

June 20, 2000

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The following measures may be voted on by the House on Tuesday, June 20:

**H.R. 4201—NONCOMMERCIAL BROADCASTING
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ACT OF 2000**

Cost to the Taxpayer: CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4201 would have no significant effect on offsetting receipts from the FCC's auction of spectrum licenses. The bill could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would be negligible.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes. H.R. 4201 would limit the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) authority to regulate the content of noncommercial educational broadcast services. For example, the commission could not require such stations to broadcast a minimum number of hours of educational or similar programming. Likewise, it could not set standards for the content of noncommercial broadcasts that differ from the standards applicable to commercial stations. The bill would affirm, that such stations must continue to comply with statutory restrictions regarding advertising, political editorials, and children's television programming. Finally, H.R. 4201 would require that the biannual audits of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting include reports on its compliance with statutory restrictions on disclosing the identity of contributors and donors. Based on information from the FCC, implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the commission's workload or its discretionary spending, and it would have little, if any, effect on the number of applications for new noncommercial stations.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, section 8, clause 3, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

Summary: On December 15, 1999 when the FCC approved a television license transfer in Pittsburgh it issued "guidance" for religious broadcasters instructing them for the first time that traditional religious programming could no longer be counted as "educational."

Following outrage by concerned citizens across the country and many Members of Congress, the FCC reversed its original ruling that would have limited religious expression. In order to make sure the FCC does not attempt to regulate religious speech in the future, H.R. 4201 makes Congress' intent clear that the FCC cannot engage in regulating content of speech broadcast by noncommercial educational stations.

Concerns:

Rep. Markey is expected to offer an amendment which would gut the intent of the bill. His amendment would insert the word "educational" in front of "religious broadcast" and thus allow the FCC to examine religious programming and determine if it is "educational." This amendment would bring us back to the original problem with the FCC trying to regulate religious speech. ***CATs Members are encouraged to reject the Markey Amendment.***

Supporters:

The bill is supported by the American Association of Christian Schools, American Family Association, Christian Coalition, Coalitions for America, Concerned Women for America, Family Research Council, Home School Legal Defense Association, Justice Fellowship, Religious Freedom Coalition, Republican Jewish Coalition, Tradition, Family, Property, Inc., Traditional Values Coalition, Vision America, and by the National Religious Broadcasters.

H.R. 4601 — Debt Reduction Reconciliation Act of 2000

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill reduces publicly held debt thereby reducing future interest payments which will result in a savings to the taxpayer.

Summary: The bill creates an account in the Treasury for the sole purpose of reducing publicly held debt. The bill appropriates into that account any increase in the Fiscal Year 2000 on-budget surplus anticipated by CBO in their summer re-estimate in excess of the surplus amount identified in the FY 2001 Budget Resolution. The bill further reduces the statutory debt limit by an equal amount ensuring that the surplus can only be used for public debt reduction.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (lay and collect taxes and pay debts).

Response to Critics: Critics of this measure, argue that the bill does nothing that doesn't already occur under current law. Such an assertion is incorrect for two reasons. First, under current law any new surplus could be spent by Congress prior to the end of the Fiscal Year (October 1, 2000). Indeed, after CBO announced in its January Report that it anticipated a larger surplus for FY 2000 than earlier predicted, Congress began spending some of that surplus in the Supplemental Appropriations bill. Second, nothing in current law requires the Treasury Department to use a surplus to retire public debt. Indeed, as a recent report by the Heritage Foundation (*Making Sure Surplus Revenue is Used to Reduce the National Debt* — June 13, 2000 available at www.heritage.org) demonstrated, recent surpluses often have been used to increase the cash surplus held by the Treasury Department.

H.R. 3859 — Social Security & Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 2000

Cost to Taxpayer: By ensuring that Medicare and Social Security surpluses are only used to either reduce publicly held debt or strengthen the underlying programs, the lock-box would reduce the level of publicly held debt, thus reducing future interest payments resulting in a savings to the taxpayer.

Summary: The bill adds the Medicare Part A surplus to the House passed lock-box created to protect the Social Security surplus.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report was filed and no Constitutional authority is cited in the bill.

**H.R. 2815 — THE CREW OF APOLLO 11
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT**

Cost to the Taxpayers: There is no CBO cost estimate, but based on previous gold medal awards the

bill would most likely authorize \$30,000 from the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund, an account in the US Mint, for the striking of each Gold Medal (for a total of \$90,000). Duplicate bronze medals will be sold and proceeds will be deposited back into the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund account.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: No.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report was filed and no Constitutional authority is cited in the bill.

Summary:

The bill presents a total of three gold medals to Neil A. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, the crew of Apollo 11. The bill presents gold medals to the astronauts "in recognition of their monumental and unprecedented feat of space exploration, as well as their achievements in the advancement of science and promotion of the space program."

The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of over 50 Republican House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).