



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2006

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

(200th Calendar Day of the Year – 62nd Voting Day of the Year – 27 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

[H.Res. 920](#) - Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 2389](#) – Pledge Protection Bill (*Rules*). The Rules Committee has recommended a restrictive rule that provides one hour of general debate, provides one motion to recommit, and makes in order three amendments.

[H.R. 2389](#) – Pledge Protection Bill (*Rep. Akin - Judiciary*) (*Subject to a Rule*). This bill would prohibit federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from hearing cases related to any claim that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance violates the U.S. Constitution. In the 108th Congress, the House passed an identical measure by a 247-173 vote (166 Democrats voted NO and 34 voted YES). [H.R. 2389](#) was not reported out of the Judiciary Committee where it was rejected by a 15-15 vote.

The three amendments made in order by the rule are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **Watt Amendment.** To preserve the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in section 4 of title 4, or its recitation.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment.** To require that Federal courts have jurisdiction when free exercise of religion is violated due to coerced or mandatory recitation of the Pledge.
- **Akin Amendment.** To add language making it explicit that the Act is effective immediately and applies to all pending and future litigation.

Veto Override of [H.R. 810](#) – Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (*Rep. Castle/Rep. DeGette – Energy & Commerce*). [H.R. 810](#) expands current federal policy -- which restricts federally funded research on embryonic stem cell lines created before August 9, 2001 -- to provide that stem cell lines shall be eligible for federally funded research regardless of the date on which they were derived. Under this bill, stem cell lines would be eligible for federal research only if they meet the following requirements: 1) the stem cells were derived from human embryos that have been donated from in vitro fertilization clinics, were created for the purposes of fertility treatment, and were in excess of the clinical need of the individuals seeking such treatment; 2) prior to the consideration of embryo donation and through consultation with the individuals seeking fertility treatment, it was determined that the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded; 3) the individuals seeking fertility treatment donated the embryos with written informed consent and without receiving any financial or other inducements to make the donation. [H.R. 810](#) also requires that the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Director of NIH, issue final guidelines for eligible research.

[H.R. 810](#) was adopted by the House on May 2005 (238-194) and by the Senate yesterday (63-37). It is expected that the President will veto this bill and that the House will attempt to override his veto. Passage by a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate is required to override the President's veto.

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Suspensions (4 bills):

- 1) [H.R. 5683](#) - To preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States (*Rep. Hunter - Resources*)
- 2) [H.Con.Res. 448](#) - Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission (*Rep. Paul - Science*)
- 3) [H.Res.921](#) - Condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel, holding terrorists and their state-sponsors accountable for such attacks, supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and for other purposes (*Rep. Boehner - International Relations*)
- 4) [H.Res. 911](#) - Resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the July 11, 2006, terrorist attacks in India and expressing condolences to the families of the victims and sympathy to the people of India (*Rep. Crowley - International Relations*)

Possible consideration of [S. 2754](#) - **Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act** (*Sen. Santorum - Energy and Commerce*) (*Subject to a Rule*). [S. 2754](#) was considered by the House yesterday under Suspension of the Rules and failed by a 273-154 vote.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will convene at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business and will consider [H.R. 5684](#) – **U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act** (*Rep. Boehner – Ways & Means*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

Daily Quote...

"A quarter-century from now, when the benefits of embryonic stem cell research are being realized, Americans are likely to shake their heads in astonishment at this week's events in Washington...for Bush to use his first veto to block scientific progress is downright embarrassing."

- From a *USAToday* editorial this morning