

Committee Meetings

CONTROLLING CARBON EMISSIONS

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Counting the Change: Accounting for the Fiscal Impacts of Controlling Carbon Emissions. Testimony was heard from Peter Orszag, Director, CBO; and public witnesses.

COLLEGE COSTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on Barriers to Equal Educational Opportunities: Addressing the Rising Costs of a College Education. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FDA FOREIGN DRUG INSPECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "FDA Foreign Drug Inspection Program: A System at Risk." Testimony was heard from Marcia G. Crosse, Director, Public Health and Military Health Care Issues, GAO; Andrew C. Von Eschenbach, M.D., Commissioner, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; Carl R. Nielsen, former Director, Division of Import Operations, Office of Regulatory Affairs, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

AVIATION SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled "Aviation Security Part II: A Frontline Perspective on the Need for Enhanced Human Resources and Equipment." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MOBILE-STATE WORKER TAX FAIRNESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 3359, Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Fairness and Simplification Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; ENHANCED RECOVERY AND EQUITABLE RETIREMENT ACT OF 2007

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 2489, Genocide Accountability Act of 2007; H.R. 3971, Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2007; H.R. 3992, Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2007.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on H.R. 2878, Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Kenneth E. Melson, Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3301, Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, USDA; Luke Johnson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MEDICAID REGULATORY ACTIONS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Held a hearing on The Administration's Regulatory Actions on Medicaid: The Effects on Patients, Doctors, Hospitals, and States. Testimony was heard from Marjorie Kanof, Managing Director, Health Care, GAO; Dennis Smith, Director, Center on Medicaid and State Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Department of Health and Human Services.

COORDINATING FEDERAL AND STATE IT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement held a hearing on Too Many Cooks? Coordinating Federal and State Health IT. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Robert M. Kolodner, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; Cheryl Austein Casnoff, Associate Administrator, Office of Health Information Technology, Health Resources Services Administration; and Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; Winston Price, M.D., Chair, Health IT and Transparency Advisory Board, State of Georgia; Lori Evans, Deputy Commissioner, Health IT Information, State of New York; Farzad Mostashari, M.D., Assistant Commissioner, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, City of New York; and a public witness.

PENDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS IMPACTS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on Evaluating the Impact of Pending Free Trade Agreements upon U.S. Small Businesses. Testimony was heard from John Veroneau, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative; and public witnesses.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER DRUG-ALCOHOL TESTING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highway and Transit held a hearing on Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations; and Katherine A. Siggerud, Director, Physical Infrastructure Team; John Hill, Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; Robert L. Stephenson, II, Director, Division of Workplace Programs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; John Wilburn Williamson, Assistant Director, Driver and Vehicle Services, Division of Motor Vehicles, State of North Carolina; and public witnesses.

VA CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the VA Construction Process. Testimony was heard from MG David W. Eidsuane, USAF, Commander, Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, Department of the Air Force; Donald H. Orndoff, Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; and representatives of veterans organizations.

TAX RELIEF MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007; and H.R. 3997, Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007.

WILDFIRES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled "Wildfires and the Climate Crisis." Testimony was heard from Abigail Kimbell, Chief, Forest Service, USDA; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Conferees agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 3043, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1438)

H.R. 3678, to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce. Signed on October 31, 2007. (Public Law 110-108)

S. 2258, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, to amend the definition of an eligible not-for-profit holder. Signed on October 31, 2007. (Public Law 110-109)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled "Progress in Administration and Other Efforts To Coordinate and Enhance Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.