



## Legislative Bulletin.....June 22, 2004

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### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 25*

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** Less than \$2.5 million over five years  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: At least \$652.93 billion<sup>#</sup> over five years*

**Total Cost of Appropriations:** \$390.9 billion in regular discretionary (FY05) appropriations plus \$25.8 billion in contingent emergency (FY05) appropriations  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$52 billion for FY05*

**Total Amount of Revenue Reductions:** \$178 million over 10 years  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$160.4 billion over five years*

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$209 million over five years  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$22.5 billion over five years*

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 1  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 16<sup>#</sup>*

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0  
*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 13*

\* This figure does not include H.R. 4503, the Energy Policy Act of 2004

<sup>#</sup> This figure does not include H.R. 3873 or H.R. 4503

**H.Res. 634—Congratulating the Kenyon College Ladies swimming and diving team for winning the 2004 NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving National Championship (Ney)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 634 resolves that the House:

“(1) congratulates the Kenyon College Ladies swimming and diving team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Swimming and Diving National Championship;

“(2) recognizes the achievements of all the swimmers, divers, coaches, trainers, and managers who were instrumental in helping the Kenyon College Ladies win the 2004 NCAA Division III Women's Swimming and Diving National Championship; and

“(3) recognizes the 20 NCAA Division III national championships won by the Kenyon College Ladies swimming and diving team as an accomplishment unparalleled in any sport in the history of women's collegiate athletics.”

**Additional Background:** On March 13, 2004, the Kenyon College Ladies swimming and diving team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Women's Swimming and Diving National Championship for the 20th time with a score of 506 points.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 634 was introduced on May 10, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee did not consider the resolution.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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**H.Res. 635—Congratulating the Kenyon College Lords swimming and diving team for winning the 2004 NCAA Division III Men’s Swimming and Diving National Championship (Ney)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 635 resolves that the House:

“(1) congratulates the Kenyon College Lords swimming and diving team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Swimming and Diving National Championship;

“(2) recognizes the achievements of all the swimmers, divers, coaches, trainers, and managers who were instrumental in helping the Kenyon College Lords win the 2004 NCAA Division III Men's Swimming and Diving National Championship; and  
“(3) recognizes the 25 consecutive NCAA Division III national championships won by the Kenyon College Lords swimming and diving team as an accomplishment unparalleled in any sport in the history of collegiate athletics.”

**Additional Background:** On March 20, 2004, the Kenyon College Lords men's swimming and diving team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Swimming and Diving National Championship for the 25th consecutive year with a score of 678.5 points.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 635 was introduced on May 10, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee did not consider the resolution.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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## **H.Res. 630—Commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers for winning the 2003-04 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Women’s Ice Hockey Championship (*Sabo*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 630 resolves that the House:

“(1) commends the University of Minnesota women's ice hockey team for winning the 2003-2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Ice Hockey Championship;  
“(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff and invites them to the United States Capitol to be honored; and  
“(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the University of Minnesota.”

**Additional Background:** On March 28, 2004, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers defeated Harvard University in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship game by a score of 6 to 2, having defeated Dartmouth College by a score of 5 to 1 in the semifinal.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 630 was introduced on May 6, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee did not consider the resolution.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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**H.Con.Res. 449—Honoring the life and accomplishments of Ray Charles, recognizing his contributions to the Nation, and extending condolences to his family on his death (Burns)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 449 resolves that Congress:

- “(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Ray Charles Robinson;
- “(2) recognizes Ray Charles for his invaluable contributions to the Nation, the State of Georgia, and the American musical heritage; and
- “(3) extends condolences to the family of Ray Charles on the death of a remarkable man.”

**Additional Background:** Ray Charles passed away on June 10, 2004, in Beverly Hills, California. According to the resolution, Charles “was one of the most influential and recognized voices of American music throughout the world, whose influence spanned generations and musical genres.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 449 was introduced on June 15, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee did not consider the resolution.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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**H.Con.Res. 13—Recognizing the importance of blues music (*Ford*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 13 resolves that Congress:

“(1) recognizes the importance of blues music with respect to many cultural developments in United States history;

“(2) calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the importance of the blues; and

“(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe the importance of the blues with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and educational programs.”

**Additional Background:** According to the resolution, “blues music is the most influential form of music indigenous to the United States, providing the roots for contemporary music heard around the world such as rock and roll, jazz, rhythm and blues, and country, and even influencing classical music.” 2003 was the centennial anniversary of when W.C. Handy composed the first blues music to be released throughout the United States.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 13 was introduced on January 27, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The committee did not consider the resolution.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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**H.Con.Res. 56 — Expressing the sense of the Congress that States should require candidates for driver’s licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual (*Evans*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 56 has five findings and resolves:

“That it is the sense of the Congress that each State should require any candidate for a driver's license in such State to demonstrate, as a condition of obtaining a driver's license, an ability to associate the use of the white cane and guide dog with visually impaired individuals and to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in proximity to a potentially visually impaired individual.”

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution’s findings, many States do not require candidates for driver's licenses to associate the use of the white cane or guide dog with potentially

visually impaired individuals and visually impaired individuals have had their white canes and guide dogs run over by motor vehicles, have been struck by the side-view mirrors of motor vehicles, and have suffered serious personal injury and death as the result of being hit by motor vehicles.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on February 26, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee did not consider the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution has no cost.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Sheila Moloney, [sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov](mailto:sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9719.

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## **S. 2017 — Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building Designation Act (Sen. Santorum)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Note:** The House passed a resolution (H.Res. 433) honoring the former governor on March 16, 2004, 398-0 <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll060.xml>

**Summary:** S. 2017 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the “Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building.”

**Additional Information:** Luis Ferre was born in Puerto Rico on February 17, 1904, soon after Spain ceded control of Puerto Rico to the United States in 1898, and died on October 21, 2003. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and built his father's business, Puerto Rico Iron Works, into a successful industrial enterprise. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1951 and was elected to the Puerto Rican House of Representatives in 1953. According to the resolution’s findings “Luis Ferre saw the opportunity to advocate Puerto Rican statehood in 1967, the year of the first political status plebiscite on the island,” which he used, though it was unsuccessful, “to mobilize statehood forces and to establish a new political entity, the New Progressive Party.” He served as Governor for one term, from 1969 to 1973 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991 from President George H.W. Bush. He is known as the father of the Puerto Rican statehood movement.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced in the Senate on January 22, 2004, and passed by unanimous consent on June 9. It was held at the desk and not referred to a House committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.



**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

**Staff Contact:** Sheila Moloney, [sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov](mailto:sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9719.

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## **H.R. 4226 — Cape Town Treaty Implementation Act of 2004 (Young of Alaska)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill makes technical changes to 49 U.S.C. 411 to provide for U.S. implementation of the Cape Town Treaty, to extend asset-based financing laws (currently applied in the U.S), to international transactions involving the sale, financing, or leasing of aircraft and aircraft engines. Under this treaty, an international organization will establish an international registry to record notices of rights in aircraft and aircraft engines. According to the Committee, this “will be done for the limited purpose of establishing the priority of competing financial interests, and has no oversight, safety or other regulatory implications.”

According to the Committee, the FAA currently operates a similar registry for domestic aircraft and aircraft engines. H.R. 4226 would expand the FAA’s authority to operate that registry and authorize the agency to provide access to and integration with the new international registry. The bill also would direct the FAA to issue regulations to implement these changes.

**Additional Information:** To see the text of the Cape Town Treaty and additional information, go to: <http://www.unidroit.org/english/conventions/mobile-equipment/main.htm>

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on April 28, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which ordered it reported to the full House on May 12, 2004, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4226 would not significantly affect the federal budget, because according to the FAA, the bill would require no major changes to the agency’s existing registry or recording processes, and any increases in administrative costs would be less than \$500,000 a year. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** The bill modifies existing law.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of

international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that because H.R. 4226 would implement the Cape Town Treaty, it falls within that exclusion. CBO has thus not reviewed the bill for the presence of mandates.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in Report No. 108-526, finds authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (Powers of Congress) but fails to cite a specific clause.

**Staff Contact:** Sheila Moloney, [sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov](mailto:sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9719.

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## **H.R. 4372—Working Families Assistance Act of 2004 (Cantor)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 4372 would allow up to \$500 in unused benefits in a cafeteria plan or flexible spending arrangement (FSA) to be carried forward to the next year for child or dependent care. Currently under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, unused funds are lost at the end of the year.

**Additional Background:** An FSA is a reimbursement account under which an employee is reimbursed for medical expenses or other non-taxable employer-provided benefits, and typically is funded through salary reduction. A cafeteria plan is a written benefit plan under which employees may choose between receiving cash and certain nontaxable benefits such as health coverage or dependent care.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 4372 was introduced on May 17, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The committee did not consider the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to an estimate by the Joint Committee on Taxation, H.R. 4372 would reduce revenue by \$178 million over 10 years.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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## **H.R. 4589 — TANF and Related Programs Continuation Act of 2004 (Herger)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.



**Summary:** The bill extends federal welfare programs through September 30, 2004. The programs are currently set to expire on June 30, 2004. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.R. 4737) and in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.R. 4), the House passed complete welfare reauthorization bills. The Senate did not consider the 107<sup>th</sup> bill and has yet to complete consideration of the 108<sup>th</sup> bill. Unless a welfare reauthorization bill is signed into law, the welfare programs, which are mandatory spending, will expire. This bill, if signed into law, will temporarily continue the programs (last authorized in 1996) at the fourth quarter 2002 levels. The bill also extends the national random sample study of child welfare and the child welfare waiver authority through September 30, 2004, in a manner authorized for FY02 and at the fourth quarter 2002 funding levels.

**Additional Information:** In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, on February 13, 2003, the House passed H.R. 4, 230-192, to reauthorize the welfare programs for five years (<http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB21303.pdf> ; <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll030.xml>). The Senate, which did not take up H.R. 4 in the first session, is scheduled to consider the bill this week. Without Senate reauthorization, Congress has twice voted to temporarily extend the welfare programs. H.R. 2350, which passed the House 406-6 on June 11, 2003, (<http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB61103.pdf> <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll261.xml>) and was subsequently signed into law, extended TANF through September 2003. H.R. 3146, which passed the House by voice vote on September 24, 2003, and was signed into law, extended the program through March 31, 2004. S. 2231, which passed the House on March 30, 2004, by voice vote, extended the programs until June 30, 2004.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on June 16, 2004, and it was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, which did not consider the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO's estimate of the last three-month extension, the cost estimate for the 3-month extension is \$214 million in budget authority and \$209 million in outlays over a five-year time period, (\$107 million in budget authority and \$58 million in outlays for FY04).

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No, the bill extends current TANF (welfare) programs for an additional three months.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Moloney, [Sheila.Moloney@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sheila.Moloney@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9719.

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## **H.Res. 658—Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States (Gary Miller)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 658 resolves that the House:

- “(1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and
- “(2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.”

**Additional Background:** June is National Homeownership Month. According to the resolution, the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of 68.6 percent and, for the first time, more than half of all minority families are homeowners.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on June 1, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Financial Resources. The committee did not consider it.

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

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

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