

LEGAL RIGHTS OF GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine the legal rights of Guantanamo detainees, focusing on what they are, should they be changed, and whether there is an end in sight, including S. 1249, to require the President to close the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after receiving testimony from Brigadier General Thomas W. Hartman, Legal Advisor to the Convening Authority, Office of Military Commissions, Department of Defense; Steven A. Engel, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice; Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, USN (Ret.), Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, New Hampshire; Mark P. Denbeaux, Seton Hall University School of Law Center for Policy and Law, Newark, New Jersey; and Debra Burlingame, National September 11 Memorial and Museum, New York, New York.

SUNSHINE IN LITIGATION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the Sunshine in Litigation Act, focusing on whether court secrecy undermines public health and safety, after receiving testimony from Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., United States District Judge, District Court of South Carolina; Robert N. Weiner, Arnold and Porter, LLP, Washington, D.C.; Leslie A. Bailey, Public Justice, Oakland, California; Stephen G. Morrison, Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, LLP, Columbia, South Carolina; Richard Zitrin, University of California Hastings School of Law, San Francisco; and Johnny Bradley, Pachuta, Mississippi.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 4343–4455; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 68; and H. Res. 856–858, were introduced.

Pages H15314–17

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H15317–18

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1413, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–482);

H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–483);

H.R. 3739, to amend the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings (H. Rept. 110–484);

H.R. 2601, to extend the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees to administer and enforce the provisions relating to the “Do-not-call” registry of the Telemarketing Sales Rule, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–485);

H.R. 3541, to amend the “Do-not-call” Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of

telephone numbers registered on the Federal “do-not-call” registry, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–486);

H. Res. 859, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–487);

H. Res. 860, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–488);

H. Res. 861, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4351) to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide individuals temporary relief from the alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–489); and

H. Res. 862, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4299) to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–490). **Page H15314**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Clay to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.
Page H15217

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at noon.
Page H15218

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending the Joint Resolution Approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: H.R. 3079, amended, to amend the Joint Resolution Approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
Pages H15219–27

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the joint resolution that approved the covenant establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.”
Page H15227

Authorizing appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund: H.R. 123, amended, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund;
Pages H15227–29

Amending the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings: H.R. 3739, to amend the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings;
Pages H15229–30

Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh: H. Res. 842, amended, to express sympathy to and pledge the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 388 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 1142;
Pages H15230–31, H15273–74

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Luciano Pavarotti and recognizing the significant and positive impact of his astounding musical talent, his achievement in raising the profile of opera with audiences around the world, and his commitment to charitable causes: H. Res. 708, to honor the life and accomplishments of Luciano Pavarotti and to recognize the significant and positive impact of his astounding musical talent, his achievement in raising the profile of opera with audiences around the world, and his commitment to charitable causes;
Pages H15231–33

Recognizing the importance of Christmas and the Christian faith: H. Res. 847, amended, to recognize the importance of Christmas and the Chris-

tian faith, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 372 yeas to 9 nays with 10 voting “present”, Roll No. 1143;

Pages H15233–34, H15274

Block Burmese JADE (Junta’s Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2007: H.R. 3890, amended, to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to waive the requirement for annual renewal resolutions relating to import sanctions, impose import sanctions on Burmese gemstones, expand the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, and expand the blocking of assets and other prohibited activities;
Pages H15234–39

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to impose import sanctions on Burmese gemstones, expand the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, expand the blocking of assets and other prohibited activities, and for other purposes.”
Page H15239

Honoring the life of Thomas “Tommy” Makem: H. Res. 768, to honor the life of Thomas “Tommy” Makem;
Pages H15239–41

Honoring the University of Hawaii for its 100 years of commitment to public higher education: H. Con. Res. 264, to honor the University of Hawaii for its 100 years of commitment to public higher education;
Pages H15241–43

Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Robstown, Texas: H.R. 785, to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Robstown, Texas;
Pages H15243–44

Turrill Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 4009, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 West Nepessing Street in Lapeer, Michigan, as the “Turrill Post Office Building”;
Pages H15244–45

Supporting the designation of a week as “National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week”: H. Con. Res. 215, amended, to support the designation of a week as “National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week”;
Pages H15245–47

Expressing the support for designation of a “National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the fire fighters of the United States: H. Res. 695, amended, to express the support for designation of a “National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the fire fighters of the United States
Pages H15247–48

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of a National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day to honor and celebrate the fire fighters of the United States.”
Page H15248

Extending the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 4 years: S. 597, amended, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 4 years. **Pages H15248–49**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.”. **Page H15249**

Amending section 3328 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Selective Service registration: H.R. 4108, amended, to amend section 3328 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Selective Service registration; **Pages H15249–50**

Commemorating the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy’s “Great White Fleet,” launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909: H. Con. Res. 261, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy’s “Great White Fleet,” launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909; **Pages H15250–52**

Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act: H.R. 4343, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify age standards for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 390 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 1144; **Pages H15152–55, H15274–75**

John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2007: H.R. 3986, amended, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; **Pages H15255–56**

Honoring the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world: H. Res. 661, amended, to honor the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world; **Pages H15257–59**

Honoring those who have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in San Francisco Bay: H. Res. 853, to honor those who have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in San Francisco Bay; **Pages H15259–61**

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 797, with amendments: H. Res. 855, to provide for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 797, with amendments; **Pages H15261–65**

Extending the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees to administer and enforce the provisions relating to the “Do-not-call” registry of the Telemarketing Sales Rule: H.R. 2601, amended, to extend the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees to administer and enforce the provisions relating to the “Do-not-call” registry of the Telemarketing Sales Rule; **Pages H15265–67**

Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007: H.R. 3541, amended, to amend the “Do-not-call” Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal “do-not-call” registry; **Pages H15267–69**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Do-not-call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal ‘do-not-call’ registry.”. **Page H15269**

Extending the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months: H.R. 4341, to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months; and **Pages H15269–70**

Directing the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports: H.R. 1413, amended, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports. **Pages H15270–73**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports, and for other purposes.”. **Page H15273**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:54 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H15273**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act of 2007: H.R. 3985, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with

certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements. **Pages H15256–57**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H15252.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H15273–74, H15274 and H15274–75. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AFGHANISTAN: STATUS OF U.S. STRATEGY

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Security and Stability in Afghanistan: Status of U.S. Strategy and Operations and the Way Ahead. Testimony was heard from the 4 following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert M. Gates, Secretary; Adm Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Ambassador Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary, Policy; and LTG John F. Sattler, USMC, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

REVIEW CENSUS BUREAU'S RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR IT ACQUISITIONS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives held a hearing on A Review of the Census Bureau's Risk Management Activities for IT Acquisitions. Testimony was heard from Charles Louis Kincannon, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce; the following officials of the GAO: David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues; and Matthew Scire, Director, Strategic Issues; and public witnesses.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, and against its consideration. Testimony was heard from Chairman Reyes.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1585, the Na-

tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conferees on H.R. 3093 are hereby discharged and that the conference and its accompanying papers are hereby tabled. Testimony was heard from Chairman Skelton and Representative Saxton.

AMT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 4351, the AMT Relief Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit the bill. Finally, the rule permits the Chair, during consideration of the bill, to postpone further consideration of it to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rangel and Representative Neal of Massachusetts.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H.R. 4299, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Finally, the rule provides that during consideration of H.R. 4299, the Chair may postpone further consideration to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on North Korea, focusing on the six-party talks, 11 a.m., S-407, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public