



## Legislative Bulletin.....September 17, 2007

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### **Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 6

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$211 million in FY 2008 and \$1.27 billion over the FY 2008-FY 2012 period

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 3

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 1

### **H.R. 3246 — Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 (*Oberstar, D-MN*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3246 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3246 would authorize \$1.25 billion over five years to create five regional road commissions. The commissions would be state-federal partnerships that would provide grants to state and local governments to promote infrastructure and road development. The bill would create the following five commissions, three of which are new and two of which replace current entities:

- The Delta Regional Commission, which would replace the existing Delta Regional Authority, and would include counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee;
- The Northern Great Plains Regional Commission, which would replace the existing Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, and would include counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, as well as certain counties in Missouri;
- The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, which would include all counties in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and

Florida that are not included in the Appalachian Regional Commission or Delta Regional Commission;

- The Southwest Border Regional Commission, which would include counties in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas; and
- The Northern Border Regional Commission, which would include counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

The bill would require each regional commission to evaluate the region and to establish strategies for awarding grants in the region that would encourage development and meet the specific needs of the region. The commission would be required to support the creation of local development districts and to work with private and local entities to foster development and cooperation throughout the region.

The commissions would also be required to designate specific “distressed,” “transitional,” or “attainment” counties within the region. H.R. 3246 would require that 50% of the commission’s assistance be given to counties that are defined as “distressed,” which is defined as having high rates of unemployment and poverty. In general, “attainment” counties would not be able to receive funds for any other costs than administrative expenses.

Each commission would consist of a federally appointed co-chair appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The commission would also include the governors of all participating states. The bill would also require that a tribal co-chair be appointed to the Northern Great Plains Regional Commission. In addition, tribes in the Southwest Border Regional Commission would be allowed to participate in the official business of the commission. Each commission would be responsible for hiring and paying an executive director and staff to carry out the functions of the commission.

The bill limits the federal share of funding for projects carried out by the commission to 50%, unless the project is conducted in a county that is designated as distressed, in which case the share would be as high as 80%. H.R. 2346 would allow the commissions to use federal funds to supplement the cost of current federal projects within the region. Under those circumstances, federal funds could account for up to 80% of the cost of the project.

**Additional Information:** Regional Commissions, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Denali Commission, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, have been used in the past as a means to fund development in certain parts of the country. H.R. 3246 would create three new regional commissions and replace two existing commissions. The Delta Regional Authority and the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, which would be replaced by H.R. 3246, both expire at the end of FY 2007 and have not been extended.

According to House Report [110 – 321](#), the purposes of the new regional commissions are to “provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure

development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation,” and to “ensure that the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation have the necessary tools to develop the basic building blocks for economic development, such as transportation and basic public infrastructure, job skills training, and business development.”

In the past, grants and awards given by regional commissions have been criticized for being duplicative of other federal programs. Additionally, regional commission projects are often designated through earmarks and have been suggested to be a source of pork-barrel federal spending.

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that the authorized spending level for this new program is not offset by reducing existing low-priority federal programs. Some conservatives may also be concerned that the suspension calendar, intended for non-controversial bills, is being used to create new, potentially duplicative programs.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3246 was introduced on July 31, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the Committee on Financial Services. On August 2, 2007, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, was reported by voice vote. On September 7, 2007, the bill was discharged by the Committee on Financial Services.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 3246 would authorize \$200 million in FY 2008 and \$1.25 billion over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes. The bill would create five state-federal commissions to provide grants and awards for local development purpose.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report 110-321 did not cite specific Constitutional authority. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.Res. 593 — Congratulating scientists F. Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina, and Paul Crutzen for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of**

## **ozone, that led to the development of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. (*Sanchez, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 593 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 593 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates scientists F. Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina, and Paul Crutzen for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone, that led to the development of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and
- “encourages the continued research of the interaction of humans and their actions with the Earth's ecosystem.”

H.Res. 593 lists the following findings:

- “in 1973, on the University of California, Irvine campus, chemists F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina began researching the depletion of stratospheric ozone by the chlorofluorocarbon gases then used worldwide as refrigerants and aerosol propellants;
- “on June 28, 1974, F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina published in the scientific journal *Nature*, their path-breaking article, ‘Stratospheric Sink for Chlorofluoromethanes: Chlorine Atom-Catalysed Destruction of Ozone’;
- “in 1976, the work of F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina connecting chlorofluorocarbons and atmospheric ozone depletion was confirmed by the National Academy of Sciences;
- “in 1978, the United States banned chlorofluorocarbons as propellants in aerosol cans;
- “in 1987, because of the research of F. Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina, Paul Crutzen, and many other scientists, the international community acted through the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (‘Montreal Protocol’);
- “the Montreal Protocol created the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol which provides funds to help developing countries to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances;
- “the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was the first financial mechanism to be created under an international treaty;
- “the Montreal Protocol recognized that world-wide emissions of certain substances can significantly deplete and otherwise modify the ozone layer in a manner that is likely to result in adverse effects on human health and the environment;
- “because of the adoption of the Montreal Protocol the levels of chlorofluorocarbon gases in the Earth's atmosphere have decreased;
- “on September 17, 1987, the Montreal Protocol was open for signatures;

- “to date, 191 nations have signed the Montreal Protocol;
- “F. Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina, and Paul Crutzen were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995 for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone; and
- “September 17, 2007, marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol.”

**Additional Information:** Some outside organizations have asserted that environmentalist claims about ozone depletion that lead to the Montreal Protocol were exaggerated. To read more about the issue please click on the links below:

<http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed091407a.cfm>

<http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2007/s2918.htm>

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 593 was introduced on July 31, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize 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.

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**H.R. 1657 — To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs (Rohrabacher, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1657 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1657 would establish a new scholarship program for science and technology students that are studying for careers at the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine, atmospheric, or satellite research programs.

H.R. 1657 would make scholarships available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents that were full-time students that were or were playing to study in an approved scientific field (as determined by NOAA) at an institution of higher learning. The bill would require

any recipient of a scholarship under the program to work for two years at NOAA for every one year of study through the program.

Students would lose their scholarships for failing to maintain high academic standards or full-time enrollment. Penalties and regulations regarding the work requirements under the program, including waivers for students unable to fulfill their obligation, would be issued by NOAA.

Scholarships could not be awarded to any one student for more than four years.

**Additional Information:** NOAA is a federal agency that studies marine and atmospheric conditions. According to their website, NOAA offers K—12 educational materials to encourage scientific studies as well as scholarships for students interested in oceanic and atmospheric research. Currently NOAA offers the Hollings scholarship which offers undergraduate students up to \$8,000 in tuition assistance annually to study in approved scientific research fields. According to CQ, “Colleges and universities have expressed concern that their educational programs that prepare students for jobs at NOAA are not graduating enough students to meet NOAA’s hiring needs.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1657 was introduced on March 22, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On May 8, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 1657 was not available as of press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** It would create a new federal scholarship program.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing specific Constitutional authority was not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” [*emphasis added*]

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**H.R. 3527 — To extend for two months the authorities of the  
Overseas Private Investment Corporation (*Sherman, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3527 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3527 would extend the authorization of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, which is set to expire at the end of FY 2007, by two months.

**Additional Information:** The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) was established as an agency of the U.S. government in 1971. According to their website, “OPIC helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy. Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers.”

OPIC, however, has been criticized by many conservative organizations, including the Heritage Foundation, which claims that “OPIC activity does not lead to any net increase in U.S. employment. OPIC subsidies merely shift employment from certain sectors of the economy to subsidized businesses... subsidies to businesses like those provided by OPIC distort the market-driven distribution of capital and labor resources. Therefore, OPIC subsidies are most likely to have no effect—and may even have a detrimental effect—on overall national income.” **Last year’s RSC budget called for the elimination of OPIC in an effort to trim unnecessary federal spending.**

For more information about conservative opposition to OPIC, please visit:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/PoliticalPhilosophy/BG1127.cfm>

On July 23, 2007, the House passed a bill that would have modified and extended OPIC through 2001 by voice vote. The Senate has to take any action on the legislation.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3527 was introduced on September 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3527 was not available as of press time.

**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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing specific Constitutional authority was not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.R. 3528 — To provide authority to the Peace Corps to provide separation pay for host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps (*Lantos, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3528 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3528 would allow the Peace Corps to establish a fund to pay resident personal services contractors on nations that host Peace Corps activities.

**Additional Information:** The Peace Corps, which was created in 1961, sends people to serve developing nations by living and working in foreign countries. According to the Peace Corps, more than 187,000 volunteers have served overseas since its inception. The Peace Corps is currently focusing many of its efforts on carrying out the president's emergency AIDS plan around the world.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3528 was introduced on September 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3528 was not available as of press time.

**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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing specific Constitutional authority was not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” [*emphasis added*]

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**H.R. 3096 — Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007 (Smith, R-NJ)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3096 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3096 would prohibit the U.S. government from providing non-humanitarian aid to the government of Vietnam until the president issues a report stating that the government has made significant progress in respecting human rights. The report must confirm that Vietnam has made substantial progress toward respecting religious freedom, releasing political prisoners, returning government confiscated property, granting free access to U.S. refugee programs, and respecting basic human

rights. The bill would also designate money for AIDS relief as “humanitarian aid” so that it can still be given to Vietnam.

H.R. 3096 would authorize \$2 million for each of FY 2008 and FY 2009 for individuals and organizations that promote democracy and human rights in Vietnam. The bill would also authorize \$9 million in FY 2008 and \$1.1 million in FY 2009 to stop the government of Vietnam from jamming broadcasts from Radio Free Asia. Finally, the bill would urge the use of cultural exchange programs to encourage democracy in Vietnam and authorize refugee status to citizens of Vietnam who were previously refused because of administrative error.

**Additional Information:** According to the findings listed in the bill, “the United States Congress agreed to Vietnam becoming an official member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2006, amidst assurances that the Vietnamese Government was steadily improving its human rights record and would continue to do so. Despite that assurance, Vietnam remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), which continues to deny the right of citizens to change their government. Although in recent years the National Assembly of Vietnam has played an increasingly active role as a forum for highlighting local concerns, corruption, and inefficiency, the National Assembly remains subject to the direction of the CPV and the CPV maintains control over the selection of candidates in national and local elections. Government of Vietnam forbids public challenge to the legitimacy of the one-party state, restricts freedoms of opinion, the press, and association and tightly limits access to the Internet and telecommunication.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3096 was introduced on July 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a markup and reported the bill by voice vote on July 31, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 3096 would authorize \$11 million in FY 2008 and \$20 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

**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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing specific Constitutional authority was not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” [*emphasis added*]

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**H. Res. 238 — Commending the first democratic elections in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia, and expressing support for the further democratic development and implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding (*Crowley, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 238 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 238 would express that the sense of the House of Representatives;

- “commends the first democratic elections in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia, in which the Acehnese have shown their strong commitment to democracy and peace, and congratulates Irwandi Yusuf, the first democratic elected governor of Aceh;
- “expresses its ongoing support for the further democratic development of Aceh and the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement on August 15, 2005;
- “encourages both parties to live up to their commitments under the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding, especially with regard to establishing a Human Rights Court for Aceh and a Commission of Truth and Reconciliation; and
- “encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to commit resources in supporting the peace and building a strong civil society in Aceh.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “for three decades there has been a continuous armed conflict in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia;
- “violence between the Indonesian military and the Free Aceh Movement has resulted in an estimated 15,000 deaths in the region;
- “the tsunami on December 26, 2004, killed at least 165,000 people in Aceh, devastated the landscape, and led to the loss of livelihood for 600,000 people;
- “the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement signed a Memorandum of Understanding on August 15, 2005, in Helsinki;
- “the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), led by the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Norway, and Switzerland, has supported the implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding successfully;
- “the Free Aceh Movement has demobilized its military troops and decommissioned its arms;
- “the Government of Indonesia has withdrawn its nonorganic military and police forces from Aceh;
- “the Law on the Governing of Aceh (LoGA) was signed into law by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on August 1, 2006;

- “the general life situation of the Acehnese has improved significantly since the signing of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding and the Acehnese populate markets and celebrate festivities in public;
- “the first democratic and peaceful gubernatorial and district administrative elections in Aceh were held on December 11, 2006, and more than 80 percent of entitled Acehnese voted; and
- “Irwandi Yusuf, a former leader of the Free Aceh Movement, won the gubernatorial election with the highest support of more than 38 percent of total votes.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 238 was introduced on March 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Res. 238 on July 17, 2007 and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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**H. Res. 497 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of the People’s Republic of China should immediately release from custody the children of Rebiya Kadeer and Canadian citizen Huseyin Celil and should refrain from further engaging in acts of cultural, linguistic, and religious suppression directed against the Uyghur people, and for other purposes (Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 497 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 497 would express that the sense of the House of Representatives;

- “ should recognize, and seek to ensure, the linguistic, cultural, and religious rights of the Uyghur people of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;
- “should immediately release the children of Rebiya Kadeer from both incarceration and house arrest and cease harassment and intimidation of the Kadeer family members; and
- “should immediately release Canadian citizen Huseyin Celil and allow him to rejoin his family in Canada.”

The resolution lists numerous followings, including the following:

- “the protection of the human rights of minority groups is consistent with the actions of a responsible stakeholder in the international community and with the role of a host of a major international event such as the Olympic Games;
- “recent actions taken against the Uyghur minority by authorities in the People’s Republic of China and, specifically, by local officials in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, have included major violations of human rights and acts of cultural suppression;
- “the authorities of the People’s Republic of China have manipulated the strategic objectives of the international war on terror to increase their cultural and religious oppression of the Muslim population residing in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;
- “an official campaign to encourage Han Chinese migration into the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has resulted in the Uyghur population becoming a minority in their traditional homeland and has placed immense pressure on those who are seeking to preserve the linguistic, cultural, and religious traditions of the Uyghur people;
- “the House of Representatives has a particular interest in the fate of Uyghur human rights leader Rebiya Kadeer, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and her family as Ms. Kadeer was first arrested in August 1999 while she was en route to meet with a delegation from the Congressional Research Service and was held in prison on spurious charges until her release and exile to the United States in the spring of 2005;
- “upon her release, Ms. Kadeer was warned by her Chinese jailors not to advocate for human rights in Xinjiang and throughout China while in the United States or elsewhere, and was reminded that she had several family members residing in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;
- “while residing in the United States, Ms. Kadeer founded the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation and was elected President of the Uyghur American Association and President of the World Uyghur Congress in Munich, Germany;
- “President George W. Bush recognized the importance of Ms. Kadeer’s human rights work in a June 5, 2007, speech in Prague, Czech Republic, when he stated: ‘Another dissident I will meet here is Rebiyah Kadeer of China, whose sons have been jailed in what we believe is an act of retaliation for her human rights activities. The talent of men and women like Rebiyah is the greatest resource of their nations, far more valuable than the weapons of their army or their oil under the ground.’;
- “Ablikim Abdureyim was also convicted by a kangaroo court on April 17, 2007, for ‘instigating and engaging in secessionist’ activities and was sentenced to nine years of imprisonment, this trial being held in secrecy and Mr. Abdureyim reportedly being denied the right to legal representation;
- “two days later, on April 19, 2007, another court in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, sentenced Canadian citizen Huseyin Celil to life in prison for ‘splittism’ and also for ‘being party to a terrorist organization’

after having successfully sought his extradition from Uzbekistan where he was visiting relatives;

- “Chinese authorities have continued to refuse to recognize Mr. Celil’s Canadian citizenship, although he was naturalized in 2005, denied Canadian diplomats access to the courtroom when Mr. Celil was sentenced, and have refused to grant consular access to Mr. Celil in prison;
- “a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson publicly warned Canada ‘not to interfere in China’s domestic affairs’ after Mr. Celil’s sentencing; and
- “Mr. Celil’s case was a major topic of conversation in a recent Beijing meeting between the Canadian and Chinese Foreign Ministers.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 497 was introduced on June 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Res. 497 on June 26, 2007 and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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## **H. Res. 518 — Recognizing the 50th anniversary of Malaysia’s independence (*Meeks, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 518 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 518 would express that the sense of the House of Representatives;

- “recognizes the 50th anniversary of Malaysia’s independence;
- “expresses congratulations to Malaysia on reaching this national milestone; and
- “expresses its support for an ongoing strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Malaysia and the continued cooperation of the two countries in such important areas as counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, and trade.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Malaysia is a modern, multi-religious, and multi-racial democracy in Southeast Asia that is important to the United States’ strategic interests;
- “Malaysia is one of the United States’ key allies in the global war on terror, and it condemns all terrorism, regardless of its cause or objectives;

- “the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has condemned those seeking to incite race and religious hatred, including anti-Semitism;
- “Malaysia has taken a leading regional role in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics in Southeast Asia, through intelligence sharing, close cooperation in law enforcement, participation in joint exercises and training, and other cooperative efforts with its neighboring countries and the United States;
- “Malaysia is the United States’ 10th largest trading partner, and the two countries have signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and are currently engaged in talks for a free trade agreement;
- “Malaysia has consistently been a favored destination of American investment due to its competitive advantages, including good infrastructure, a highly-trained, educated, and multilingual workforce, and a business-friendly government;
- “the Malaysian Constitution guarantees gender equality, and the many accomplishments of Malaysian women evidence Malaysia’s commitment to the advancement of women’s social, economic, and legal status;
- “Malaysia was ruled by the United Kingdom until 1957;
- “Malaysia gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 31, 1957; and
- “August 31, 2007, is the 50th anniversary of Malaysia’s independence, as well as the United States-Malaysia relationship.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 518 was introduced on June 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Res. 518 on July 31, 2007 and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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**H. Res. 583 — Recognizing the remarkable example of Sir Nicholas Winton who organized the rescue of 669 Jewish Czechoslovakian children from Nazi death camps prior to the outbreak of World War II  
(Klein, D-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 583 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 583 would express that the sense of the House of Representatives;

- “commends Sir Nicholas Winton and those British and Czechoslovakian citizens who worked with him, for their remarkable persistence and selfless courage in saving the lives of 669 Czechoslovakian Jewish children in the months before the outbreak of World War II; and
- “urges men and women everywhere to recognize in Winton’s remarkable humanitarian effort the difference that one devoted principled individual can make in changing and improving the lives of others.”

The resolution numerous followings, including the following:

- “during the Holocaust, in which some 6,000,000 Jews were brutally put to death by the Government of Nazi Germany, a small number of individuals risked their lives and spent fortunes to save the lives of others because they were decent and courageous men and women of principle;
- “in October 1938, the Nazi Government occupied the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia, which resulted in tens of thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing the occupied areas and seeking safety in the areas of as-yet unoccupied Czechoslovakia;
- “in the face of this enormous suffering, Winton, moved by feelings of deep compassion, undertook a massive effort to help the children of many of these Jewish families escape these horrible circumstances, though at that time neither he nor they knew the full extent of the horrors that awaited them;
- “Winton sought to find friendly governments which would grant asylum to these Jewish refugee children, and his efforts were rebuffed by the countries whose help he requested, until the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom agreed to accept children from the Czechoslovakian refugee camps;
- “Winton and other volunteers gathered names and other information on children whose parents recognized the importance of getting their children beyond the reach of the Nazi Government, and Winton was able to use this information to identify foster homes for these refugee children;
- “Winton took the lead in raising funds to pay for the transportation of the children from Prague to Britain and Sweden and to pay an enormous government-imposed fee to cover the costs of future repatriation;
- “on March 14, 1939, the first 20 children left Prague under Winton’s auspices, and the very next day the Nazi army overran the remainder of un-occupied Czechoslovakia;
- “the heroic effort of Winton and other volunteers to assist these young children flee occupied Czechoslovakia continued for over six months until the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939, during which time 669 children were able to leave in a total of eight separate groups;
- “this group of 669 children, saved through the efforts of Winton and his collaborators, includes doctors, nurses, teachers, musicians, artists, writers, pilots, ministers, scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and a Member of the British Parliament, and today they and their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren number over 5,000 individuals, and these individuals live in the

United States, Canada, Australia, the Czech Republic, Britain, Germany, and other countries;

- “Winton’s achievement went unrecognized and unacknowledged for more than half a century until his wife, who knew nothing of this life-saving work, came across an old leather briefcase in an attic in which she found lists of the children, letters from their parents and other materials documenting his efforts;
- “Winton has been honored with the title of Member of the British Empire (MBE), was awarded the Freedom of the City of Prague, received the Czech Order of T. G. Masaryk, and was given a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for services to humanity.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 583 was introduced on July 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Res. 583 on July 31, 2007 and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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## **H. Res. 639 — Commending the actions of the Government of Germany and its cooperation with United States intelligence agencies in preventing a large-scale terrorist attack against locations in Germany, including sites frequented by Americans (Gallegly, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 639 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 639 would express that the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “commends the efforts of German law enforcement authorities in preventing a large-scale terrorist attack on numerous targets in Germany, including sites frequented by Americans;
- “recognizes the role of United States intelligence agencies in providing critical information to German authorities in their investigation and apprehension of the suspected terrorists;
- “commends the intelligence community of Germany for its outstanding work in identifying the persons seeking to carry out this terrorist plot;
- “condemns those individuals who would use acts of violence against innocent civilians to spread a message of hate and intolerance;

- “urges the allies of the United States in the global war against terrorism to remain steadfast in their efforts to defeat international terrorism; and
- “expresses its readiness to provide any necessary assistance to the Government of Germany in its counter-terrorism efforts and to bring to justice those individuals involved in this terrorist plot.”

The resolution numerous followings, including the following:

- “on September 4, 2007, German police arrested three people for planning large-scale terrorist attacks against locations in Germany, including sites frequented by Americans;
- “possible targets included Ramstein Air Base, which serves as headquarters for United States Air Forces in Europe and is also a North Atlantic Treaty Organization installation, and Frankfurt Airport, the third largest airport in Europe;
- “according to German authorities, the three suspects belonged to a German cell of Islamic Jihad Union, a radical Sunni group based in Central Asia with links to Al Qaeda;
- “German and United States authorities worked closely together in the investigation;
- “United States intelligence agencies reportedly provided critical information that alerted their German counterparts as to the travels of the suspects between Germany and Pakistan and the suspects affiliation with the Islamic Jihad Union;
- “German authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent a horrific attack that could have come within days of the arrests;
- “the successful collaborative action by United States and German authorities prevented the possible deaths of many innocent people;
- “Germany and the United States have been close allies in the global war against terrorism;
- “the law enforcement, intelligence, and military organizations in Germany and the United States continue to work together to win the global war against terrorism;
- “the threat of terrorism is a grave concern for all nations, regardless of geographical or other boundaries;
- “on September 4, 2007, just hours before the arrests in Germany, authorities in Denmark apprehended eight men with links to Al Qaeda on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack involving explosives;
- “victory in the global war against terrorism is necessary to preserve the liberty and ensure the safety of all people.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 639 was introduced on September 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. No further action was taken.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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**H. R. 1154 — To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D. (*Green, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 17, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill authorizes a Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D. “in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation.” The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the gold medal.

H.R. 1154 has one finding which states that, “In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson bestowed on Dr. DeBakey the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, and in 1985, President Ronald Reagan conferred on him the National Medal of Science.”

**Additional Information:** For a complete list of the more than 150 Congressional Gold Medal recipients from 1776 until present go to:  
[http://clerk.house.gov/art\\_history/house\\_history/goldMedal.html](http://clerk.house.gov/art_history/house_history/goldMedal.html)

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on February 16, 2007 and was referred to the Committee on Financial Services. No further action was taken.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO cost estimate is unavailable, but the bill authorizes “such amounts as may be necessary” from the U.S. Mint’s Public Enterprise Fund to pay for the costs of the medals, while sales from the duplicate bronze medals will be deposited back into the Public Enterprise Fund. For previous Congressional Gold Medal legislation, CBO has estimated that it costs \$30,000 to design a Gold Medal and that each medal has \$5,500 worth of gold.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**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.

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