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## Legislative Bulletin.....January 21, 2009

### Contents:

- H.Res. 39** - Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools
- H.Res. 56** - Expressing support for designation of the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as "National School Counseling Week"
- H.Res. 58** - Commending the University of Florida Gators for winning the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game
- H.Res. 73** - Observing the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **H.Res. 39 - Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools (*Lipinski, D-IL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 21, 2008 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 39 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and
- “Congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- “America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;
- “Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;
- “The total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2007-2008 academic year was nearly 2,300,000 and the student-teacher ratio was 14 to 1;
- “Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

- “More than 25 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are from minority backgrounds, and over 14 percent are non-Catholics;
- “Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;
- “The Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, with 80 percent of graduates attending four-year colleges and 17 percent attending two-year colleges or technical schools;
- “In the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated: `Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.'; and
- “January 25, 2009, to January 31, 2009, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.”

**Committee Action:** None.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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**H.Res. 56 - Expressing support for designation of the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as "National School Counseling Week" (Sanchez, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 21, 2008 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 56 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors and recognizes the contributions of school counselors to the success of students in our Nation's elementary and secondary schools; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe ‘National School Counseling Week’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the crucial role school counselors play in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as ‘National School Counseling Week’;
- “The House of Representatives has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the last reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
- “School counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for all students;
- “School counselors have long emphasized the importance of personal and social development in academic achievement;
- “School counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;
- “School counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are aware of financial aid and college opportunities;
- “School counselors may encourage students to pursue challenging academic courses to prepare them for college majors and careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields;
- “School counselors provide support for students whose family members have been deployed to conflicts overseas;
- “School counselors help students cope with serious and common challenges of growing up, including peer pressure, mental health issues, school violence, disciplinary problems, and problems in the home;
- “School counselors are also instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma and community and national tragedies;
- “School counselors are among the few professionals in a school building that are trained in both education and mental health;
- “Despite the important contributions of school counselors to student success, counseling positions are not always protected when budgets are cut, especially in tough economic times;

- “The average student-to-counselor ratio in America's public schools, 475 to 1, is almost double the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, and other organizations;
- “The celebration of ‘National School Counseling Week’ would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States; and
- “The week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, would be an appropriate week to designate as ‘National School Counseling Week’.”

**Committee Action:** None.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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## **H.Res 58 - Commending the University of Florida Gators for winning the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game (Stearns, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 21, 2008 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 58 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends the University of Florida Gators for winning the Bowl Championship Series National Championship;
- “Recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the victory; and
- “Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Florida President J. Bernard Machen and head coach Urban Meyer for appropriate display.”

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- “On January 8, 2009, the University of Florida Gators defeated the Oklahoma Sooners 24-14 in the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Game in Miami, Florida;
- “The Gators have become one of the premier athletic and academic institutions in the country;
- “This BCS National Championship is the University of Florida's 22nd national championship in all sports;
- “The Gators' victory over Oklahoma was the third football national title for the University of Florida and the second in the past three seasons, the others being won in 1996 and 2007;
- “The Gators are the fourth school in the modern era to win two outright national titles in three years;
- “The Gators improved their BCS Championship game record to 2-0;
- “Florida made its 18th-straight bowl appearance to extend their current school record, the longest active streak by a Southeastern Conference (SEC) team representing the second-longest in the Nation;
- “The Gators finished the 2008 season with a 13-1 record, matching the single-season school record for wins (also 13-1 in 2006);
- “The Gators become the second team in the 11-year history of the BCS to win two titles;
- “The Gators' victory is the fifth BCS championship for the SEC;
- “Head coach Urban Meyer became only the fifth coach since 1936 to win two national championships in his first four seasons at a school;
- “Coach Meyer becomes the fifth active Division I coach with multiple national titles;
- “Coach Meyer became the 14th youngest head coach to win a pair of national titles since 1950;
- “The Gators' quarterback Tim Tebow was named the game's Most Valuable Player, with 340 yards of total offense, the third-best pass-rush total in a BCS Championship game;
- “Tim Tebow showed why he is one of the most versatile quarterbacks in college football history by completing 18 of 30 passes for 231 yards and 2 touchdowns and rushing for 109 yards, the third highest ground total by a quarterback in a BCS title game;
- “Tim Tebow became only the 5th player since 1950 to win two national titles and a Heisman Trophy;
- “Percy Harvin, after returning from an ankle injury, ran nine times for 122 yards and a touchdown, marking the third-best rushing total in a BCS Championship game, caught five passes for 49 yards, and proved once again to be the fastest player on the field;
- “Tebow and Harvin became the first set of teammates to each rush for 100 yards or more in the same BCS National Championship game;

- “The Gators' defense shut down the highest-scoring team in modern football history and held Oklahoma to only 14 points and 363 total yards, 40 points and 199 yards below the Sooners' season average;
- “Florida's defense held Sooner quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford to 256 passing yards, his third-lowest of the season and his first two-interception game since October 11, 2008;
- “The Gators' players and coaches football team represent the University of Florida and the State of Florida with honor and integrity; and
- “Residents of Florida and Gator fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in the team.”

**Committee Action:** None.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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**H.Res. 73 - Observing the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (*Lewis, D-GA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 21, 2008 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 73 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Observes the 80th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- “Pledges to advance the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to--

(A) observe the 80th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life of Dr. King;

(B) commemorate the legacy of Dr. King, so that, as Dr. King hoped, `one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: `We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal'; and

(C) remember the message of Dr. King and rededicate themselves to Dr. King's goal of a free and just United States.

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- “Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, was born January 15, 1929;
- “Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, and began attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 15;
- “In February of 1948, Dr. King was ordained in the Christian ministry at the age of 19 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Atlanta, Georgia, and became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church;
- “Dr. King was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology in 1955 from Boston University;
- “In Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, his life partner and fellow civil rights activist;
- “On June 18, 1953, Dr. King and Coretta Scott were married and later had two sons and two daughters;
- “In 1954, Dr. King accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and was pastor from September 1954 to November 1959, when he resigned to move back to Atlanta to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;
- “Dr. King led the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, during which time Dr. King was arrested and the home of Dr. King was bombed;
- “Dr. King responded to arrests and violence with non-violence and courage in the face of hatred;
- “The Montgomery bus boycott was the first great nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;
- “On December 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional;
- “Between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled more than 6,000,000 miles, spoke more than 2,500 times, and wrote five books and numerous articles supporting efforts around the country to end injustice and bring about social change and desegregation;
- “From 1960 until his death in 1968, Dr. King was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church;

- “On August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, DC, the largest rally of the civil rights movement, during which, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of more than 200,000 people, Dr. King delivered his famous ‘I Have A Dream’ speech, one of the classic orations in American history;
- “Dr. King was a champion of nonviolence, fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and in 1964, at age 35, became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts;
- “Through his work and reliance on nonviolent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- “The work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect and helped communities, and the United States as a whole, to act cooperatively and courageously to restore tolerance, justice, and equality between people;
- “On the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead sanitation workers in protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions;
- “Dr. King dedicated his life to securing the fundamental principles of the United States of liberty and justice for all United States citizens;
- “Dr. King was the leading civil rights advocate of his time, spearheading the civil rights movement in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s and earning world-wide recognition as an eloquent and articulate spokesperson for equality;
- “In the face of hatred and violence, Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolence and civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice, and believed that people have the moral capacity to care for other people;
- “Dr. King awakened the conscience and consciousness of the United States and used his message of hope to bring people together to build the ‘Beloved Community’, a community of justice, at peace with itself;
- “In 1968, Representative John Conyers introduced legislation to establish the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Federal holiday;
- “Coretta Scott King led the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a Federal holiday;
- “In 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, which is now observed in more than 100 countries;
- “Dr. King's wife and indispensable partner, Coretta Scott King, was a woman of quiet courage and great dignity who marched alongside her husband and became an international advocate for peace and human rights;
- “Coretta Scott King, who had been actively engaged in the civil rights movement as a politically and socially conscious young woman, continued after her husband's death to lead the United States toward greater justice and equality, traveling the world on behalf of racial and economic justice, peace and non-violence, women's and children's rights,

gay rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education until her death on January 30, 2006;

- “The values of faith, compassion, courage, truth, justice, and non-violence that guided Dr. and Mrs. King's dream for America will be celebrated and preserved by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial and in the new National Museum of African American History and Culture that will be located in the shadow of the Washington Monument;
- “Dr. King's actions and leadership made the United States a better place and the American people a better people;
- “45 years after Dr. King delivered his historic ‘I have a dream’ speech, millions of United States citizens gathered on the National Mall on January 20, 2009, to witness the historic Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, the first African-American President of the United States; and
- “The historic Inauguration of President Barack Obama dramatized the change that Dr. King helped to usher in for the creation of a more perfect union.”

**Committee Action:** None.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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