



Legislative Bulletin.....July 18, 2006

Contents:

- H.Con.Res. 438** — Expressing the sense of the Congress that continuation of the welfare reforms provided for in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 should remain a priority
- H.Res. 498** — Supporting the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week
- H.R. 4962** — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the “Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building”
- H.Res. 721** — Supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreno) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States.
- H.Res. 908** — Congratulating Italy on winning the 2006 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup
- H.Res. 905** — Congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world’s second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- H.Res. 784** — Commending and supporting Radio Al Mahaba, Iraq’s first and only radio station for women
- H.R. 860** — To provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas
- H.Con.Res. 435** — Congratulating Israel’s Magen David Adom Society for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for other purposes

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: 2

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

H.Con.Res. 438 — Expressing the sense of the Congress that continuation of the welfare reforms provided for in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 should remain a priority — as introduced (Shaw, R-FL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 438 resolves a sense of Congress, “that increasing success in moving families from welfare to work, as well as in promoting healthy marriage and other means of improving child well-being, as promoted by the welfare reforms in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, are very important Government interests and should remain priorities for the responsible Federal and State agencies in the years ahead for assisting needy families and others at risk of poverty and dependence on government benefits.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program established by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–193) has succeeded in moving families from welfare to work and reducing child poverty;
- “there has been a dramatic increase in the employment of current and former welfare recipients;
- “earnings for welfare recipients remaining on the rolls also have increased significantly, as have earnings for female-headed households;
- “single mothers, on average, earned \$13.50 per hour in 2004, almost three times the minimum wage;
- “as of September 2005, ...the number of families in the welfare caseload and the number of individuals receiving cash assistance declined 56 percent and 61 percent, respectively, since the enactment of the TANF program; and
- “the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 gave States great flexibility in the use of Federal funds to develop innovative programs to help families leave welfare and begin employment, and to encourage the formation of 2-parent families.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 438 was introduced on June 26, 2006, and referred to the Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Agriculture, and Financial Services Committees, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Marcus Kelley; marcus.kelley@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717

H.Res. 498 — Supporting the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week — as reported (Duncan, R-TN)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Note: The 104th Congress changed House rules to prohibit a bill from being considered on the House floor if “it establishes or expresses a commemoration,” which is defined as “a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time.” (<http://clerk.house.gov/legisAct/legisProc/rules/rule12.html>)

This resolution resolves that Congress supports the ideals and goals of the day. Because the resolution merely states support for, but does not establish, a commemorative day, the Parliamentarian’s office has ruled that it is allowable under House rules.

Summary: H. Res. 498 resolves that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “according to the National Academy of Sciences, an average of 820 students are killed annually during school transportation hours, but less than 2 percent of them are school bus passengers;
- “an average of seven school-age passengers are killed in school bus crashes each year, and an average of 19 children are killed each year getting on and off the bus;
- “most of those killed are children aged five to seven, and most often those children are killed in the area immediately surrounding the bus—either by a passing vehicle or by the bus itself;
- “School Bus Safety Week, which is celebrated in more than 40 States and sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), was created to remind all students of the best ways to get on and off the bus in an effort to enhance the safety of the Nation’s children;
- “School Bus Safety Week, celebrated the third week in October, promotes awareness through local and State poster and speech contests, lessons utilizing school bus safety community awareness kits, and other activities built around themes that raise awareness of school bus safety issues.”

Additional Information: According to the NHTSA, School Bus Safety Week is, “an active, continuing public education program designed to promote school bus safety.” The federal agency spends taxpayer dollars every year to develop materials; “including a booklet of suggested activities, sample media materials, ideas on recruiting local sponsors, and additional information;” to support the annual, themed event. NHTSA also holds a poster contest in conjunction with the week. (source: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/buses/GTSS/bussafety.html>)

Committee Action: H.Res. 498 was introduced on October 18, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up and it was reported to the House by unanimous consent on June 8, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Marcus Kelley; marcus.kelley@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717

H.R. 4962 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the “Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building” — *as reported* (Boehlert, R-NY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4962 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the “Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: According to the Department of Defense, Capt. George A. Wood, was killed on Nov. 20, 2003 in Baqubah, Iraq. Capt. Wood was on patrol when his tank rolled over an improvised explosive device. Wood was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas. Wood was 33 when he was killed. Wood left behind a wife, Lisa, and a daughter, Maria. (sources: <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2003/nr20031124-0686.html>, <http://www.militarycity.com/valor/256937.html>)



Committee Action: H.R. 4962 was introduced on March 15, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up and it was ordered reported to the House by unanimous consent on June 29, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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

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

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Marcus Kelley; marcus.kelley@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717

H.Res. 721 — Supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreno) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard

work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States — *as introduced (Solis, D-CA)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Note: The 104th Congress changed House rules to prohibit a bill from being considered on the House floor if “it establishes or expresses a commemoration”, which is defined as “a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time” (<http://clerk.house.gov/legisAct/legisProc/rules/rule12.html>)

This resolution resolves that Congress supports the ideals and goals of the day. Because the resolution merely states support for, but does not establish, a commemorative day, the Parliamentarian’s office has ruled that it is allowable under House rules.

Summary: H.Res. 721 resolves, “that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreno) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the aftermath of 40 years of internal political turmoil forced hundreds of thousands of individuals in the Republic of El Salvador to flee that country and seek peace and security in a new country, the United States;
- “Salvadoran-Americans constitute a significantly growing population in the United States, with the majority living in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and various other areas in the United States;
- “free of prejudices and as proud men and women, Salvadoran-Americans participate and contribute to the social, educational, professional, and political systems of the United States; and
- “on August 6, 1525, the official founding of Villa De San Salvador was declared in the Valle de las Hamacas (Valley of the Hammocks) where the indigenous ancestors of El Salvador fought historic battles against the submission and abuse of Spanish colonialism in order to preserve the life and liberty of the Cuscatleco population.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 721 was introduced on March 9, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up and it was ordered reported to the House by unanimous consent on June 29, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Marcus Kelley; marcus.kelley@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717

**H.Res. 908 — Congratulating Italy on winning the 2006 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup
— as introduced (Fosella, R-NY)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 908 resolves, “that the House of Representatives congratulates Italy and the Italian National Soccer team on winning the 2006 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “Italy is one of the most successful countries in World Cup history, reaching the finals 6 times and winning 4 four championships, in 1934, 1938, 1982, and 2006;
- “in 2006, team Italy (known as ‘Azzurri’ or simply ‘the Blue’) went undefeated in World Cup play and won the final game in only the second World Cup Championship to be determined by shoot-out;
- “all Americans can take pride in the knowledge that the United States National Soccer Team was the only team that Italy was unable to defeat during this World Cup, needing to settle with a 1–1 tie.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 908 was introduced on July 11, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Marcus Kelley; marcus.kelley@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717

H.Res. 905 — Congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world’s second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction — as introduced (Faleomavaega, D-AS)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 905 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates the people and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world’s second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan;

- “commends Kazakhstan for greatly advancing the cause of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction as a result of its dismantlement of its nuclear and biological weapons and facilities; and
- “calls upon the Administration to establish a joint working group with the Government of Kazakhstan to assist in assessing the environmental damage and health effects caused by nuclear testing in the Semipalatinsk region by the former Soviet Union.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “on August 29, 1991, the Government of Kazakhstan shut down the world’s second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- “between 1945 and 1991, more than 450 nuclear tests were conducted at this site, exposing more than 1.5 million innocent people to radiation and causing damage to the environment;
- “upon gaining independence, Kazakhstan inherited from the former Soviet Union more than 1,000 nuclear warheads, as well as a squadron of 40 TU-95 heavy bombers armed with 370 nuclear warheads, comprising the world’s fourth largest nuclear arsenal;
- “the Government of Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the United States, participated in a very successful secret operation code-named ‘Project Sapphire,’ in which 581 kilograms (1,278 pounds) of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium, enough to produce 20 to 25 nuclear warheads, were removed overnight from Kazakhstan; and
- “in February 2006, Kazakhstan and the Nuclear Threat Initiative of Washington, D.C., with the support of the United States Department of Energy, blended down 2,900 kilograms (6,600 pounds) of weapons-usable highly enriched uranium, enough to produce up to 25 nuclear warheads, converting the material for peaceful use and preventing it from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations and being used in weapons production.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 905 was introduced on June 29, 2006 and was referred to the Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.Res. 784 — Commending and supporting Radio Al Mahaba, Iraq’s first and only radio station for women — *as introduced (McCarthy, D-NY)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 784 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “commends the efforts of Radio Al Mahaba to provide Iraqi women with freedom of speech and an opportunity for women to be included in and informed of the reconstruction of Iraq with an open, democratic civil society;
- “supports the mission of Radio Al Mahaba; and
- “urges Al Mahaba to continue its important work.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “Radio Al Mahaba, Iraq’s first and only radio station for women, went on the air on April 1, 2005;
- “Radio Al Mahaba airs shows dedicated to women’s rights and women's issues;
- “despite terrible risks, the staff of Radio Al Mahaba works at the station because they want to reach out and touch peoples’ lives, and they want to give hope, knowledge, empowerment, support, and a passage to freedom to Iraq women; and
- “Radio Al Mahaba, amid the struggles in Iraq, has followed the examples of the United States which guarantees freedoms of speech and the press, thereby encouraging Iraqis to build an open, democratic civil society.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 784 was introduced on April 27, 2006, and was referred to the Committee on International Relations, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 25, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.R. 860 —To provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas — as introduced (Reyes, D-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 860 would require the Department of State to relinquish the federal government’s reversionary interest in land that is currently held by the Clint Independent School District in El Paso, Texas. The bill requires that revenues from selling the land are to be used for public education. A reversionary interest is defined as the right to receive the property held in a trust at some future date. (www.finance-glossary.com)

Additional Information: According to CBO, “the land was deeded to the school district in 1957 with the understanding that it would revert back to the federal government if it were used for any purpose

other than public education. The school district would like to sell the land (which is outside their district) and use the proceeds to buy land closer to existing school facilities.”

Committee Action: H.R. 860 was introduced on February 16, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 25, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, “Relinquishing the federal government’s interest in this land would result in forgone receipts. However, based on information from the State Department, CBO estimates that the land has an appraised value of about \$130,000; therefore, enacting the bill would not have a significant budgetary impact.”

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.Con.Res. 435—Congratulating Israel’s Magen David Adom Society for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation—as amended (*Ackerman, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 18th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 435 would resolve that Congress:

- “commends the Magen David Adom Society for its long and distinguished record of providing humanitarian assistance to all those in need of aid, even those responsible for heinous atrocities against Israeli civilians;
- “congratulates the Magen David Adom Society, and the Government and the people of the State of Israel, for securing full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 57 years past due;
- “thanks the President, the Secretary of State, and United States diplomatic representatives for their tireless pursuit and maintenance of the international support that culminated in the Magen David Adom Society’s recent acceptance as a full member in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation;
- “thanks the American Red Cross for its unwavering and unyielding insistence within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that the humanitarian principle of universality could not be reconciled with continued exclusion of the Magen David Adom Society; and
- “thanks the Government of Switzerland and officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross for helping to prepare the necessary groundwork and carrying to completion the adoption of the Geneva Protocol III by the states parties to the Geneva Conventions and the rules for its implementation; and
- “commends the President for--

- submitting the Geneva Protocol III to the Senate for its advice and consent; and
- pending approval by the Senate, preparing for congressional consideration and enactment of legislation necessary to carry into effect the Geneva Protocol III.”

Additional Background: As the resolution notes, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide institution in which all national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have equal status, whose mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, without discrimination. Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) Society, in existence since 1930, is the national humanitarian society in the State of Israel and has been denied membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement since 1949 (when it first sought admission). The Magen David Adom was the only national organization denied membership in the Movement (presumably because it does not use a cross or a crescent as a symbol). The Geneva Protocol III, adopted in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2005, established the new third neutral symbol, the “red crystal” that can be used in conjunction with the Red Shield of David and cleared the way for Israeli membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation (which was made official in June 2006, as was the membership of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society).

The American Red Cross has withheld over \$45 million in dues to the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to protest the exclusion of the Magen David Adom.

For more information on Magen David Adom, visit this website:
<http://www.afmda.org/site/PageServer>.

For more information on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, visit this website:
<http://www.redcross.int/>.

Committee Action: On June 26, 2006, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which, on the next day, marked up, amended, and forwarded the resolution to the full House by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: The Administration “welcomes” the inclusion of Magen David Adom into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Read the complete statement here:
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/68239.htm>.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

###