

Legislative Bulletin.....February 10, 2009

Contents:

H.Res. 134 - Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the positive influence that the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi had on Dr. King's work during the Civil Rights Movement

H.Con.Res. 35 - Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary

H.Res. 71 - Acknowledging the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the State of Georgia and the United States as a legal icon

H.R. 908 - Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization

H.R. 448 - Elder Abuse Victims Act

H.R. 632 - National Silver Alert Act

H.Res. 129 - Recognizing the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core values of equality, due process of law, justice, and fundamental fairness

H.Res. 134 – Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the positive influence that the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi had on Dr. King's work during the Civil Rights Movement (*Lewis, D-GA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 134 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Pause and remember the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India;
- “Commemorate Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence, a principle that-- Dr. King encountered during his study of India's Mahatma Gandhi; further inspired him during his first trip to India; and he successfully used in the struggle for civil rights and voting rights;
- Commemorate the impact that Dr. King's trip to India and his study of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi had in shaping the Civil Rights Movement and

- creating the political climate necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all Americans; and
- Rededicate themselves to Dr. King's belief that 'nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time' and to his goal of a free and just United States."

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed America forever in a few short years through his teaching of nonviolence and passive resistance to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice;
- "In 1950, during the pursuit of a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Crozer Theological Seminary in Upland, Pennsylvania, Dr. King first became aware of the success of nonviolent political action employed by India's Mahatma Gandhi in political campaigns against racial inequality in South Africa, and later against British colonial rule in India;
- "Dr. King began an extensive study of Gandhi's life and ideas, and became inspired to use Gandhi's theory of nonviolent civil disobedience to achieve social change in America;
- "In 1955 and 1956, Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, Alabama, during which time Dr. King was arrested and his home bombed;
- "The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first large-scale, nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;
- "Following the success of nonviolent protest in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King desired to travel to India to deepen his knowledge of Gandhi's teachings on nonviolent principles;
- "Dr. King, his wife Coretta Scott King, and Lawrence Reddick, then chairman of the history department at Alabama State College, arrived in Bombay, India, on February 10, 1959 and stayed until March 10, 1959;
- "Dr. King was warmly welcomed by members of Indian society throughout his visit, and met with Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, land reform leader Vinoba Bhave, and other influential Indian leaders to discuss issues of poverty, economic policy, and race relations;
- "While in India, Dr. King spoke about race and equality at crowded universities and at public meetings;
- "Followers of Gandhi's philosophy, known as satyagrahis, welcomed Dr. King and praised him for his nonviolent efforts during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which they saw as a landmark success of principles of nonviolence outside of India;
- "The satyagrahis and Dr. King discussed Gandhi's philosophy, known as Satyagraha, which promotes nonviolence and civil disobedience as the most useful methods for obtaining political and social goals;
- "The satyagrahis reaffirmed and deepened Dr. King's commitment to nonviolence, and revealed to him the power that nonviolent resistance holds in political and social battles;

- “The trip to India impacted Dr. King in a profound way, and inspired him to use nonviolence as an instrument of social change to end segregation and racial discrimination in America throughout the rest of his work during the Civil Rights Movement;
- “Dr. King rose to be the preeminent civil rights advocate of his time, leading 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;
- “Dr. King became a champion of nonviolence, and in 1964, at the age of 35, he became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts;
- “Through his leadership in nonviolent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- “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 through civil disobedience; and
- “The work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect, and helped communities and the United States as a whole to act peacefully, cooperatively, and courageously to restore tolerance, justice, and equality between people.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 134 was introduced on February 4, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, which took no official action.

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.Con. Res. 35 – Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary (*Al Green, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 35 would express the sense that the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring):

- “Recognizes the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and
- “Honors and praises the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons.”

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- “The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this resolution as the `NAACP'), originally known as the National Negro Committee, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, by a multiracial group of activists who met in a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African-Americans;
- “The NAACP was founded by a distinguished group of leaders in the struggle for civil and political liberty, including Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling;
- “The NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States;
- The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination;
- “The NAACP is committed to achieving its goals through nonviolence;
- “The NAACP advances its mission through reliance upon the press, the petition, the ballot, and the courts, and has been persistent in the use of legal and moral persuasion, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility;
- “The NAACP has used political pressure, marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying to serve as the voice, as well as the shield, for minority Americans;
- “After years of fighting segregation in public schools, the NAACP, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, won one of its greatest legal victories in the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 374 U.S. 483 (1954);
- “In 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama--an act of courage that would serve as the catalyst for the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United States;
- “The NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and

- “In 2005, the NAACP launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama to rebuild their lives;
- “In the 110th Congress, the NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of H. Res. 826, whose resolved clause expresses that: (1) the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation and which under certain circumstances can be criminal; (2) this conduct should be investigated thoroughly by Federal authorities; and (3) any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted; and
- “In 2008 the NAACP vigorously supported the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note), a law that puts additional Federal resources into solving the heinous crimes that occurred in the early days of the civil rights struggle that remain unsolved and bringing those who perpetrated such crimes to justice.”

Background: The resolution passed by voice vote in the 109th Congress and unanimously in the 110th Congress.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 35 was introduced on January 28, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, which took no official action.

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. 71– Acknowledging the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the State of Georgia and the United States as a legal icon (Kingston, R-GA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 71 would express the sense that the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring):

- “Acknowledges the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the State of Georgia and the United States as a legal icon; and
- “Commends Griffin Boyette Bell for his tenure as Attorney General of the United States and his commitment to the American Civil Rights Movement.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Griffin Boyette Bell was born on October 31, 1918, in Americus, Georgia, to Thelma Leola Pilcher and Adlai Cleveland Bell, a cotton farmer;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell died on January 5, 2009, at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, after enduring long-term kidney disease and a battle with pancreatic cancer;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell was raised in the Shiloh community outside of Americus until his family moved into Americus to establish a tire retail store;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell proved himself a superior student in the Americus public schools and later at Georgia Southwestern College also in Americus;
- “In 1942, Griffin Boyette Bell was drafted into the Army, where he served in the Quartermaster Corps and Transportation Corps;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell, while stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, met and married Mary Powell, who also had family ties in Americus, Georgia, and they later had one son, Griffin Jr.;
- Whereas in 1946, Griffin Boyette Bell, after being discharged from active duty in the Army with the rank of Major, enrolled in the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell worked at the firm Anderson, Anderson, and Walker while in law school;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell, while still a law student, passed the Georgia bar examination and was appointed city attorney of Warner Robins, Georgia;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell, after graduating Mercer University law school with honors in 1948, practiced law in Savannah, Georgia, and Rome, Georgia;
- “In 1953, Griffin Boyette Bell accepted an offer to join the Atlanta law firm of Spalding Sibley Troutman and Kelley, later renamed King and Spalding;
- “In 1958, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver and while serving in that capacity was influential in organizing the Sibley Commission, which mapped Georgia's approach to school desegregation;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell, while as chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver, also helped moderate State policy concerning civil rights and was instrumental in keeping Georgia's schools open during that turbulent period;
- “In 1961, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed by President Kennedy to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals where he served for 14 years and often played an instrumental role in mediating disputes during the peak of the United States Civil Rights Movement;

- “In 1976, President Jimmy Carter nominated Griffin Boyette Bell to be the 72nd Attorney General of the United States and he was confirmed to that position on January 25, 1977;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell brought independence and professionalism to the Department of Justice during his tenure as Attorney General by daily posting of his third-party contacts, including meetings and calls with the White House, Members of Congress, or other non-Justice Department individuals;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell in his capacity as Attorney General, advised the Carter administration and helped to increase the number of women and minorities serving on the Federal bench by recruiting Wade McCree, an African-American Eighth Circuit judge, to serve as Solicitor General of the United States and Drew S. Days III, an African-American lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell also led negotiations to divide his former appellate court, the 5th Circuit spanning from Georgia to Texas, into two courts: a new 5th Circuit based in New Orleans and an 11th Circuit based in Atlanta;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell, upon resignation as Attorney General in August 1979, was appointed by President Carter as the Special Ambassador to the Helsinki Convention;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell served as a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on South Africa from 1985 to 1987;
- “In 1989, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed Vice Chairman of President George H. W. Bush's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform;
- “Griffin Boyette Bell served as counsel to President George H. W. Bush during the Iran Contra Affair investigation;
- “In September of 2004, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review; and
- “During Griffin Boyette Bell's career as a lawyer, he specialized in corporate internal investigations, and many that were high profile, including E.F. Hutton following Federal indictments for its cash management practices, Exxon Valdez after an oil spill in Alaska, and Procter and Gamble after rumors circulated that the company's moon-and-stars logo was a satanic symbol.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 71 was introduced on January 15, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, which took no official action.

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.R. 908 – Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program (Waters, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 908 would reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, which provides grants to locally based organizations to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The bill would also create a new competitive grant program to nonprofit organizations to assist in the planning, designing, establishing, and operating of currently existing programs. The bill specifies that national nonprofit organizations shall be given preference for such grant funds. The bill authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year from FY2010-2016 to fund this new grant program.

Background Information: H.R. 908 is the same bill that passed by voice vote in the 110th Congress (H.R. 6503) on September 17, 2008.

According to CRS, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 authorized the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert program and funding was authorized at \$900,000 for each of FY 1996, FY 1997, and FY 1998. Congress has appropriated funding for the program from FY 1996 through FY 2008. These funds, administered by DOJ's Office of Justice Programs, have been awarded to the Alzheimer's Association of America.

Committee Action: H.R. 908 was introduced on February 4, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, which took no official action. In the 110th Congress, H.R. 6503 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which held a mark-up of the bill on July 30, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote ([110-846](#)).

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The authorized level of funding is \$35 million over the FY2010-2016 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates a new grant program.

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.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, the committee report for H.R. 6503, from the 110th Congress states, "Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution."

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H.R. 448 – Elder Abuse Victims Act (*Sestak, D-PA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 448 would require a new study and report by the Attorney General to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on state laws relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. For this study and its report, the bill authorizes \$6 million for each year from FY2009-2015.

The bill authorizes a new grant program to award victim advocacy grants for the study of the special needs of victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. For this new grant program, the bill authorizes \$3 million for each FY 2009-2015.

The bill also creates new grant programs to award grants to support local and state prosecutors, law enforcement, and federal prosecutors in elder justice matters and to establish procedures to ensure that the Department of Justice (DOJ) dedicates resources to investigating and prosecuting elder justice cases. For these new grant programs, the bill authorizes a total of \$20 million for FY 2009-2015.

The bill would require that each recipient of a grant used a portion of their funds to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities carried out through their grant. It authorizes \$7 million for each FY 2009-2015 to award grants to entities in order to conduct these evaluations.

Background Information: H.R. 448 is similar to H.R. 5352, which passed the House in the 110th Congress by a vote of [387-28](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 448 was introduced on January 9, 2009 and referred to the Judiciary Committee which took no official action. In the 110th Congress, H.R. 5352 was introduced on February 12, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, as well as the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee on the Judiciary held a mark-up of the bill on June 11, 2008 and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: Although there is no CBO score for H.R. 448, CBO released the following statement with regard to the bill in the 110th: “H.R. 5352 would authorize the appropriation of \$315 million over the 2009-2015 period for programs to improve the treatment of elderly victims in the justice system. Most of these funds would be for Department of Justice grants to state and local governments. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$173 million over the 2009-2013 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years. Enacting H.R. 5352 would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates new grant programs including grants to support local prosecutors, courts, state prosecutors, and law enforcement in elder justice matters.

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.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available for the 111th Congress. However, the committee report for H.R. 5352 from the 110th Congress states, “Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.”

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H.R. 632 – National Silver Alert Act (*Doggett, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 632 directs the Attorney General to establish a National Silver communications network to provide assistance to regional and local research efforts for

missing seniors and directs the Attorney General to designate a Silver Alert Coordinator within the Department of Justice. H.R.632 requires the Coordinator to submit a report to Congress within one year of enactment “on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of the Silver Act plans of each State that has established or is in the process of establishing such a plan.” The legislation also requires the Coordinator to establish minimum standards for the issuance and dissemination of alerts through silver alert communications.

The bill authorizes \$10 million a year from 2009-2013 for a grant program to states to support the Silver Alert plans and \$4 million a year from 2010-2020 for the Kristen’s Act, which provides grants to assist organizations in finding missing adults.

Background Information: H.R. 632 is similar to a bill that passed by voice vote in the 110th Congress (H.R. 6064) on September 17, 2008.

Committee Action: H.R. 632 was introduced on January 22, 2009 and referred to the Judiciary Committee which took no official action. A similar bill in the 110th Congress, H.R. 6064, was introduced on May 15, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which held a mark-up on July 30, 2008 and reported the bill by voice vote.

According to the Committee Report from the 110th, ([110-825](#)), “Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play, or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s disease, and that sixty percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia-related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, up to 50% of wanderers risk serious illness, injury, or death if not found within 24 hours.”

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that the bill creates a new, age-specific grant program which may be duplicative of the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program and other federal programs that provide funds to assist states in locating missing adults.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available, but the legislation authorizes a total of \$94 million of new discretionary spending. In addition, the bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out the Silver Alert communications network which CBO scored last year as costing approximately \$1 million per year to establish and administer the program.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates a new grant program and creates a Silver Alert Coordinator within the Department of Justice.

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.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available for the 111th Congress. However, the committee report for H.R. 6064, from the 110th Congress states, "Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution."

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**H.Res. 129 - Recognizing the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core values of equality, due process of law, justice, and fundamental fairness
(Cardoza, D-CA)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 129 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese-Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core values of equality, due process of law, justice, and fundamental fairness."

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- "On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the forced internment of both United States citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II;
- "In the largest single relocation of individuals in the history of our Nation, approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps by the United States Government in violation of their fundamental constitutional rights;

- “Due to this unjust internment, these Japanese-Americans faced tremendous hardships, such as family separation, the loss of their homes, businesses, jobs, and dignity;
- “Following Executive Order No. 9066, Japanese-Americans in parts of Washington, Oregon, California, and southern Arizona were ordered to report to assembly centers before being removed to more permanent war relocation centers;
- “The Merced Assembly Center, located in Merced, California, was the reporting site for 4,669 Japanese-Americans;
- “As a young child, United States Congressman Mike Honda and his family were held at the Merced Assembly Center prior to being interned in Amache, Colorado, and his public career has been dedicated to educating and preventing this type of injustice from reoccurring;
- In 1998, then Assembly member Mike Honda authored the World War II Internment of Japanese-Americans: California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, which became California public law in 1999 and serves as an important program to educate the public about the internment;
- February 19th, the 67th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9066, is known as the Day of Remembrance;
- “The Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee has been charged with the task of establishing a memorial to recognize the historic tragedy that took place at the Merced Assembly Center; and
- “The unveiling ceremony for the memorial at the Merced Assembly Center will take place on February 21, 2009

Committee Action: H.Res. 129 was introduced on February 4, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, which took no official action.

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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