



Legislative Bulletin.....September 19, 2006

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- S. 418** - Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: Less than \$500,000 each year

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 1

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 3

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

H.R. 4583 — Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act — *as amended* (Blackburn, R-TN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4583 would amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 by adding provisions to standardize the labeling of wool fibers by setting average diameters for each wool fiber category. The bill also sets a standard for labeling clothes made of cashmere.

Additional Information: According Committee Report 109-644, H.R. 4583 would adopt as U.S. law wool and cashmere labeling standards promulgated by the International World Trade Organization.

Committee Action: H.R. 4583 was introduced on December 16, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill was marked-up by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, and was ordered reported to the House, as amended, by voice vote on July 26, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that the cost of enforcing H.R. 4583 would be less than \$500,000 a year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 4583 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: While the mandates in the bill do not meet the definitions in UMRA, the bill would codify the standards for wool labeling, and would require clothing manufacturers to adhere to the new labeling rules.

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

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 109-644 cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8, and Clause 3 of the Constitution, the power to regulate commerce.

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H.Con.Res. 210 — Supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015 — *as introduced* (Shaw, R-FL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 210 resolves that Congress:

- “supports the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by 2015.”

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

- “it is estimated that cancer cost the Nation nearly \$190,000,000,000 in 2003, including more than \$69,000,000,000 in direct medical costs;

- “the Nation’s investment in cancer research and programs has led to real progress—between 1991 and 2001, cancer death rates declined by more than 9 percent and about 258,000 lives were saved;
- “at least half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by applying existing knowledge;
- “the Director of the National Cancer Institute has set a bold goal to eliminate suffering and death due to cancer by 2015; and
- “eliminating suffering and death due to cancer will require a commitment by the Congress to continue to make the fight against cancer a priority.”

Additional Information: Recently, Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD), campaigning against Maryland Lt. Gov Michael Steele for Sen. Sarbanes open seat, claimed “we are going to lick cancer by 2015.” This statement has been widely criticized by bloggers and on talk radio.

(sources: http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_227125236.html, and <http://www.camedwards.com/2006/08/15/vote-for-me-and-ill-cure-cancer/>)

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 210 was introduced on July 18, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.Res. 982 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week — *as introduced (Capps, D-CA)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 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, and calls on citizens to observe appropriate programs and activities with respect to the week. Because the resolution merely states support for, and urges action on, but does not establish a commemorative week, the parliamentarian’s office has ruled that it is allowable under House rules.

Summary: H.Res. 982 resolves that the House:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week;
- “supports efforts to educate people about peripheral arterial disease;

- “acknowledges the critical importance of peripheral arterial disease awareness to improve national cardiovascular health;
- “supports raising awareness of the consequences of undiagnosed and untreated peripheral arterial disease and the need to seek appropriate care as a serious public health issue; and
- “calls upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.”

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

- “peripheral arterial disease is a significant vascular disease that can be as serious as a heart attack or stroke;
- “African-American ethnicity is a strong and independent risk factor for peripheral arterial disease, and yet this fact is not well known to those at risk;
- “effective treatments are available for people with peripheral arterial disease to reduce heart attacks, strokes, and amputations and to improve quality of life;
- “there is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of peripheral arterial disease among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease to improve quality of life, prevent heart attacks and strokes, and save lives and limbs; and
- “September 18 through September 22, 2006, would be an appropriate week to observe National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week.”

Additional Information: National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week is an effort by The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health, and the P.A.D. Coalition. On August 3, 2006, the U.S. Senate designated the week of September 18-22 as National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week. (S. Res. 556)
 (sources: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2006/nhlbi-13.htm>, <http://www.padcoalition.org/wp/>, and <http://dorgan.senate.gov/newsroom/record.cfm?id=261360>)

Committee Action: H.Res. 982 was introduced on September 9, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.Res. 526 — Supporting the goals and ideals of observing the Year of Polio Awareness — *as introduced (Rothman, D-NJ)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 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 year, and urges the federal government to educate citizens with respect to the year. Because the resolution merely states support for, and urges action on, but does not establish a commemorative year, the parliamentarian’s office has ruled that it is allowable under House rules.

Summary: H.Res. 526 resolves that the House:

- “recognizes the need for every child, in America and throughout the world, to be vaccinated against polio;
- “recognizes the 1,630,000 Americans who survived polio, their new battle with post-polio sequelae, and the need for education and appropriate medical care;
- “requests that all appropriate Federal departments and agencies take immediate action to educate—
 - the people of the United States about the need for polio vaccination; and
 - polio survivors and medical professionals in the United States about the cause and treatment of post-polio sequelae; and
- “supports the goals and ideals of observing the Year of Polio Awareness to promote vaccination and post-polio sequelae education and treatment.”

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

- “2005 is the 50th anniversary of the injectable killed polio vaccine;
- “the polio vaccines eliminated naturally occurring polio cases in the United States but have not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world;
- “the success of the polio vaccines has caused people to forget the 1,630,000 Americans born before the development of the vaccines who had polio during the epidemics in the middle of the 20th century;
- “at least 70 percent of paralytic polio survivors and 40 percent of nonparalytic polio survivors are developing post-polio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling symptoms that occur about 35 years after the poliovirus attack, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing; and
- “the mission of the International Post-Polio Task Force includes educating medical professionals and the world’s 20,000,000 polio survivors about post-polio sequelae through the international Post-Polio Letter Campaign, The Post-Polio Institute at New Jersey’s Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, the publication of The Polio Paradox, and the television public service announcement provided by the National Broadcasting Company.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 526 was introduced on November 1, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health, 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. 386 — Honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America’s first professionally trained African-American nurse
— as introduced (Johnson, D-TX)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 386 resolves that Congress:

- “honors Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first African-American nurse for an outstanding nursing career, dedication to the United States nursing profession, and exemplary contributions to local and national professional nursing organizations;
- “recognizes Mary Eliza Mahoney as the first professionally trained African-American nurse, and honors other African-American nurses who practice nursing with distinction;
- “honors and supports the goals and activities of National Nurses Week;
- “promotes further understanding and public awareness of the history of American nurses, who practiced nursing with compassion and devotion and transmitted new scientific knowledge using science based nursing practice; and
- “advocates for *women of color to enter nursing* and supports the strategies of the American Nurses Association to counteract the shortage of nurses.” (emphasis added)

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

- “Mary Eliza Mahoney, at the age of 33, was accepted as a student nurse at the hospital-based program of nursing at the New England Hospital for Women and Children;
- “Mary Eliza Mahoney devoted her time and efforts unselfishly to the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and was installed as the Official Chaplin;
- “Mary Eliza Mahoney supported the suffrage movement and was the first African-American professionally trained nurse to receive retirement benefits from a fund left by a Boston physician to care for 60 nurses, who received twenty-five dollars every three months as long as they lived;
- “Mary Eliza Mahoney advanced the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice and confronting issues affecting professional nurses, such as the shortage of nurses;
- “today the shortage of nurses is a crisis, estimated to be 110,000 nurses, and is expected to increase to 2,800,000 by 2020 if the shortage is not addressed; and
- “nursing is a critical investment to the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, and the Nation should invest in and value nursing care.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 386 was introduced on April 6, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health, 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.Res. 622 — To recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II — *as amended* (Issa, R-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution, as amended.

Summary: H.Res. 622 resolves that the House:

- “reaffirms, recognizes, and honors the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democracy and their important contribution to the victorious outcome of World War II.”

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

- “in 1898, the Philippines Archipelago was acquired by the United States, became an organized United States territory in 1902, and, in preparation for independence, became a self-governing commonwealth in 1935;
- “the people of the Philippines and of the United States developed strong ties throughout the decades-long democratic transition of the island, compelling the United States to assume the responsibilities of defending the archipelago and protecting the people of the Philippines;
- “on July 26, 1941, anticipating the aggression of Japanese invasion forces in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the imminent conflict between the United States and Japan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order, calling the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines into armed service under the command of United States Army officers led by General Douglas MacArthur;
- “on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Government began a devastating four-year war with the United States with their stealth bombing attacks of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Clark Air Field, Philippines, and led to the loss of tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers and countless civilian casualties; and
- “the contributions of the Filipino people, and the sacrifices of their soldiers in World War II, have not been fully recognized.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 622 was introduced on December 16, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The bill was marked-up and was reported to the House, as amended, by unanimous consent on September 13, 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.

H.Con.Res. 415 — Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha’i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha’is — *as introduced* (Kirk, R-IL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 415 resolves that Congress:

- “condemns the Government of Iran for the October 29, 2005 letter (directing the Revolutionary Guard and the police to identify Baha’is and monitor their activities), calls on the Government of Iran to immediately cease such activities and all activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha’i community, and continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its nationals, including members of the Baha’i community; and
- “requests the President to—
 - call for the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha’i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants on human rights;
 - emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, including its treatment of the Baha’i community and other religious minorities, as a significant factor in the foreign policy of the United States Government regarding Iran; and
- “initiate an active and consistent dialogue with other governments and the European Union in order to persuade the Government of Iran to rectify its human rights practices.”

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

- “in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, and 2000, Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it deplores the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha’i community and holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha’i Faith;
- “on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Asma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran’s Armed Forces to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the Police Force, stating that the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, had instructed the Command Headquarters to identify members of the Baha’i Faith in Iran and monitor their activities;
- “the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed ‘grave concern and apprehension’ about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Baha’i community;
- “in 2005 the Iranian Government initiated a new wave of assaults, homes raids, harassment, and detentions against Baha’is, and in December 2005, Mr. Zabihullah Mahrami died after 10 years of imprisonment on charges of apostasy due to his membership in the Baha’i Faith; and
- “beginning in October 2005, an anti-Baha’i campaign has been conducted in the state-sponsored Kayhan newspaper and in broadcast media.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 415 was introduced on May 24, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The bill was marked-up and was reported to the House by unanimous consent on September 13, 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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H.Res. 942 – Recognizing the centennial anniversary on August 5, 2006, of the Iranian constitution of 1906 — *as introduced* (King, R-IA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 942 resolves that the House:

- “recognizes the centennial anniversary of the Iranian constitution of 1906;
- “is mindful of the democratic revolution of 1906 that lead to the drafting of the Iranian constitution; and
- “expresses its profound hope that the people of Iran will once again enjoy a democratic government in the spirit of the Iranian constitution of 1906.”

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

- “in 1906, one hundred years ago, the people of Iran rose in a peaceful democratic revolution against arbitrary, despotic rulers;
- “these rulers bowed to the wishes of the people on August 5, 1906, and issued a decree for the convocation of a freely elected assembly, the Majles, to write a democratic constitution;
- “the Iranian constitution, written pursuant to the decree of 1906, was a democratic instrument providing for—
 - the establishment of an independent judiciary;
 - the establishment of an independent legislature with members directly elected by the people;
 - socio-political progress, including the separation of religion from the affairs of government; and
 - the commitment of the government to the territorial integrity of Iran;
- “the maneuvering of the imperial powers and a fundamentalist clergy crushed the democratic aspirations represented in the constitution of 1906; and
- “those ideals (in the constitution) were abolished by the clerical-led dictatorship of the Ayatollahs in 1979.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 942 was introduced on September 25, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The bill was marked-up and was reported to the House by unanimous consent on September 13, 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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H.Res. 415—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam needs to do more to resolve claims for confiscated real and personal property—as amended (Sanchez, Loretta, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 19th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 415 would resolve that the House:

- “welcomes recent attempts by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to establish private land use rights for some of its citizens, and hopes that these rights are quickly expanded to encompass all Vietnamese citizens;
- “calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to more fully recognize its responsibility to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution of property that was confiscated by the government;
- “calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to direct local officials, particularly in the Central Highlands region, to promptly investigate and resolve complaints about discriminatory and uncompensated confiscation of land;
- “urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to form a national commission for processing restitution claims, and to obligate local government officials, bodies, and agencies to provide all necessary documentation and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of decisions issued by the national commission; and
- “strongly urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam--
 - to ensure that implementation of land use reforms by local officials does not result in increased inequity in access to land, particularly for the poor and for those out of favor with the Communist Party; and
 - to ensure that the government provides fair, prompt, and equitable restitution to former landowners for the property rights of all confiscated lands.”

H.Res. 415 would also express a sense of the House that the President should:

- “specifically consider land use rights for individuals in determining whether the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)); and
- “direct the Secretary of State to include, in the Secretary of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices submitted to the Congress under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the status of land use rights and restitution claims in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.”

Additional Background: The resolution notes that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has used the confiscation of land as a tool of repression against certain ethnic minorities.

Committee Action: On July 28, 2005, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which, on September 13, 2006, marked it up and by unanimous consent agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules in the full House.

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.

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H.Con.Res. 317— Requesting the President to issue a proclamation annually calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing—as introduced (Conyers, D-MI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 19th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 317 would resolve that Congress “urgently requests” that the President:

- “issue a proclamation annually calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, a day which is dedicated--
 - to eradicating violence, hunger, poverty, and suffering; and
 - to establishing greater trust and fellowship among peace-loving nations and families everywhere; and
- “invite former Presidents of the United States, Nobel laureates, and other notables, including American business, labor, faith, and civic leaders, to join the President in promoting appropriate activities for Americans and in extending appropriate greetings from the families of America to families in the rest of the world.”

The resolution also states that, “in the year 2005, the people of the world suffered many calamitous events, including devastation from tsunami, terror attacks, war, famine, genocide, hurricanes, earthquakes, political and religious conflict, disease, poverty, and rioting, all necessitating global cooperation, compassion, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes.”

Additionally, the resolution states that, “Congress desires...to make tangible efforts to reverse the growing mistrust of the United States.”

Additional Background: As the resolution points out, on December 15, 2000, Congress adopted S.Con.Res. 138, expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should issue an annual proclamation calling upon the American people to observe an international day of peace and sharing at the beginning of each year. Further, in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted

Resolution 56/2, which invited “Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter.”

Committee Action: On December 15 2005, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which, on September 13, 2006, marked it up and by unanimous consent agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules in the full House.

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.

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H.Res. 976 — Condemning human rights abuses by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressing solidarity with the Iranian people — *as introduced* (McCaul, R-TX)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 976 resolves that the House:

- “condemns the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and strongly urges the international community to bring pressure on Iran to halt discrimination and violence toward its citizens, in particular women, religious and ethnic minorities, and vocal opponents of the regime;
- “urges the Government of the United States to continue to pressure the Government of Iran into making measurable improvements in the human rights situation for the Iranian people; and
- “expresses its unity with all Iranian people and shares their desire to see Iran become a free country with transparent, democratic institutions and equal rights for all.”

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

- “the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected through a controlled and fixed election process which does not allow the Iranian people to freely elect their leaders;
- “the Government of Iran is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- “the Government of Iran practices discrimination against (women, religious and ethnic minorities, and vocal opponents of the regime) through denial of access to education and employment, seizure of private property, violent suppression of peaceful protest and freedom of assembly, arbitrary arrest and detention, physical and mental torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment, such as public executions, hanging, and stoning, and extra judicial killings of dissidents and ordinary citizens;

- “the Constitution of Iran promotes religious intolerance and prohibits religious freedom by endorsing one religion to the exclusion of other religious beliefs;
- “an unelected theocratic ruler and clerical elite exert control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Iranian Government; and
- “Iran sent to the June 2006 inaugural meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council Saeed Mortazavi, Tehran’s Prosecutor General responsible for jailing hundreds of journalists and linked to the 2003 arrest, imprisonment, and murder of an Iranian-Canadian photojournalist, showing a blatant disregard for the issue of human rights reform.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 976 was introduced on September 28, 2006, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The bill was marked-up and was reported to the House by unanimous consent on September 13, 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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H.Res. 959 — Recognizing and supporting the success of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 in increasing adoption and the efforts the Act has spurred including National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, and encouraging adoption throughout the year — *as introduced* (Camp, R-MI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 959 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “recognizes and supports the success of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and of the efforts it has spurred;
- 2) “recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month; and
- 3) “encourages adoption throughout the year.”

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

- “since the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased significantly, with approximately 51,000 children adopted from foster care in fiscal year 2004 alone;
- “despite this remarkable progress, approximately 118,000 children in the United States foster care system are waiting to be adopted, and 49 percent of these children are at least nine years old;

- “the Department of Health and Human Services launched a series of public service announcements promoting the adoption of children eight and older in 2002;
- “more than 6,000 children have been placed into adoptive homes since the Department of Health and Human Services launched www.adoptuskids.org, a national photo listing service for children awaiting adoption across the United States; and
- “judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, and child advocates in 45 States and the District of Columbia participated in 227 events in conjunction with National Adoption Day in 2005.”

Additional Background: The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 was introduced as H.R. 867 in the 105th Congress by Rep. Camp, and was signed into law on November 19, 1997 ([P.L. 105-89](#)). It passed the House by a vote of [416-5](#), and passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Committee Action: H.Res. 959 was introduced on July 27, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. 5295 — Student and Teacher Safety Act of 2006 — *as amended* (Davis, R-KY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

Summary: H.R. 5295 would require local educational agencies (LEA) to deem as reasonable and permissible, any search by a full-time teacher or school official, acting on “any reasonable suspicion based on professional experience and judgment,” of any minor student on the grounds of any public school, if the search is conducted to ensure that that classrooms, school buildings, school property and students remain free from the threat of all weapons, dangerous materials, or illegal narcotics. The bill provides that the measures used to conduct any search must be “reasonably related to the search’s objectives, without being excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age, sex, and the nature of the offense.”

H.R. 5295 would prohibit any LEA that does not fully comply with the above requirement from receiving any federal funding through the Safe and Drug Free School program (Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), during the period of noncompliance.

H.R. 5295 lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “The United States Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics reported in the 2005 Indicators of School Crime and Safety that in 2003 seventeen percent of

students in grades 9–12 reported they carried a weapon. Six percent reported having carried a weapon on school grounds;

- “The same survey reported that 29 percent of all students in grades 9–12 reported that someone offered, sold, or gave them an illegal drug on school property within the last 12 months; and
- “That while the Supreme Court affirmed the Fourth Amendment’s application to students in public schools in *New Jersey vs. TLO* (1985), the Court held that searches of students by school officials do not require warrants issued by judges showing probable cause. The Court will ordinarily hold that such a search is permissible if—
 - “there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the search will reveal evidence that the student violated the law or school rules; and
 - “the measures used to conduct the search are reasonably related to the search’s objectives, without being excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age, sex, and nature of the offense.”

Committee Action: H.R. 5295 was introduced on May 4, 2006, and referred to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to an unofficial CBO estimate, the bill would not increase federal spending.

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: No Committee Report citing constitutional authority is available. 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.Res. 874 — Recognizing and honoring America’s Seniors — *as introduced* **(Gonzalez, D-TX)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 874 resolves that the House:

- “recognizes the importance of honoring our Nation’s senior citizens;
- “encourages children and students in the United States to set aside time to listen and learn from senior citizens and to read about their many contributions to America; and
- “urges all Americans to honor the service of our seniors by saying thank you to them, by showing them respect, and by wishing them well.”

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

- “our seniors have made countless sacrifices and contributions to helping make America great;

- “our seniors include members of the ‘Greatest Generation’ who fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and other military conflicts, and have sacrificed at home and abroad to help keep America free;
- “in much of the world throughout known history the elderly have been viewed with respect, honor, and dignity as sources of wisdom and experience;
- “it is appropriate that the Nation honor the significant accomplishments, too numerous to list here, of our ‘senior citizens’; and
- “our seniors deserve our support for the retirement with dignity and with adequate medical care.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 874 was introduced on June 16, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce’s Subcommittee on Select Education, 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. 419 — Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York — *as introduced* (Kelly, R-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 419 resolves that Congress:

- “recognizes and supports the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York;
- “encourages the people of the United States to participate in the development of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor; and
- “encourages Federal departments and agencies to cooperate, assist, and participate in the development of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.”

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

- “the Badge of Military Merit, an award for valor in the Revolutionary War, is the inspiration for today’s Purple Heart medal;
- “on the bicentennial of General Washington’s birthday in February 1932, the Badge of Military Merit was redesignated by General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff of the Army, as the Purple Heart, to be awarded to persons killed or wounded in action against an enemy of the United States;
- “the Nation, as it fights the forces of evil that would undermine those democratic principles upon which the Nation was founded, continues to add brave members of the Armed Forces to the ranks of those who have received the Purple Heart;

- “the State of New York has dedicated substantial resources to the creation of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor to be constructed at the New Windsor Cantonment, a New York State Historic Site, in New Windsor, New York, to honor those individuals who have been awarded the Purple Heart and to inform and educate the people of the United States about the history and importance of this distinguished combat award; and
- “the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor will be a permanent place of remembrance of the service and sacrifices made by the members of the Armed Forces wounded or killed in service to America from World War I through the current war against terrorism, both at home and abroad.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 419 was introduced on May 25, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, 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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S. 418 — Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act—*as received* (Sen. Enzi, R-WY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 418 prohibits the sale of contractual or periodic payment plan mutual funds to military personnel. The bill requires insurance companies to provide certain notices about insurance policies offered by the U.S. government when selling an insurance policy to servicemen or while marketing on military installations. For instance, brokers would have to disclose that the federal government does not sanction or recommend a given financial product, make an “appropriate suitability determination” on whether the product fits the needs of the particular service member, and disclose that subsidized insurance is available through the federal government.

Under the provisions of S. 418, the Department of Defense is required to maintain a list of agents and advisors barred from doing business on military installations. S. 418 also amends securities law to require registered securities associations to establish a system for collecting and retaining registration information, and a 1-800 telephone number to receive and promptly respond to certain inquiries. In addition, the bill would clarify that state insurance commissioners have the jurisdiction to regulate the business of insurance on military bases, in most circumstances.

Additional Information: In 2004, the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing to consider the merits of contractual mutual funds. These plans have a high first-year sales commission (50%) with such fees gradually diminishing over the term of the contract (versus the average less-than-6-percent commission on other securities products such as mutual funds). The committee reports that the

contractual plan has largely disappeared from the civilian market since the 1980s due to its excessive sales charges and the emergence of low-cost products. The Committee states that the excessive sales charge of the contractual plan makes it susceptible to abusive and misleading sales practices. In addition, it was reported that certain life insurance products being offered to servicemen are being improperly marketed as investment products. These products provide very low death benefits for very high premiums that are front-loaded in the first few years.

Committee Action: On April 13, 2005, the House Financial Services Committee reported the House companion to S. 418 (H.R. 458), and the bill passed the full House by a vote of 405-2 on June 28, 2005. The Senate cleared its version on June 29, 2006, and the bill was received in the House and held at the desk the following day.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing S. 418 would result in no significant cost to the federal government.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill places limitations on the private insurance market to offer certain financial products.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local Government, or Private Sector Mandates?: The bill does not include intergovernmental mandates and, according to CBO, any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would be voluntary. However, S. 418 does impose private sector mandates by prohibiting insurance companies from selling a particular financial product, and the cost of compliance is income foregone from sales. The bill also imposes various disclosure requirements on insurers and registered security associations.

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