Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to order and ask for its immediate consideration.

This resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 4, entitled the "Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999," in the opinion of this House, contains the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). In the opinion of the Chair, the resolution constitutes a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 4, which contravenes the constitutional requirement that revenue measures shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Section 202 of the bill authorizes members of the Armed Forces to participate in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan and permits them to contribute any part of a special or incentive pay that they might receive. However, it also effectively provides that the limitations of Internal Revenue Code section 415 will not apply to those extra contributions. Thus, the provision allows certain members of the uniformed services to avoid the negative tax consequences that would otherwise result in their extra contributions to the TSP. Accordingly, the provision is revenue affecting in a constitutional sense.

There are numerous precedents for this action I am requesting.

I want to emphasize that this action speaks solely to the constitutional prerogative of the House and not to the merits of the Senate bill. Proposed action today is procedural in nature, and it is necessary to preserve the prerogatives of the House to originate revenue measures, makes clear to the Senate that the appropriate procedure for dealing with revenue measures is for the House to act first on a revenue bill and for the Senate to act on it or amend it as it sees fit.

This resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 4, which, as passed by the Senate, violates the constitutional requirement that revenue measures shall originate in the House of Representatives.

S. 4 would provide a variety of benefits to members of the Armed Forces. It would allow them to contribute up to 5 percent of their basic pay to the Thrift Savings Plan and in addition, subsection (d) of the same section permits members of the uniformed services to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—RETURNING TO THE SENATE S. 4, SOLDIERS', SAILORS', AIRMEN'S, AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

Mr. WELLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 393) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 393

Resolved, That the bill of the Senate (S. 4) entitled the "Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999," in the opinion of this House, contains the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). In the opinion of the Chair, the resolution constitutes a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLS) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. WELLS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 4, which contravenes the constitutional requirement that revenue measures shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Section 202 of the bill authorizes members of the Armed Forces to participate in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan and permits them to contribute any part of a special or incentive pay that they might receive. However, it also effectively provides that the limitations of Internal Revenue Code section 415 will not apply to those extra contributions. Thus, the provision allows certain members of the uniformed services to avoid the negative tax consequences that would otherwise result in their extra contributions to the TSP. Accordingly, the provision is revenue affecting in a constitutional sense.

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This resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 4, which, as passed by the Senate, violates the constitutional requirement that revenue measures shall originate in the House of Representatives.

S. 4 would provide a variety of benefits to members of the Armed Forces. It would allow them to contribute up to 5 percent of their basic pay to the Thrift Savings Plan and in addition, subsection (d) of the same section permits members of the uniformed services to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan.