



## Legislative Bulletin.....October 15, 2003

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### **H.Con.Res. 106—Recognizing and honoring America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary and supporting the designation of an “American Jewish History Month” (Chabot)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 106 would resolve that Congress:

- “honors and recognizes--
  - the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community; and
  - The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History and its efforts to plan, coordinate, and execute commemorative events celebrating 350 years of American Jewish history;
- “supports the designation of an ‘American Jewish History Month;’ and

- “urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role the American Jewish community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.”

**Additional Background:** The resolution notes that in 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam (which is now New York City). The Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives have formed “The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History” and will use their combined resources to mark this milestone. The Commission is designating September 2004 as “American Jewish History Month.”

**Committee Action:** On September 18, 2003, the Government Reform Committee marked up and reported the resolution to the full House by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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

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## **H.Con.Res. 270—Supporting the goals and ideals of College Savings Month (Rogers of Michigan)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 270 resolves that Congress “supports the goals and ideals of College Savings Month.”

**Additional Background:** The National Association of State Treasurers and the College Savings Plan Network have requested that Congress designate September as College Savings Month in order to raise public awareness about the need to save for expenses related to higher education.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was reported by the Committee on Government Reform on September 18, 2003, by unanimous consent.

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

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

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## **H.Con.Res. 273—Recognizing and congratulating the East Boynton Beach, Florida, Little League team as the 2003 United States Little League Champions (Shaw)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 273 has seven findings regarding the East Boynton Beach, Florida, Little League team and resolves that Congress:

- “recognizes the achievement of the Little League team East Boynton Beach, Florida, in winning the United States Little League Championship and congratulates them on this victory and on the example of excellence they set on the field and off the field;
- “expresses its pride that the 2003 East Boynton Beach team represents America as the 2003 United States Little League Champions and invites the players, coaches, parents, and other league and city officials to the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. to be honored;
- “requests that the President recognize the national champions in their achievements; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the City of Boynton Beach and the Boynton Beach Little League office for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each player and coach of the East Boynton Beach Little League baseball team.”

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution’s findings, on August 23, 2003, East Boynton Beach captured the U.S. Little League Championship title by defeating the team from Saugus, Massachusetts, by a score of 9-2 in the final game. The team’s roster of players included Michael Broad, Richie DeJesus, Cody Emerson, Jordan Irene, Patrick Mullen, R.J. Neal, Matt Overton, Ricky Sabatino, Benny Townsend, Devon Travis, and Andrew Weaver. More than 7,000 teams from around the world competed to reach the Little League World Series, and East Boynton Beach was among the eight final American teams.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 273 was introduced on September 4, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. On September 25, 2003, the Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution directs the House clerk to present copies of the enrolled bill that will result in minimal costs.

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

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**H.J.Res. 70—Recognizing Inspectors General over the last 25 years in their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government (Davis of Virginia)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 70 has nine findings regarding Inspector Generals and resolves that Congress:

- “recognizes the many accomplishments of the Inspectors General in preventing and detecting waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Federal Government;
- “commends the Inspectors General and their employees for the dedication and professionalism displayed in the performance of their duties; and
- “reaffirms the role of Inspectors General in promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the programs and operations of the Federal Government.”

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution’s findings the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) was signed into law on October 12, 1978, and IG’s now exist in the 29 largest executive branch agencies and in 28 other designated Federal entities.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 70 was introduced on September 29, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. On October 2, 2003, the Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

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

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

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**H.R. 1883—Eddie Mae Steward Post Office Designation Act (*Brown of Florida*)**

**Summary:** H.R. 1883 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1601-1 Main Street in Jacksonville, Florida, as the “Eddie Mae Steward Post Office”.

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

**Additional Information:** According to the sponsor: “[The late] Eddie Mae Steward was the heart and soul of the NAACP and the Democratic Party, and that is how she will be remembered.” Steward lived in Jacksonville for 55 years and made history when she filed the

suit for desegregation in the Duval County School system. From 1972 to 1978, Mrs. Steward served as the first female president of the Jacksonville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She went on to serve as the state's NAACP president from 1973 to 1974.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1883 was introduced on April 30, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. On September 12, the Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** Though 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.”

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## **H.R. 1442—Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Act (Pombo)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1442 would authorize the design and construction of an underground visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial “at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs.” The Interior Department would be responsible for:

- providing within 120 days to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (the nonprofit organization that funds the Memorial) a preliminary plan to guide the design phase of the visitor center exhibits (in consultation with educators and veterans groups);
- developing a written interpretive plan for the center (in consultation with educators and veterans groups);
- entering into a cooperative agreement with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. for the routine maintenance of the center; and
- operating the center.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. would be solely responsible for accepting contributions for, and paying the expenses of, establishing the visitor center. **No federal funds could be used to pay any expense of the establishment or routine maintenance of the visitor center.** Federal funds could only be used for the National Park Service to operate the center.

**Additional Background:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was authorized by Public Law 96-297 and was dedicated in 1982. According to the Resources Committee, over 4.4 million

people visit the Memorial every year, making it the most visited Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

The Committee assumes that the center would replace the National Park Service kiosk that exists at the site now.

**Committee Action:** On May 21, 2003, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a field hearing on the National Mall. On September 24, 2003, the Resources Committee marked up and reported the amended bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** Dan Smith, Special Assistant to the Director of the National Park Service, testified before the Parks Subcommittee that the goals of the new visitor center might be able to be accomplished by updating and expanding the *existing* kiosk, rather than by creating a totally new structure. To read Mr. Smith's complete testimony, visit this webpage: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/parks/2003may21/smith.htm>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that the National Park Service would need \$1.0 million annually (assuming appropriations) to operate the center, once it's completed.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** The Resources Committee, in House Report 108-295, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8 (but does not cite a specific clause) and Article IV, Section 3 (Clause 2 grants Congress the authority to make all laws regarding federal property).

**Outside Organizations:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and AMVETS are supporting the center:

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/parks/2003may21/cullinan.htm>

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/parks/2003may21/jones.htm>

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## **H.R. 1092—Nevada National Forest Land Disposal Act of 2003 (Gibbons)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1092 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to sell six parcels of federal land, totaling 231 acres, located in Douglas County and Carson City in Nevada. The land is to be sold to the city or the county, with the proceeds from the sale designated as follows:

- 5% - State of Nevada general education program
- 5% - Carson Water Subconservancy in Nevada

- 25% - available for use by the Secretary for costs related to the Douglas County/Carson City land sale and for the development and maintenance of parks, trails and natural areas in Carson City, Douglas County, or Washoe County, Nevada
- 65% - Minden Interagency Dispatch Center (joint U.S. Forest Service/Nevada Division of Forestry facility used for fighting wildfires)

**Additional Background:** According to the committee report, the lands to be sold under the bill are isolated parcels that are difficult and expensive to manage. In addition, most of the parcels border private land and are close to highways or other development, making the land ideal for future community development.

According to the General Services Administration, the federal government owns 91.7% of the land in Nevada.

**Committee Action:** The Committee on Resources considered H.R. 1092 on September 24, 2003, and favorably reported the bill by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 1092 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) and direct spending by less than \$500,000 in any year. Selling the land would generate offsetting receipts of about \$1 million over the 2004-2005 period with those funds then being spent, resulting in a negligible change in net direct spending. The bill would not affect revenues.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** The Resources Committee, in House Report 108-294, cites Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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## **H.R. 1598—Irvine Basin Surface and Groundwater Improvement Act of 2003 (Cox)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1598 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Irvine Ranch Water District, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to naturally treat surface water, reclaim and reuse groundwater, and dispose of brine within the San Diego Creek Watershed. The federal share of the cost of the project may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost and funds may not be provided by the Secretary for the operation or maintenance of a project.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1598 was approved by the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Resources Committee by voice vote on July 17, 2003. The full committee approved the bill on September 24, 2003, by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** A representative of the Department of Interior testified on May 22, 2003, that because H.R. 1598 authorizes a project before completion of a feasibility study, **“the Department believes the legislation to be premature and cannot support H.R. 1598 at this time”** and the bill **“would likely place an additional burden on Reclamation's already tight budget.”** According to the Bureau of Reclamation, it could take more than 15 years to complete funding of the 27 currently authorized projects.

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/water/2003may22/limbaugh.htm>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 1598 would cost \$19 million over the 2004-2008 period, subject to appropriations.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** Yes, the bill authorizes a new federal water project.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Resources Committee, in House Report 108-306, cites Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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## **H.R. 1521—Johnstown Flood National Memorial Boundary Adjustment Act of 2003 (*Murtha*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1521 expands the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in Pennsylvania to include 14 additional acres. The National Park Service would be authorized to acquire the land by purchase, donation, or exchange from willing sellers. The bill authorizes “such sums as may be necessary.”

The property to be acquired under the bill has been maintained in the past through a public-private partnership. However, the private partner is no longer able to meet its obligations. The property includes four buildings: the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club clubhouse, the Annex, the Moorehead Cottage, and the Brown Cottage.

**Additional Background:** The Johnstown Flood Memorial was dedicated in 1964. Today the park consists of 165 acres and receives over 126,000 visitors annually.

According to the General Services Administration, the federal government owns 2.5% of the land in Pennsylvania.



**Committee Action:** The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources considered the bill on September 23, 2003, and reported it to the full committee by voice vote. The full committee favorably reported the bill on September 24<sup>th</sup> by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** A representative of the National Park Service testified on June 24, 2003, “the Department believes it is appropriate to move forward with this bill at this time.”  
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/parks/2003jun24/smith.htm>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 1521 would cost \$4.5 million over the next five years, including an annual cost of \$500,000 for operation and maintenance.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** The Resources Committee, in House Report 108-301, cites Article I, Section 8, and Article IV, Section 3, but does not cite specific clauses.

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## **H.R. 1821—To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height in recognition of her many contributions to the Nation (*Watson*)**

**Summary:** H.R. 1821 authorizes the creation and awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal for Dr. Dorothy Height. The bill also authorizes the House Speaker and the Senate President to arrange a medal presentation.

**Additional Information:** According to the bill’s findings: Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born March 24, 1912, and “is recognized as one of the preeminent social and civil rights activists of her time, particularly in the struggle for equality, social justice, and human rights for all peoples.” Dr. Height has been President of the National Council of Negro Women since 1957 and has “been at the forefront of AIDS education, both nationally and internationally.” Among other awards, she has received the NAACP’s highest honor for civil rights contributions, The Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Clinton, The William L. Dawson Award presented by the Congressional Black Caucus “for decades of public service to people of color and particularly women,” and The Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service presented by President Reagan.

In September 1998, Dr. Height signed on to a statement that read in part, “The Gingrich Congress has been an unmitigated disaster for women. The Gingrich Congress has voted 97 times this session to restrict abortion rights and is now trying to prevent approval of RU 486, the early abortion pill. The Gingrich Congress is trying to defund family planning programs, has ignored the Violence Against Women Act II, and has buried the patients’ bill of rights. Pay equity and childcare have not been allowed to see the light of day” (Source: [http://www.feminist.org/research/report/102\\_three.html](http://www.feminist.org/research/report/102_three.html)). She also was one of the original

signers on a 1989 statement in favor of abortion entitled “African American Women Are For Reproductive Freedom, We Remember” (Source: <http://www.rcrc.org/pdf/We%20Remember.pdf>)

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1883 was introduced on April 11, 2003 and referred to the House Financial Services Committee. The Committee did not consider the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO cost estimate is unavailable, but the bill as introduced authorizes “an amount not to exceed \$30,000” 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.

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

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

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## **S. 1680—Defense Production Act Reauthorization of 2003 (Senator Shelby)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. S. 1680 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 30, 2003.

**Summary:** S. 1680 would extend the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2166(a)) through September 30, 2004. [It expired on September 30, 2003.] The Defense Production Act of 1950 authorizes the President to prioritize and allocate contracts with private industry for the purpose of promoting the national defense and allows the government to guarantee financing for the recapitalization of private industry consistent with national security requirements.

The bill would alter the definition of “national defense” in the Defense Production Act to include the phrase “critical infrastructure protection and restoration.” “Critical infrastructure” would be defined as “any systems and assets, whether physical or cyber-based, so vital to the United States that the degradation or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on national security, including, but not limited to, national economic security and national public health or safety.”

The bill would increase the budget authority (from \$106 million in fiscal year 2003 to \$200 million in fiscal year 2004) for the Department of Defense’s (DoD) ongoing program to recapitalize the nation's industrial base for radiation-hardened electronics. Within six months of enactment, DoD would have to update Congress on the state of this program.

S. 1680 would also clarify the Department of Commerce's authority to conduct investigations related to assessments on the capabilities of the U.S. industrial base to support the national defense.

DoD would have to report to Congress within one year on the extent to which contracts under the Defense Production Act have been contracts with minority- and women-owned businesses. Among other things, this report would have to include:

- the ethnicity of the majority owners of such minority- and women-owned businesses;
- a description of the types of barriers in the contracting process that limit contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses; and
- recommendations for legislative or administrative action for increasing opportunities for contracting with minority- and women-owned businesses and removing barriers to such increased participation.

**Additional Background:** The Senate Banking Committee points out that over the years, the Act's authorities have been expanded to include crises resulting from natural disasters and from man-caused events not necessarily related to an armed attack on the United States.

**Committee Action:** The Senate-passed bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on October 1, 2003, but the Committee did not consider the bill.

**Administration Position:** The Department of Defense testified before the Senate Banking Committee in favor of reauthorizing the Defense Production Act, though it had asked for an extension through September 30, 2008 (four years later than the extension in the Senate-passed bill):

[http://banking.senate.gov/03\\_06hrg/060503/sega.pdf](http://banking.senate.gov/03_06hrg/060503/sega.pdf)

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO reports that expenditures for the authorities under the Defense Production Act has varied so widely from year to year that it is difficult to predict how much will be authorized for FY2004. The bill explicitly authorizes \$200 million for the radiation-hardened electronics program, and CBO estimates that the authorization for purchase guarantees and other such provisions of the Act for FY2004 would be \$68 million (the Administration request).

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** The bill would expand what could be covered under the Defense Production Act.

**Constitutional Authority:** Senate committee reports are not required to contain constitutional authority statements, though presumably the authority for this legislation comes from Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the power to provide for the common defense).

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## **H.R. 1828—Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (*Engel/Ros-Lehtinen*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1828 would authorize new sanctions against Syria until Syria meets certain conditions. Specifically, the bill would direct the President to prohibit the export to Syria of any dual-use item (item that has military and non-military application), including the issuance of a license for the export of any such item. Additionally, the President would be required to impose at least two of the following sanctions:

- Prohibit the export of products of the United States (other than food and medicine) to Syria;
- Prohibit United States businesses from investing or operating in Syria;
- Restrict Syrian diplomats in Washington, DC, and at the United Nations in New York City, to travel only within a 25-mile radius of Washington, DC, or the United Nations headquarters building, respectively;
- Prohibit aircraft of any air carrier owned or controlled by Syria to take off from, land in, or fly over the United States;
- Reduce United States diplomatic contacts with Syria (other than those contacts required to protect United States interests or carry out the purposes of this Act); or
- Block transactions in any property in which the Government of Syria has any interest, by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

The President could waive the application of such sanctions (except the dual-use sanction) for six-month periods for national security reasons (as reported to Congress).

The President could only lift the sanctions above and provide assistance to Syria upon certification that the Government of Syria:

- does not provide support for international terrorist groups and does not allow terrorist groups, such as Hamas, Hizballah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command to maintain facilities under Syrian control;
- has withdrawn all Syrian military, intelligence, and other security personnel from Lebanon;
- has ceased the development and deployment of medium- and long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, is not pursuing or engaged in the research, development, acquisition, production, transfer, or deployment of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, has provided credible assurances that such behavior will not be undertaken in the future, and has agreed to allow United Nations and other international observers to verify such actions and assurances; and
- has ceased all support for, and facilitation of, all terrorist activities inside of Iraq, including preventing the use of territory under its control by any means whatsoever to support those engaged in terrorist activities inside of Iraq.

Additional requirements for the U.S. provision of foreign aid to Syria are:

- “substantial progress” in Israel-Syria *and* Israel-Lebanon peace negotiations; and
- the Government of Syria’s strict respect of the “sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the Lebanese army throughout Lebanon,” as required under UN Security Council Resolution 520.

The Secretary of State would have to report to Congress six months after this bill’s enactment and annually thereafter on Syria’s progress in meeting the conditions of this legislation, the continued connections between the Government of Syria and terrorist organizations (and these organizations’ attacks against the U.S.), and the increased U.S. efforts against Hizballah.

H.R. 1828 would outline ten statements of United States policy, including:

- “Syria will be held responsible for attacks committed by Hizballah and other terrorist groups with offices, training camps, or other facilities in Syria, or bases in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria;
- “The United States shall impede Syria's ability to support acts of international terrorism and efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction;
- “Efforts against Hizballah will be expanded given the recognition that Hizballah is equally or more capable than al Qaeda;
- “Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs threaten the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States; and
- “Syria will be held accountable for any harm to Coalition armed forces or to any United States citizen in Iraq due to its facilitation of terrorist activities and its shipments of military supplies to Iraq.”

The bill presents dozens of findings, including:

- “The Government of Syria is currently prohibited by United States law from receiving United States assistance because it has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined by the Secretary of State...;
- “Although the Department of State lists Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism and reports that Syria provides ‘safe haven and support to several terrorist groups,’ fewer United States sanctions apply with respect to Syria than with respect to any other country that is listed as a state sponsor of terrorism;
- “Terrorist groups, including Hizballah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command, maintain offices, training camps, and other facilities on

Syrian territory, and operate in areas of Lebanon occupied by the Syrian armed forces and receive supplies from Iran through Syria;

- “Approximately 20,000 Syrian troops and security personnel occupy much of the sovereign territory of Lebanon [in direct contradiction to UN Resolution 520, which called for complete Lebanese sovereignty], exerting undue influence upon its government and undermining its political independence;
- “Israel has withdrawn all of its armed forces from Lebanon...as certified by the United Nations Secretary General;
- “[Because Syria will not allow Lebanese troops into southern Lebanon], the Israeli-Lebanese border and much of southern Lebanon is under the control of Hizballah, which continues to attack Israeli positions, allows Iranian Revolutionary Guards and other militant groups to operate freely in the area, and maintains thousands of rockets along Israel's northern border, destabilizing the entire region;
- “The Government of Syria continues to develop and deploy short and medium range ballistic missiles;
- “The Government of Syria is pursuing the development and production of biological and chemical weapons and has a nuclear research and development program that is cause for concern;
- “Syria’s illegal imports and transshipments of Iraqi oil during Saddam Hussein’s regime earned Syria \$50,000,000 or more per month as Syria continued to sell its own Syrian oil at market prices:
- “The Government of Syria has utilized the railway network linking Mosul, Iraq, to Aleppo, Syria, to transfer a wide range of weaponry and weapon systems to Saddam Hussein’s regime;
- “On March 28, 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld warned: ‘[W]e have information that shipments of military supplies have been crossing the border from Syria into Iraq, including night-vision goggles . . . These deliveries pose a direct threat to the lives of coalition forces. We consider such trafficking as hostile acts, and will hold the Syrian government accountable for such shipments;’
- “On April 13, 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld charged that ‘busloads’ of Syrian fighters entered Iraq with ‘hundreds of thousands of dollars’ and leaflets offering rewards for dead American soldiers; and
- “During his appearance before the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives on September 25, 2003, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq, stated that out of the 278 third-country nationals who were captured by coalition forces in Iraq, the ‘single largest group are Syrians.’”

The bill then expresses a sense of Congress that Syria, among other things, end its support of terrorism, stop facilitating the transit of people and materials into Iraq from Syria, withdraw its troops from Lebanon, stop developing and deploying ballistic missiles, and enter into bilateral negotiations with Israel to secure a permanent peace. The bill also calls for the removal of Syria from the UN Security Council.

**Committee Action:** On October 8, 2003, the International Relations Committee marked up and reported the amended legislation to the full House by a vote of 33-2. The two “no” votes were Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) and Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ).

**Administration Position:** The Bush Administration had been against this legislation until recently when it indicated that it would not oppose it. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, a similar bill (H.R. 4483) was never brought to the House floor because the Bush Administration felt it would not be helpful in getting Syria to cooperate in battling international terrorism.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** Although a formal CBO cost estimate has not yet become available, an informal estimate shows that implementing H.R. 1828 would have no federal cost and no direct effect on federal revenues.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** The bill would authorize new sanctions against Syria that would require Syrian action to *avoid* (rather than current sanctions which mostly require Syrian action to *initiate*).

**Constitutional Authority:** The International Relations Committee cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations) and Clause 18 (the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the other powers vested in the U.S. Government by the Constitution).

**Outside Organizations:** Pro-Israel groups are strongly supporting this legislation.

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**H.Res. 198—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that  
France, Germany, and Russia can initially best contribute to the  
reconstruction of Iraq by the forgiveness of outstanding debt between both  
Iraq and France, Iraq and Germany, and Iraq and Russia (Cole)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 198 would resolve a sense of the House that France, Germany, and Russia:

- “should work with the World Bank, the European Union, and other multinational organizations to build a debt forgiveness program for Iraq to aid in matters concerning its reconstruction;
- “work in conjunction with the United Nations to ensure that other countries recognize their role in economically supporting a terrorist regime in Iraq;
- “recognize the responsibility that France, Germany and Russia bear for the transfer of technology to a terrorist regime in Iraq;
- “work to build stronger internal export controls to ensure that militarily valuable technology will no longer be exported to terrorist regimes thus creating similar future debts;
- “acknowledge the role that Iraq's current debt could play in hindering its reconstruction;
- “educate their populace as to the importance of debt forgiveness in assisting in the reconstruction of Iraq; and
- “create a governmentally administered debt forgiveness program to assist Iraq in its reconstruction.”

The resolution also notes “France and Germany have previously contributed to debt relief in the World Bank's program for heavily indebted poor countries.”

**Additional Background:** The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) calculates Iraq's total debt to be \$127 billion, of which \$47 billion is accrued interest (based on 2001 World Bank figures). Iraq owes an additional \$199 billion in Gulf War compensation and \$57 billion in pending contracts signed between the Hussein regime and foreign companies and governments. Iraq's overall financial burden, according to the CSIS figures, is \$383 billion. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/TradeandForeignAid/em871.cfm>

*The Financial Times* reports that creditors in Europe, Russia, and the Middle East hold about 75% of Iraq's debt.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee on April 11, 2003, but was never considered by the Committee.

**Administration Position:** The Administration has expressed support for debt forgiveness for Iraq.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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

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