

after receiving testimony from Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Children and Families; David A. Bradley, National Community Action Foundation, Washington, D.C.; E. Phillip McKain, CTE, Inc. (Community Action Agency), Stamford, Connecticut, on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Community Action; Stamford, Connecticut, on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Community Action; Winifred Octave, Worcester Massachusetts; Michael Saucier, Berlin, New Hampshire, and Nathaniel Best, Knoxville, Tennessee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1125, to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, with amendments;

S. 1280, to amend the Protect Act to clarify certain volunteer liability, with an amendment;

S. Res. 140, designating the week of August 10, 2003, as "National Health Center Week";

S. 764, to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program,

The nominations of Allyson K. Duncan, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert C. Brack, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Samuel Der-Yeghaiyan, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Louise W. Flanagan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Lonny R.

Suko, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Earl Leroy Yeakel III, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, and Karen P. Tandy, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, and Christopher A. Wray, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1375, to provide for the reauthorization of programs administered by the Small Business Administration, with amendments.

VA PROVIDED BENEFITS PROGRAMS

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded hearings on proposed legislation regarding VA-provided benefits programs, including the following: S. 257, S. 517, S. 1131, S. 1133, S. 1188, S. 1213, S. 1239, S. 1281, S. 249, S. 938, S. 1132, S. 792, S. 806, S. 1136, S. 978, S. 1124, S. 1199, S. 1282, and S. 1360, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits; and Craig W. Duehring, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 2692–2712, and 1 private bill, H.R. 2713, were introduced. **Pages H6602–03**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6603–04**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 2691, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 (H. Rept. 108–195).

H. Con. Res. 159, declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into

law of the observance of Veterans Day (H. Rept. 108–196);

H.R. 2595, to restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002 (H. Rept. 108–197);

H.R. 2357, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, amended (H. Rept. 108–198); and

H.R. 1516, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in southeastern Pennsylvania, amended (H. Rept. 108–199).

Page H6602

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simmons to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

Page H6467

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. William H. Harter, Pastor, Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, Chambersberg, Pennsylvania.

Page H6467

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, July 9 by yea and nay vote of 341 yeas to 64 noes with 1 voting "present," Roll No. 346.

Pages H6469-70

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2004: The House passed H.R. 2660, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 by yea and nay vote of 215 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 353.

Pages H6470-6581

Agreed To:

Bereuter amendment that targets \$12 million for research on the comparative effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and safety of drugs, biological products, and devices;

Pages H6560-61

Tancredo amendment that increases funding for school safety programs by \$5 million;

Page H6564

Rejected:

Rahall amendment that sought to prohibit any funding to implement amendments to the Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations dealing with dust levels in mines (rejected by recorded vote of 210 yeas to 212 noes, Roll No. 349);

Pages H6561-63, H6578

Allen amendment that sought to prohibit any penalties to schools that are not fully funded under the No Child Left Behind Act (rejected by recorded vote of 199 yeas to 223 noes, Roll No. 350);

Pages H6564-68, H6578-79

Obey amendment that sought to prohibit any funding to implement regulations that exempt from the requirements of overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act any employee who is not otherwise exempted (rejected by recorded vote of 210 yeas to 213 noes, Roll No. 351); and

Pages H6568-71, H6579-80

Toomey amendment, as modified, that sought to prohibit funding for five National Institutes of Health grants (rejected by recorded vote of 210 yeas to 212 noes, Roll No. 352).

Pages H6573-76, H6580

Withdrawn:

Manzullo amendment no. 4 printed in the Congressional Record of July 9 was offered but subsequently withdrawn that sought to specify that at least 65 percent of products must be made in the

United States to qualify under the Buy American Act.

Pages H6563-64

Point of Order Sustained Against:

Obey amendment in the nature of a substitute that sought to limit the size of the tax cut made to individuals earning more than \$1 million and increase funding for various education, health, biomedical research, and low income energy programs;

Pages H6536-48

Section 217 B, Medicare Claims Processing Fee;

Page H6560

Obey motion that sought to add a new title dealing with the Medicaid adjustment for State maintaining coverage of children under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Pages H6576-77

Motions to Strike the Enacting Clause:

Rejected the Obey motions to strike the enacting clause by recorded vote of 199 yeas to 222 noes, Roll No. 347 and recorded vote of 197 yeas to 224 noes, Roll No. 348.

Pages H6548-49, H6577-78

The House agreed to H. Res. 312, the rule that is provided for consideration of the bill on July 9.

Legislative Program: Representative Rogers of Michigan announced the Legislative Program for the week of July 14.

Pages H6581-82

Meeting Hour—Monday, July 14: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 14 for morning-hour debate.

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Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, July 16.

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Joint Meeting to Receive Prime Minister Tony Blair: Agreed that it be in order at any time on Thursday, July 17, 2003 for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting the Right Honorable Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Page H6582

Check Truncation Act: The House disagreed with the Senate amendment to H.R. 1474, to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and requested a conference with the Senate thereon. Appointed as conferees: Chairman Oxley and Representatives Bachus, LaTourette, Hart, Tiberi, Frank of Massachusetts, Sanders, and Ford.

Page H6582

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas and nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings

of the House today and appear on pages H6469–70, H6548–49, H6577–78, H6578, H6578–79, H6579–80, H6580, and H6581. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CROP INSURANCE PRODUCTS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review crop insurance products for specialty crop producers. Testimony was heard from Russell Redding, Executive Deputy Secretary, Administration, Department of Agriculture, State of Pennsylvania; and public witnesses.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs approved for full Committee action the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Operation Iraqi Freedom. Testimony was heard from Gen. Tommy Franks, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness held a hearing on “Affordability in Higher Education: We know there’s a problem; what’s the solution?” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NIH: BRINGING RESEARCH FROM THE BENCH TO THE BEDSIDE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “NIH: Bringing Research from the Bench to the Bedside.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Donald A. B. Lindberg, M.D., Director, National Library of Medicine; Mark L. Rohrbaugh, Director, Office of Technology Transfer, Office of the Director; and Anna D. Barker, Deputy Director, Strategic Scientific Initiatives, National Cancer Institute, all with NIH; and Theresa Mullin, Associate Commissioner, Office of Planning and Evaluation, FDA; and public witnesses.

ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations approved a motion authorizing the issuance of subpoenas in connection with the Committee’s investigation into dietary supplements containing ephedra.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 1553, to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts; and H.R. 2179, amended, Securities Fraud Deterrence and Investor Restitution Act of 2003.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 2556, amended, DC Parental Choice Incentive Act of 2003; H.R. 2438, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Pine Street in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, as the “Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr. Post Office Building;” H. Con. Res. 230, honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2003 All-America City Award; H. Res. 303, honoring Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr., former Mayor of the City of Atlanta, and extending the condolences of the House of Representatives on his death; and S. 867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 710 Wicks Lane in Billings, Montana, as the “Ronald Reagan Post Office Building.”

FOREIGN TRAVEL TO U.S.—NEW VISA AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS IMPACT

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing on “Smooth Sailing or an Impending Wreck? The Impact of New Visa and Passport Requirements on Foreign Travel to the United States.” Testimony was heard from Janice L. Jacobs, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Visa Services, Department of State; Michael Cronin, Associate Commissioner, Immigration Policy and Programs, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; Robert J. Garrity, Jr., Acting Assistant Director, Records Management Division, FBI, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

DRAFT IMPLEMENTING PROPOSALS—U.S.-CHILE FREE TRADE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT ACT; U.S. SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Agreed to the following draft implementing proposals, as amended: the U.S.-