

Legislative Bulletin.....September 14, 2009

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H.Res. 686 – Recommending that the United State Constitution be taught to high school students throughtout the Nation in September of their senior year. (Grayson, D-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 686 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “All high school seniors across the country should spend at least one week learning about the United States Constitution in September of their senior year, as knowledge of this historic document, which constitutes the very foundation of our country, is critical to being an effective citizen; and
- “Upon reaching voting age, high school seniors should petition the government on an issue of importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The United States Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States;
- “A 1998 survey revealed that more teenagers knew who the ‘Fresh Prince of Bel-Air’ was than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, more knew the star of the

motion picture `Titanic' than who was the vice president of the United States, and more can name the Three Stooges and the 3 American Idol judges than can name the 3 branches of government;

- “Three-quarters of people in the United States cannot distinguish the difference between a judge and a legislator;
- “Nearly half of the States in the Nation no longer require the teaching of civics and American history; and
- “Research shows that greater civic learning leads to more active citizenship, and people in the United States who fulfill their civic obligations beyond voting are more knowledgeable about their country's history and institutions.”

Additional Information: [Captain Kirk](#) of the USS Enterprise stresses that the Constitution must apply to everyone, or it means nothing.

Committee Action: H.Res. 686 was introduced on July 28, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. ____ – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established.
(Grijalva, D-AZ)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. ____ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the country;
- “Supports the designation of an appropriate week as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week;
- “Request the President to issue a proclamation designating such week; and
- “Calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in education many underprivileged students and helping them attain their full potential through higher education;
- “Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving their communities;
- “Celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions contributes to the strength and culture of our Nation;
- “The achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions are deserving of national recognition; and
- “The week of September 20th would be an appropriate week for such recognition.”

Committee Action: H.Res. ___ was introduced on September 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 6 – Recognizing the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week.

(McIntyre, D-NC)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 6 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports;
- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Coach Appreciation Week; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe National Coach Appreciation Week with appropriate recognition, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of sports and coaches in the life of children.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Coaches are a vital part of organized youth sports;
- “Approximately 42 million American children participate in organized sports each year, but more than 20 million children in the United States lack the opportunity to participate in organized sports, in part because of an insufficient number of coaches;
- “The purpose of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports is to educate Members of Congress, the media, and the public on the need to restore a child-centered focus in youth sports that will produce immeasurable positive benefits for the well-being and character development of children;
- “Coaches who volunteer their time help educate children, serve as role models, and, in some situations, are parental surrogates; and
- “The designation of the week of September 13 through 19, 2009, as National Coach Appreciation Week would raise awareness and leverage resources to engage millions of children in organized sports that promote health, nutrition, and fitness, as well as other youth development outcomes.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 6 was introduced on January 6, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 459–Expressing support for designation of “[National Safety Month](#).” (Roskam, R-IL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 459 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of ‘National Safety Month’;
- “Recognizes the contributions of the National Safety Council and its ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the need for the implementation of safe practices in our schools and jobs; and
- “Encourages citizens to observe the ‘National Safety Month’ with appropriate ceremonies and educate themselves about the importance of implementing safe practices in our schools and on our jobs to prevent unintentional injury and death.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “After years of decline, the rate of unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States has reversed and has reached unacceptably high levels in recent years;
- “Deaths from motor vehicle collisions, poisonings from unintentional overdoses, and falls remain as the three leading causes of preventable death in the United States;
- “The cost of unintentional injuries to people in the United States exceeds \$684,400,000,000 each year and causes great suffering among individuals and their families;
- “Since the summer season is a time of increased rates of preventable injuries and death, it is an appropriate time to focus the attention of our workforce and community leaders on injury risks and preventions by celebrating June 2009 as ‘National Safety Month’; and
- “The National Safety Council in 2009 as part of its public education about safety and health will provide this Nation a month long campaign in June.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 459 was introduced on May 19, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 59—Expressing the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability. (Terry, R-NE)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 59 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Focuses on learning more about senior care and being prepared to manage the needs of our aging population;
- “Recognizes caregiving as a profession;
- “Supports the efforts of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;
- “Fosters a private home care industry environment that supports enterprise to provide accessible and affordable caregiving services to seniors while providing standardized training to paid caregivers that offers opportunity for their continued growth and development;
- “Studies alternatives to make caregiving for seniors even more accessible and affordable, and reviews Federal policies that relate to caregiving for seniors;
- “Examines and continues to fund current Federal programs which address the accessibility and affordability needs of seniors and their family caregivers; and
- “Encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of

knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “8,000 people in the United States turn 60 years old every day;
- “An estimated 35,900,000 people, 12.4 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older;
- “The United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years to 86,700,000 in 2050;
- “The Department of Labor estimated that paid caregivers for the year 2006 worked a total of 835,000,000 hours, and the projected hours of paid senior caregivers are estimated to increase to 4,350,000,000 hours by 2025; and
- “The longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in State and Federal governments.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 59 was introduced on February 24, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 260 – Supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States (*Cohen, D-TN*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 260 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Acknowledges that the United States has a disturbingly high infant mortality rate in relation to the global community;
- “Supports efforts to lower the rate of infant mortality in the United States; and
- “Supports efforts to correct the racial disparities in prenatal care to lower the infant mortality rate in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The infant mortality rate of a nation is a prime indicator of that nation's overall health;
- “In 2005, the United States infant mortality rates were above average for non-Hispanic Black women at 13.63 deaths per 1,000 live births, for Puerto Rican women at 8.30 deaths per 1,000 live births, and for American Indian or Alaska Native women at 8.06 deaths per 1,000 live births;
- “Whereas the United States infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women was 2.4 times the rate for non-Hispanic White women in 2005;
- “Whereas in Memphis, Tennessee, the infant mortality rate is three times higher than that of the United States (higher than any other city in the country), and the 2005 infant mortality rate in the 38108 zip code of Memphis was deadlier for babies than that of the countries of Vietnam, Iran, and El Salvador with 31 deaths per 1,000 live births, 5 times that of the 2005 national average of 6.86 deaths per 1,000 live births;
- “The United States 2004 ranking of 29th in the world for infant mortality rates is due in part to racial disparities in prenatal treatment; and
- “The racial disparities in infant mortality may relate to socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and the education level of the mother.”

Conservative Concerns: The bill does not take into account the different measures that various countries use in calculating infant mortality rates. *“First, it's shaky ground to compare U.S. infant mortality with reports from other countries. The United States counts all births as live if they show any sign of life, regardless of prematurity or size. This includes what many other countries report as stillbirths. In Austria and Germany, fetal weight must be at least 500 grams (1 pound) to count as a live birth; in other parts of Europe, such as Switzerland, the fetus must be at least 30 centimeters (12 inches) long. In Belgium and France, births at less than 26 weeks of pregnancy are registered as lifeless. And some countries don't reliably register babies who die within the first 24 hours of birth. Thus, the United States is sure to report higher infant mortality rates.”* Healy, Bernadine M.D.. “Behind the Baby Count” 24 Sept. 2006. U.S. News and World Report <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/articles/060924/2healy.htm>

Committee Action: H.Res. 260 was introduced on March 18, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 57– Recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children (*Sires, D-NJ*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 57 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses the importance of access to swimming lessons for all communities in the United States as an integral part of drowning prevention;
- “Condemns the persistent high rates of fatal drowning among all children, especially minority children;
- “Celebrates the passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act;
- “Celebrates the work of initiatives like USA Swimming Foundation's ‘Make A Splash’ and Safe Kids USA to educate parents and caregivers on water safety and drowning prevention messages; and
- “Encourages public and private funding to support current and future initiatives that provide all children access to swimming education.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The New York Times has also highlighted the discrepancies in swimming education between African-American children and White children in the article ‘Everyone Into the Water’;
- “Minority drowning rates greatly exceed the rates of White children;
- “According to the CDC, the fatal drowning rate for African-American children between the ages of 5 and 14 is over three times higher than the rate for White children, and the rate for American Indian and Alaska Native children is over two times higher;

- “According to a study by the University of Memphis, almost 60 percent of African-American and Latino children do not know how to swim as compared to roughly 30 percent of White children;
- “long-existing stigmas regarding minorities and swimming have contributed to the lack of swimming education in minority communities, and nonswimming minority families are far less likely than nonswimming White families to enroll in swimming lessons; and
- “According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2007, 33.7 percent of African-Americans, 28.6 percent of Latinos, and 12.5 percent of Asian-Americans lived below the poverty line as compared to 10.1 percent of Whites, and swimming lessons can cost hundreds of dollars per course.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 57 was introduced on January 13, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. ____ – Recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act (*Slaughter, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 14, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. ____ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994;
- “Continues to support the goals and ideals of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; and

- “Recognizes the need to continue vigorous enforcement of the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and similar Acts and programs to deter and prosecute crimes of violence against women.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, on September 13, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (hereinafter referred to as “VAWA”) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994;
- “The protections and provisions afforded by VAWA were subsequently expanded and improved by the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, which created a legal assistance program for victims and expanded the definition of domestic violence crimes to include dating violence and stalking;
- “VAWA and interventions funded by that Act have reduced the incidence of domestic violence, have lowered sexual assault rates, and have averted societal costs by reducing the need for emergency and medical responses;
- “VAWA has succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including combined efforts by law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, victim services, and community-based programs to develop long-term plans for addressing such crimes locally and statewide;
- “the Sexual Assault Services program, authorized by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, enabled the 1,300 rape crisis centers in the United States to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault;
- “September 13, 2009, marked the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.”

Committee Action: H.Res. ___ was introduced on September 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no 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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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