy Donovan for appropriate display.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “on April 2, 2007, the University of Florida Gators defeated the Ohio State Buckeyes 84-75 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia;
- “the Gators’ became the first team since Duke University in 1991-92 to win back-to-back national titles and just the 7th school ever to be repeat champions;
- “the Gators became the first team ever to repeat as champions with the same starting lineup;
- “Florida’s overall athletic program has proven to be one of the best in the Nation, now having won 21 national champions in all sports combined;
- “the University of Florida remains the only program to hold both football and men’s basketball championships at the same time and the first school in NCAA history to hold both the basketball and football championship titles in the same calendar year;
- “Coach Donovan became the third youngest coach to win more than one NCAA title; and
- “residents of Florida and Gator fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in the team.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 298 was introduced on April 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. __ — Congratulating charter schools and their students, parent teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes (Boustany, R-LA)

Order of Business: H.Res. __ is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

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

- “acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;
- “supports the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week; and
- “joins the President in calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this weeklong celebration in communities throughout the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;
- “charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system; and
- “the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held April 29 through May 5, 2007, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools.”

Committee Action: H.Res. __ will be introduced on May 1, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 100 — Expressing the sympathy of 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 (*Solis, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The H.Res. 100 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 100 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “expresses its sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala;
- “expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Guatemala in the face of these tragic and senseless acts;
- “condemns the ongoing abductions and murders of women and girls in Guatemala which have been occurring with increasing brutality and frequency;
- “recognizes the courageous struggle of the victims’ families in seeking justice for the victims;
- “urges the Government of Guatemala to recognize domestic violence and sexual harassment as criminal acts;
- “encourages the Government of Guatemala to act with due diligence in order to investigate promptly the killings of women and girls, prosecute those responsible, and eliminate the tolerance of violence against women;
- “encourages the Government of Guatemala to act with due diligence in order to investigate promptly the killings of women and girls, prosecute those responsible, and eliminate the tolerance of violence against women;
- “urges the President and Secretary of State to continue to express support for the efforts of the victims’ families and loved ones to seek justice for the victims, to express concern relating to the continued harassment of these families and the human rights defenders with whom they work, and to express concern with respect to impediments in the ability of the families to receive prompt and accurate information in their cases;
- “encourages the Secretary of State to urge the Government of Guatemala to honor and dignify the victims of the brutal murders and to continue to include in the Department of State’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices all instances of improper investigatory methods, threats against human rights activists, and the use of torture with respect to cases involving the murder and abduction of women and girls in Guatemala;
- “encourages the Secretary of State to urge the Government of Guatemala to hold accountable those law enforcement and judicial officials whose failure to investigate and prosecute the murders adequately, whether through negligence, omission, or abuse, has led to impunity for these crimes;
- “encourages the Secretary of State to support and urge the Government of Guatemala to take measures to ensure that the special Guatemalan police and prosecutorial units have an adequate number of appropriately trained personnel with sufficient resources to conduct thorough and proper investigations and prosecutions that reflect the gravity and magnitude of this national security crisis;
- “recommends that the United States Ambassador to Guatemala continue to meet with the families of the victims, women’s rights organizations, and Guatemalan officials responsible for investigating these crimes and preventing such future crimes; and
- “recommends that the Secretary of State develop a comprehensive plan to address and combat the growing problem of violence against women in Latin America.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “since 2001, more than 2,000 women and girls have been murdered in Guatemala often preceded by abduction, sexual assault, or brutal mutilation;
- “from 2001 to 2006, the rate at which women and girls have been murdered in Guatemala has increased sharply, at a higher rate than the murder rate of men in Guatemala during the same period;
- “the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman reports that on ten separate occasions police officers have been implicated in the murder of Guatemalan women and girls and recommends that such officers and other officials be held accountable for their acts;
- “the Government of Guatemala has undertaken efforts to prevent violence against women, as evidenced by its ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention of Belem do Para, and other international human rights treaties, and the enactment of laws and the creation of state institutions to promote and protect the rights of women;
- “the Government of Guatemala has created special police and prosecutorial units to address the brutal murders of Guatemalan women and girls; and
- “continuing impunity for the crime of murder is a threat to the rule of law, democracy, and stability in Guatemala.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 100 was introduced on January 24, 2007. On February 5, 2007 the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere and the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, which held a mark-up on March 27, 2007 and reported the resolution by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 272 — Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade (*Lee, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 272 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 272 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the historical significance of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade to the world;

- “respects the memory of those who died as a result of slavery, including through exposure to the horrors of the Middle Passage and in revolt against and resistance to enslavement; and
- “should educate current and future generations about this crime against humanity by honoring its significance in United States history with appropriate programs and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the transatlantic slave trade was the capture and procurement of Africans, mostly from West Africa, to the United States and the colonies that became the United States for the purpose of enslavement between the fifteenth and late nineteenth centuries;
- “the transatlantic slave trade is characterized as the largest forced migration in world history;
- “Africans’ resistance to the transatlantic slave trade culminated in revolts-- collective acts of rebellion--against slave ships and their crews during the Middle Passage and on the colonial plantations;
- “the slave trade and the legacy of slavery continue to have a profound impact on social and economic disparity, hatred, bias, racism, and discrimination, and continue to affect people of African descent today; and
- “March 25, 2007, marks the 200th anniversary of the Slave Trade Abolition Act enacted by the British Parliament”

Committee Action: H.Res. 272 was introduced on March 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on April 19, 2007 and reported the resolution by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 158 — 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 (Pitts, R-PA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 158 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 158 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “observes the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade;
- “commends to the people of the United States the example of William Wilberforce and his commitment to each and every person's human dignity, value, and freedom;
- “condemns to the highest degree all forms of human trafficking and slavery which are an assault on human dignity and of which Mr. Wilberforce would steadfastly resist
- “encourages the people of the United States, particularly the youth of the United States, to:
 - “observe the anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade;
 - “elected on Mr. Wilberforce's selfless dedication to the fight against slavery and his commitment to the neediest in society;
 - “commit themselves to recognize the value of every person; and
 - “form high school clubs and groups working against modern day slavery and the trafficking of persons.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “in 1780, William Wilberforce was elected at the age of 21 years to the British House of Commons;
- “Mr. Wilberforce was mentored and counseled by former slave trader and author of the hymn ‘Amazing Grace’, John Newton, on the horrors of the slave trade;
- “at the time, 11 million human beings had been captured and taken from Africa to the Western hemisphere and forced into slavery and bondage;
- “Mr. Wilberforce devoted his life to the suppression and abolition of the institution of slavery;
- “on February 23, 1807, Britain passed a bill banning the slave trade;
- “in 1833, Mr. Wilberforce was informed on his death bed that the House of Commons had voted to abolish slavery;
- “in 2006, the United States Department of State estimated that between 600,000 and 800,000 men, women, and children were trafficked across international borders; and
- “the people of the United States, particularly the youth of the United States, are called upon to form clubs and groups dedicated to working against the modern slave trade, human trafficking, and the degradation of human dignity.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 158 was introduced on February 13, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on March 27, 2007 and reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 243 — Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for other purposes (Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: H.Res. 243 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 243 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns and deplors the arbitrary arrests of Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, and Le Thi Cong Nhan by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and calls for their immediate and unconditional release and the dropping of all criminal charges, and for the immediate and unconditional release of all other political and religious prisoners;
- “condemns and deplors the violations of the freedoms of speech, religion, movement, association, and the lack of due process afforded to individuals in Vietnam;
- “challenges the qualifications of Vietnam to be a member of the United Nations Security Council, unless the Government of Vietnam begins immediately to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all within its own borders; and
- “strongly urges the Government of Vietnam to consider the implications of its actions for the broader relationship between the United States and Vietnam.”

H.Res. 243 would also express that the House of Representatives should:

- “make a top concern the immediate release, legal status, and humanitarian needs of Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, and Le Thi Cong Nhan;
- “use funds from the newly created Human Rights Defenders Fund of the Department of State to assist with the legal defense and the needs of the families and dependents of Father Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, and Le Thi Cong Nhan;
- “continue to urge the Government of Vietnam to comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedoms and human rights;
- “make clear to the Government of Vietnam that it must adhere to the rule of law and respect the freedom of religion and expression in order to broaden its relations with the United States;

- “make clear to the Government of Vietnam that the detention of Father Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and other human rights violations are not in the interest of Vietnam because they create obstacles to improved bilateral relations and cooperation with the United States;
- “if there is widespread harassment, short-term detentions, long-term house detentions, and arrests of religious leaders and religious-motivated rights defenders and activists, re-impose on Vietnam the country of particular concern (CPC) designation, which was removed on November, 13, 2006, for severe and ongoing violations of the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, and belief in Vietnam;
- “make clear to the Government of Vietnam that the norms and responsibilities of joining the international community are not fully realized in Vietnam's WTO membership, and that the issues of the freedoms of speech, assembly, association, and the right of due process are essential for a healthy trade and business climate; and
- “in order to advance these freedoms and rights, and to strengthen the long-term relationship between the United States and Vietnam, initiate new foreign assistance programs to advance the capacity and networking abilities of Vietnamese civil society, including new rule of law programs to train Vietnamese human rights lawyers, judges, academics, and students about international human rights law; new public diplomacy initiatives to inform and teach Vietnamese citizens about international human rights norms and responsibilities, and projects that support organizations and associations that promote the freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and association.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “on February 18, 2007, Vietnamese police raided the parish house of Father Nguyen Van Ly and confiscated computers, telephones, more than 100 mobile phone cards, and more than 200 kilograms of documents;
- “the police moved Father Ly to the remote location of Ben Cui in central Vietnam, where he is under house arrest;
- “on March 6, 2007, Vietnamese police also arrested Le Thi Cong Nhan, a human rights lawyer, a member of ‘Block 8406’, the principal spokesperson for the Progression Party, and a founder of the Vietnamese Labor Movement;
- “the United States Congress agreed to Vietnam becoming an official member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2006, amidst assurances that the Vietnamese Government was steadily improving its human rights record and would continue to do so;
- “the arbitrary imprisonment and the violation of the human rights of citizens of Vietnam are sources of continuing, grave concern to Congress, and the arrests of Father Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, and Le Thi Cong Nhan are part of a trend toward increasing oppression of human rights advocates in Vietnam.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 243 was introduced on March 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on April 19, 2007 and reported by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of 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. __ — Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo (*Baca, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. __ is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

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

- “recognizes the historical struggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people and requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing that struggle and calling upon the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “May 5, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;
- “the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom;
- “Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico’s most famous national holidays and is celebrated annually by nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;
- “many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;
- “the Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who have fought for freedom and independence against foreign aggressors; and
- “Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is

especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes.”

Committee Action: H.Res. __ was introduced on April 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Con.Res. 118 — Congratulating the City of Chicago for being chosen to represent the United States in the international competition to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago as the site of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games (*Emanuel, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 118 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 118 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates the City of Chicago on securing the bid to represent United States in the international competition to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
- “encourages the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago as the site of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the City of Chicago has been selected by the United States Olympic Committee to represent the United States in its bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- “by 2016, 20 years will have passed since the Summer Olympics were held in a city in the United States; and
- “the motto of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Chicago would be ‘Stir the Soul,’ and the games would inspire citizens around the world, both young and old.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 118 was introduced on April 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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