supporting this bill.

vets deserve the same travel reimbursement as Federal employees. Please join me in

the Department of Veterans Affairs be the

reimbursement for motor vehicle travel regu-

able for Federal employees.

determine reimbursement rates for vets that

the VA to use a different and stingy method to

cost of the travel. It simply does not make sense for

they serve are expected to travel at a fraction

can they meet in his own car? In fact, Department of

gets $32.50 for going the same distance to a

bursed only $11.00, when a Federal employee

11 cents per mile, compared to a rate of 32.5

federal employees reflects these costs. This rate

the established Internal Revenue Service

rate, the same, fair rate that we are allowed to

travel reimbursement rate developed for Fed-

maintaining a motor vehicle is significant. The

short-cut has proven to be a dangerous and

unacceptable alternative.

VETERANS TRAVEL FAIRNESS
ACT
HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a major issue of

concern for veterans and their families in rural

areas all around this nation is the long dis-

tances they must travel to receive medical care at the VA hospitals. The current VA reim-

bursement rate for privately owned motor vehi-

cle use is unreasonable and presents a real

hardship for many rural veterans, some of whom must travel hundreds of miles to receive
care. The issue is especially important now, because of the high price of gasoline.

As many of us know, the cost of driving and

maintaining a motor vehicle is significant. The

travel reimbursement rate developed for Fed-

eral employees reflects these costs. This rate

is the same, fair rate that we are allowed to

claim on our income taxes. Currently, the Vet-

erans Affairs travel reimbursement is only

11 cents per mile, compared to a rate of 32.5

cents per mile used by Federal employees and

the IRS.

Why should a veteran driving 100 miles

across the state for medical care be reim-

bursed only $11.00, when a Federal employee

gets $32.50 for going the same distance to a

meeting in his own car? In fact, Department of Veter-

ans Affairs employees themselves get reim-

bursed at the higher rate, while the clients

they serve are expected to travel at a fraction

of the cost. It simply does not make sense for

the VA to use a different and stingy method to
determine reimbursement rates for vets that

are only one-third what is considered reason-

able for Federal employees.

I am introducing this bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide that the rate of

reimbursement for motor vehicle travel regu-

lated under the beneficiary travel program of

the Department of Veterans Affairs be the

same as the rate for private vehicle reimburse-

ment for Federal employees.

This is an equity issue and also a matter of

respect in the way we treat our veterans. Our

dogs deserve the same travel reimbursement

rate as Federal employees. Please join me in

supporting this bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a sys-
tem for a computerized schedule of all

meetings and hearings of Senate com-

mittees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to

notify the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest—designated by the Rules com-

mittee—of the time, place, and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled, and

any cancellations or changes in the

meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each

week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2000 may be found in the Daily

Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
JUNE 26
1 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings on the hardships that

dialysis patients endure and the op-

tions for improving the government’s

oversight.

SD–628

JUNE 27
9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–366

Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nominations of

Lt. Gen. Tommy R. Franks, United

States Army, to be General; and Lt.

Gen. William F. Kernan, United States

Army, to be General.

SR–222

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings on the operations of the

Library of Congress and the Smithso-

nian Institution.

SR–301

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine reprocessing of single-use medical devices.

SD–430

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the border crisis in Arizona, and the impact on the state and local communities.

SD–226

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts
Subcommittee
To resume oversight hearings to examine the 1996 campaign finance investiga-

tions.

SH–216

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research, Development, Produc-

tion and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the April 2000 GAO report entitled “Nuclear Waste Clean-

up—DOE’s Paducah Plan Faces Uncertainties and Excludes Costly Cleanup Activities”.

SD–366
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JUNE 20
10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

JUNE 30
9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the nationwide crisis of mortgage fraud.

JULY 12
2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by the President to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest for increased protection.

CANCELLATIONS

JULY 26
2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on potential timber sale contract liability incurred by the government as a result of timber sale contract cancellations.

SEPTEMBER 26
9:30 a.m.
Veterans’ Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building