



Legislative Bulletin.....May 19, 2003

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H.Con.Res. 166 — Expressing the sense of Congress in support of Buckle Up America Week (Vitter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 19th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 166 expresses the sense of Congress that:

- “all people throughout the Nation should talk to family and friends about the importance of wearing a safety belt;
- “law enforcement agencies should be commended for their commitment to enforce safety belt usage laws;
- “national and community agencies and organizations should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about Buckle Up America Week;
- “all legislative leaders should participate in Buckle Up America events; and
- “drivers and passengers should insist their fellow automobile passengers wear their safety belt and that all children in the car are buckled up in the appropriate restraint for their age, height, and weight.”

Additional Background: Buckle Up America is a campaign to encourage proper safety belt and child safety seat use in the United States, coordinated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the assistance of the Academy for Educational Development, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that helps organizations operate social marketing campaigns. <http://www.buckleupamerica.org/index.php>

According to the resolution, failure to wear safety belts and use child safety seats “contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety-related behavior,” killing 42,850 people in 2002 and injuring nearly 3 million others.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorized \$500 million in funding to promote and increase seat belt use. In FY03, grants to states totaled \$91 million.

Committee Action: The resolution was referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, but was not considered.

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

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

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H.R. 1018—To designate the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, as the “James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building.” (*Rangel*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 19th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1018 would designate the building located at One Federal Plaza in Manhattan as the “James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building.”

Additional Background: James L. Watson was born in Harlem, New York, and earned a Purple Heart and Infantry Combat Badge during World War II. Watson graduated from New York University in 1947 and from Brooklyn Law School in 1951. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1954 and to the New York City Civil Court in 1963.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Watson to what was known as the United States Customs Court and now known as the United States Court of International Trade. Watson took senior status in 1991 and passed away at his home in Harlem ten years later.

Committee Action: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up the bill on April 9, 2003. The bill passed the committee, without amendment, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a federal building designation 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.

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-85, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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H.Con.Res. 147 — Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders (Foley)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 19th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 147 resolves that “Congress celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization of Rare Disorders, and recognizes the great contributions the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community.”

Additional Background: The Orphan Drug Act became law in 1983 with the intent of stimulating the development of drugs to treat “orphan” diseases, rare diseases that affect less than 200,000 people. According to the resolution, prior to 1983 less than 40 therapies were available to treat orphan diseases. Today, more than 238 drugs and devices are now available.

The National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD) is a non-profit federation of voluntary health organizations that assist people with orphan diseases and organizations that serve them. NORD does not receive any government funding.

Committee Action: The resolution was considered by the Energy and Commerce Committee on April 3, 2003, and reported by voice vote to the full House.

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

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

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