



Legislative Bulletin.....July 26, 2006

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 2

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$53 million over five years (\$13 million from existing funds)

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$4 million decrease over ten years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 1

H.R. 5337 — Reform of National Security Reviews of Foreign Direct Investments Act — *as amended* (Blunt, R-MO)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

Summary: H.R. 5337 would establish in law the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), by amending the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C App. 2170). CFIUS, established by Executive Order in 1975 by President Ford, is the federal committee that governs foreign direct investment (FDI) in the U.S., including acquisitions of U.S. companies by foreign entities. H.R. 5337 would formalize and expand the review and investigation process under which CFIUS currently operates. The specific provisions of H.R. 5337 are summarized below:

- Defines various terms in law relating to the operation of CFIUS and foreign investments, such as: covered transactions, foreign government-controlled transaction, and national security;
- Directs CFIUS to review any proposed foreign merger or acquisition (covered transaction) of a U.S. entity, upon written notification or a motion made by a CFIUS member (discussed below);
- Requires CFIUS to conduct an investigation of the relevant transaction, if it is determined that a covered transaction is foreign government-controlled;
- Authorizes any party to a covered transaction to initiate a review of the transaction by submitting a written notice to the CFIUS chairman;
- Authorizes the President or any CFIUS member to initiate a review of any covered transaction (including transactions that have previously been reviewed, under certain circumstances); requires a review to be completed within 30 days of receipt of the written notice;
- Requires the President, acting through CFIUS, to conduct an investigation of the effects of a transaction on the national security of the U.S. ***if during a covered transaction review it is determined that:***
 - the transaction threatens to impair the national security of the U.S. and the threat has not been mitigated prior to completion of the review;
 - a roll-call vote within CFIUS on a covered transaction results in at least one (1) vote by a CFIUS member against approving the transaction; or
 - the National Intelligence Director identifies “particularly complex intelligence concerns that could threaten to impair the national security of the U.S.” and members were not able to agree upon satisfactory measures to mitigate those threats.
- Requires the above investigation to be completed within 45 days, with certain exceptions and requirements;
- Requires that a covered transaction may not be approved (and treated as final or complete) until the review report and findings are approved by a majority of CFIUS members in a roll-call vote and are signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, Homeland Security, and Commerce Departments;
- States that the National Intelligence Director may not be a member of CFIUS nor serve any policy role, other than to provide analysis on covered transactions;
- Defines CFIUS membership to be comprised of the following 13 people: the Secretaries of the Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce, Energy, State, and Defense Departments, the Attorney General, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, the U.S. Trade Representative, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Director

of the National Economic Council, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, and any other designee of the President from the Executive Office of the President;

- Designates the Treasury Secretary as the Chairperson of CFIUS, and the Commerce and Homeland Security Secretaries as the Vice Chairpersons;
- States a non-waiver of sovereign immunity, declaring that the U.S. is not liable for losses or incurred expenses by a party to a covered transaction (after the transaction has been consummated) if the party did not comply with the defined CFIUS review process, including failure to submit a written notice of the transaction, or failure to wait until the completion of a review or investigation before consummating the transaction; and
- Increases Congressional oversight of CFIUS, including requiring CFIUS to submit reports to Senate and House leadership on each completed review of a covered transaction, in addition to semi-annual reports to congressional leadership.

Additional Information: CFIUS is a federal interagency committee currently comprised of 12 members representing major agencies and departments (including Treasury, Justice, Commerce and Homeland Security Departments) within the federal executive branch. As defined by the Treasury Department website, CFIUS serves the President in overseeing the national security implications of foreign investment in the economy. For summary information on the role of CFIUS, please visit this Treasury website: <http://www.treasury.gov/offices/international-affairs/exon-florio/>. For additional information on the history of CFIUS, please view this recent CRS Report: <http://www.congress.gov/erp/rl/pdf/RL33388.pdf>.

Committee Action: H.R. 5337 was introduced on May 10, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology and referred to the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection. The bill was marked-up in both committees (June 14 and July 12, respectively), and it was reported to the House by voice vote (Energy and Commerce House Report 109-523, Part I and Financial Services House Report 109-523, Part II).

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5337 would cost \$40 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriations of the authorized amounts. In addition, CBO "expects that complying with the bill's provisions would increase the administrative expenses of some federal agencies, but because of the confidential nature of the CFIUS review process, the number of agencies involved, and the confidential information needed to prepare an estimate for some provisions of the legislation, CBO cannot determine a precise estimate of the likely total costs of this bill."

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: CFIUS currently exists and operates under an Executive Order, and this bill codifies its functions into law and expands its reach and Congress' oversight function.

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

Constitutional Authority: The Financial Services Committee, in House Report [109-523, Part 1](#), cites constitutional authority in Article X, Section Y, but fails to cite a specific Clause.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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H.R. 2730—United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act—as amended (Shadegg, R-AZ)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 26th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2730, as amended, would authorize funding for certain joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academics for the development of alternative renewable energy sources.

Existing Funds. Specifically, the bill would authorize \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2012 **from existing funds** for, and the existing programs at, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to award collaborative energy grants to eligible entities.

Eligible entities could only be joint ventures comprised of both Israeli and American private business entities or both Israeli academics (living and working in Israel) and American academics, aimed at U.S.-Israel cooperation on research, development, or commercialization of alternative energy, improved energy efficiency, or renewable energy sources.

The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the International Energy Advisory Board (established by this legislation), would establish the criteria for eligible entities, and the Secretary, in consultation with the Israel-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation or the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF), would review and approve applications and determine the amount of each grant awarded. Each grant recipient would have to report to the Secretary within 180 days of receiving a grant on how the funds were used and the success of each funded project.

Recoupment. The Secretary would have to promulgate regulations for the recoupment of grant funds that have led to the development of a product or process that is marketed or used. Such recoupment would be required as a condition for award and would be proportional to the federal share of the costs of the related project (derived from royalties or licensing fees received in connection with the funded product or process). The Secretary could waive the recoupment requirements “as necessary,” depending on the commercial competitiveness of the entity or entities developing or using the product or process, the profitability of the project, and the commercial viability of the product or process utilized.

H.R. 2730 would also establish a four-member, binational International Energy Advisory Board in the U.S. Department of Energy to advise the Secretary on the criteria for grant recipients and the total amount of grant money to be awarded to all grantees selected by the Secretary each fiscal year, in consultation with BIRD and BSF.

The Secretary would be authorized to accept private contributions to carry out this legislation.

Termination. The grant program and the Advisory Board would terminate seven years after this legislation's enactment.

Constitutional Authority. The legislation contains a constitutional authority statement *in the text of the bill*, citing authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the congressional power to regulate commerce with foreign nations).

Additional Background: The bill notes that:

- “the special relationship between Israel and the United States has been and continues to be manifested in a variety of jointly-funded cooperative programs in the field of scientific research and development, such as—
 - (A) the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF);
 - (B) the Israel-United States Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD); and
 - (C) the Israel-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation; and
- “these programs, supported by the matching contributions from the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States and directed by key scientists and academics from both countries, have made possible many scientific breakthroughs in the fields of life sciences, medicine, bioengineering, agriculture, biotechnology, communications, and others.”

A U.S.-Israeli collaborative framework for energy research and development has been in place since 1996.

Committee Action: On May 26, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the Energy & Commerce Committee, which, on June 20, 2006, marked it up and ordered it reported to the full House by voice vote. The Committee, in response to concerns raised by the RSC, further amended the reported bill to ensure that the grant program would be funded using existing funds and authorities.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although a cost estimate for the amended version of the bill is not available, the funds for this grant program will come from funds already authorized to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Thus, the RSC will record this as a no-new-cost bill.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: While the bill creates a new grant program, it does so within existing funds and authorities.

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

Constitutional Authority: The legislation contains a constitutional authority statement *in the text of the bill*, citing authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the congressional power to regulate commerce with foreign nations).

Outside Organizations: The Republican Jewish Coalition and AIPAC are supportive of this bill.

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**H.R. 5611 — Fuel Consumption Education Act — *as amended*
(Conaway, R-TX)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 25, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

Note: Neither the amended text of this bill, nor the committee report, was available on LIS on the day the bill was scheduled to be considered on the floor.

Summary: H.R. 5611, as amended, would establish a public/private partnership between the Department of Energy and energy industry groups to carry out a public education campaign on energy conservation and an information campaign to ensure adequate fuel supplies during emergency evacuations. The specific provisions of the bill are as follows:

- Requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), **through existing programs at the Office of Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy**, to enter into a partnership with interested energy industry groups to carry out a public education campaign that provides U.S. drivers information about immediate measures to conserve transportation fuel;
- Requires that the public/private partnership create a five-member advisory board, chaired by a DOE representative, and include representatives from the Energy Department, the oil industry, the automotive industry, and Congress;
- Requires that the public information campaign be targeted to reach “the widest audience possible,” and include television, print, internet, or any other method to maximize dissemination;
- Authorizes the DOE to expend up to \$10 million for the above provisions **from funds previously authorized to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**, and prohibits DOE from providing more than 50 percent of the costs of the public education campaign;
- Requires DOE, **through existing programs at the Office of Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy**, to enter into a partnership with interested industry groups and state and local governments, to carry out an education campaign to provide information to state and local governments and the private sector on “best practices” to ensure adequate fuel supplies during emergency evacuations; this public/private partnership would also

have a five-member advisory board including various government and industry representatives; and

- Authorizes DOE to expend up to \$3 million for the above provision **from funds previously authorized** to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- 1) “today’s gasoline prices are taking a severe toll on the pocketbooks of all Americans;
- 2) “a large number of factors contribute to the price of gasoline, including worldwide demand for crude oil, taxes, international conflicts, regional supply chains, environmental regulations, and refining capacity;
- 3) “individuals can take steps to address rising demand by using a few simple gas saving tips; and
- 4) “increased driving efficiency will lower the demand for gasoline and thereby lower prices in the short term.”

Additional Information: The Committee and sponsor’s office, in response to RSC concerns raised about the cost and scope of the bill, made several substantive changes to the bill, including the requirement that both information campaigns provided for in the bill now be funded from existing DOE funds.

It should be noted that certain functions to be carried out under this bill are already carried out by the private sector and by various states:

- The State of California launched the “Flex Your Power ... at the Pump” public education campaign to help Californians use gasoline more efficiently, and to protect the environment. See: http://www.fypower.org/save_gasoline.
- Several gas companies (including BP, ExxonMobil, and Chevron) have recently run or are currently running public advertisement campaigns educating individuals on how to conserve energy (sometimes included in product advertisements and sometimes without). To view these privately funding television commercials, please visit these websites:
http://www.exxonmobil.com/AP-English/News/SG_Ads.asp
<http://www.willyoujoinus.com/?source=paidsearch&gclid=CPuKuqeQrYYCFUAbGgodfBz2DQ>
<http://www.bp.com/multipleimagesection.do?categoryId=9004142&contentId=7007146>.

Committee Action: H.R. 5611 was introduced on June 14, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality. The bill was marked-up and reported, as amended, to the House by voice vote on June 20, 2006 (H. Rept. 109-536).

Cost to Taxpayers: The amended version of the bill would authorize no new funds.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: As noted above, the bill requires the creation of two new federal public education programs, but does so using existing funds appropriated to an existing office under DOE.

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

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 109-536 cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8, and Clause 3 (power of Congress to regulate commerce among the states) of the Constitution. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.R. 5319 — Deleting Online Predators Act of 2006 — *as amended*
Fitzpatrick (R-PA)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

Summary: H.R. 5319 would amend the Communications Act of 1934, to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.

Specifically, the bill would require that, in order to receive universal support services, libraries, schools, school boards, local educational agencies, or other authorities with responsibility for administration of the school that it enforces a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes monitoring the online activities of minors and the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that:

- protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors; and
- protects against access to a commercial social networking website or chat room unless used for an educational purpose with adult supervision.

In addition, libraries would be required to protect against access by minors without parental authorization to a commercial social networking website or chat room, and inform parents that sexual predators can use these websites and chat rooms to prey on children.

H.R. 5319 also directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), to issue a consumer alert regarding the potential dangers to children on Internet child predators, including the potential danger of commercial social networking websites and chat rooms through which personal information about child users of these websites may be accessed by child predators. The FTC is also directed to establish a website to serve as a resource for information for parents, teachers and school administrators, and others regarding the potential dangers posed by the use of the Internet by children, including information about commercial social networking websites and chat rooms through which personal information about child users of such websites may be accessed by child predators.

Directs the FTC to define the terms “social networking website” and “chat room” for the purposes of carrying out this bill. In determining these definitions, the bill requires the FTC to consider the extent to which a website:

- is offered by a commercial entity;
- permits registered users to create an on-line profile that includes detailed personal information;
- permits registered users to create an on-line journal and share such a journal with other users;
- elicits highly-personalized information from users; and
- enables communication among users.

H.R. 5319 lists the following findings:

- “sexual predators approach minors on the Internet using chat rooms and social networking websites, and, according to the United States Attorney General, one in five children has been approached sexually on the Internet;
- “sexual predators can use these chat rooms and websites to locate, learn about, befriend, and eventually prey on children by engaging them in sexually explicit conversations, asking for photographs, and attempting to lure children into a face to face meeting; and
- “with the explosive growth of trendy chat rooms and social networking websites, it is becoming more and more difficult to monitor and protect minors from those with devious intentions, particularly when children are away from parental supervision.”

Additional Information: To learn more about universal services support, please view this website: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/universalservice.html>.

Committee Action: H.R. 5319 was introduced on May 9, 2006, and referred to the committee on Energy and Commerce, which held one subcommittee hearing. No additional action was taken at the committee level.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no CBO estimate available for H.R. 5319. However, the bill authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill expands rules for public and private sector entities to enforce new government regulation.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: unknown.

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H.Res. 928 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week should be established — *as introduced (Johnson, D-TX)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 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 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week should be established. Because the resolution merely states a sense of Congress, but does not actually establish a commemorative week, the Parliamentarian’s office has ruled that it is allowable under House rules.

Summary: H.Res. 928 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “recognizes the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;
- 2) **“supports the designation of an appropriate week as ‘National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week’;** and
- 3) **“requests the President to issue a proclamation designating such a week,** and calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities.” [*emphasis added*]

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- **“Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week should be established.**
- “historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;
- “historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education;
- “the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition; and
- “the Senate, in S. Res. 528 passed on July 13, 2006, designated the week beginning September 10, 2006, as ‘National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.’”

Committee Action: H.Res. 928 was introduced on July 19, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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.

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H.Con.Res. 400 — Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of Venezuela should actively support strategies for ensuring secure airport facilities that meet international certifications to prevent trafficking of controlled substances, narcotics, and laundered money
— *as amended* (Burton, R-IN)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 400 resolves that Congress:

- “strongly condemns the actions and inactions of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which have created fertile ground for criminal drug trafficking organizations;
- “strongly condemns the failures on the part of the Government of Venezuela to stem the flow of illicit narcotics through its territory; and
- “strongly condemns the complicity of senior Venezuelan Government law enforcement officials and transportation officials who are effectively enabling large scale shipments of both cocaine and heroin at the Simon Bolivar International Airport and other transit points.”

H.Con.Res. 400 further resolves a sense of Congress that:

- “it should continue to be the policy of the United States to support cooperation between Venezuela and partners in the Andean region to combat trafficking in narcotics and other controlled substances;
- “steps should continue to be taken to restore bilateral law enforcement cooperation between Venezuela and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
- “it should continue to be the policy of the United States to work with the international community, including the Organization of American States (OAS), to assist with a thorough review of the measures in place at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas;
- “it should continue to be the policy of the United States to work with other member states of OAS to bring Venezuela into compliance and fully adhere to OAS conventions and comprehensive treaties to prevent, punish, and eliminate narco-terrorism, which constitutes ‘a serious threat to democratic values and to international peace and security’;
- “the Secretary of Transportation should provide to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, on behalf of the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and the Department of Transportation, a report with an assessment of the process undertaken by the Government of Venezuela toward restoring airport security measures and controls that meet international standards of safety; and
- “the Secretary of State should provide to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution a report on Venezuela’s compliance with its responsibilities under international counternarcotics treaties.

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

- “weak law enforcement, corruption, and a weak judicial system in Venezuela allow criminal organizations to act with impunity;
- “the promulgation by Venezuela of two new laws in October 2005, the ‘Law against Organized Crime’ and the ‘Law against the Trafficking and Consumption of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances’, brought Venezuelan law into compliance with the 1988 UN Drug Convention; however, it is not certain, according to the Department of State, whether Venezuela’s political and judicial institutions are up to the task of vigorous and impartial implementation of such new laws;
- “estimates indicate that as much as 90 percent of the cocaine and heroin trafficked through the Simon Bolivar International Airport over the last 12 months was not intercepted;
- “the Government of Venezuela continues to fail to effectively utilize several airport security systems provided by the United States specifically aimed at increasing the Simon Bolivar International Airport counternarcotics capabilities; and
- “the Government of Venezuela has not taken any steps unilaterally to prosecute any corrupt airport officials relating to cases of money laundering or drug trafficking at the airport despite credible intelligence estimates that there is potentially millions of dollars in narcotics proceeds passing through Simon Bolivar International Airport and Venezuela.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 400 was introduced on May 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.

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H.R. 5877—To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006—as introduced (Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 26th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5877 would extend, by about two months (from August 5, 2006, to September 29, 2006), the sanction authorities under the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172).

Additional Background: On April 26, 2006, the House passed the Iran Freedom Support Act (H.R. 282), which would delete the sunset of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 altogether, raise the hurdle for the presidentially-certified terminations of the sanctions against Iran, and remove the mandatory sanctions against Libya. The Senate has not yet considered H.R. 282.

To read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 282, please visit this webpage:
http://www.house.gov/pence/rsc/doc/LB_042606_Suspensions.doc.

Committee Action: H.R. 5877 was introduced on July 25, 2006 and referred to the Committees on International Relations, Financial Services, Ways & Means, and Government Reform, respectively, none of which took official action on the bill.

Administration Position: Although no official Statement of Administration Policy is available for this bill or H.R. 282, the delay in moving H.R. 282 through the legislative process was widely attributed to Administration concerns. Reportedly, such concerns have been lifted.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate is unavailable.

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: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 844 — Congratulating the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on ten years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine — as reported (Engel, D-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 844 resolves that the House:

- “congratulates the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on ten years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine;
- “recognizes the role of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in raising awareness and increasing financial and political support for this important cause;
- “admires the commitment of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative to collaborating with developing country researchers, governments, and civil society in the common goal of finding a vaccine;
- “expresses support for the continued success of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative; and

- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.”

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

- “HIV/AIDS has killed over 25,000,000 people worldwide and poses a serious threat to the economic and political stability of the countries hit hardest by this terrible epidemic;
- “the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) was founded in 1996 as a public-private partnership with a mission to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world, with a particular focus on developing countries, where the need is most urgent;
- “since its founding, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has advanced six vaccine candidates from concept to clinical trials, targeting the subtypes of HIV circulating in the developing world—a record matched only by one large pharmaceutical company; and
- “the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is a founding member of the Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise, recognized by the G–8 as an important actor in the quest for a vaccine; is an affiliated member of the National Institutes of Health’s Partnership for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation; and is hosting NIH trials at International AIDS Vaccine Initiative sites in Africa.”

Additional Information: The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is an affiliated member of the National Institutes of Health’s Partnership for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation. The RSC budget suggested cutting the NIH budget by 10%.

Committee Action: H.Res. 844 was introduced on May 25, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The resolution was marked-up and the committee sought to place the resolution on the suspension calendar by unanimous consent on June 27, 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.

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