



Legislative Bulletin.....September 29, 2006

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H.Res. 1031 — Requesting the Department of Health and Human Services to outline the Federal Government’s responsibilities, taking into account the responsibilities and actions of the State and local governments, to support a program for medically monitoring and treating all individuals who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11

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: 1

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

H.Res. 1031 — Requesting the Department of Health and Human Services to outline the Federal Government’s responsibilities, taking into account the responsibilities and actions of the State and local governments, to support a program for medically monitoring and treating all individuals who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11 — as introduced (Fossella, R-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Friday, September 29, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1031 would resolve that the House of Representatives requests that the Department of Health and Human Services:

- “outline the Federal Government’s responsibilities, taking into account the responsibilities and actions of the State and local governments, to support a program for medically monitoring and treating all individuals who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11; and
- “submit the outline to Congress and the President as quickly as practical.”

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

- “as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center, towers one, two and seven collapsed releasing pulverized materials that are known to cause adverse health effects;
- “the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program has documented 70 percent of screened 9/11 responders have experienced respiratory problems following the attacks and 60 percent continue to experience respiratory problems;
- “the New York City Fire Department and the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program have both documented extensive mental health effects on rescue and recovery workers;
- “the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, has appointed Dr. John Howard as the Federal coordinator of 9/11 health and has announced a task force on 9/11 health; and
- “*there exists a joint responsibility* on the part of the Federal, State, and local governments serving affected populations to address the health needs of rescue and recovery workers who responded to Ground Zero on 9/11” (emphasis added).

Committee Action: H.Res. 1031 was introduced on September 21, 2006, and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no CBO score available for H.Res. 1031. Although the resolution authorizes no expenditures, it is unclear what potential costs would be incurred by the federal government upon the creation of a program for medically monitoring and treating all individuals who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No. However, the resolution encourages the consideration of a new government program to medically monitor and treat all individuals who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11, and explicitly states the federal government retains responsibility.

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

Constitutional Authority: There is no committee report citing constitutional authority available for H.Res. 1031.

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