



Legislative Bulletin.....March 4, 2003

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H.Res. 106 — Congratulating Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes (Bereuter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 4th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 106 states:

- “Whereas the Nation’s Lutheran schools deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential;
- “Whereas there are 4,841 Lutheran early childhood centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools in the United States served by 40,076 teachers;
- “Whereas the Nation’s total Lutheran school student enrollment is 572,877;
- “Whereas Lutheran schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect, and responsibility; and
- “Whereas the week beginning on March 2, 2003, has been established as National Lutheran Schools Week for the purpose of recognizing the vital contributions of the Nation’s Lutheran early childhood education centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools.”

The bill further resolves that the House of Representatives “supports the goals of National Lutheran Schools Week, which is celebrated by several synods that have educational institutions, for the purpose of recognizing their academic achievement” and “congratulates Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.”

Committee Action: The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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H.Con.Res. 54 — Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week (*Markey*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 4th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 54 states:

- “Whereas visiting nurse associations (VNAs) are nonprofit home health agencies that, for over 120 years, have been united in their mission to provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services;
- “Whereas there are more than 500 visiting nurse associations, which employ more than 90,000 clinicians, provide health care to more than 4,000,000 people each year, and provide a critical safety net in communities by developing a network of community support services that enable individuals to live independently at home;
- “Whereas visiting nurse associations are often the home health providers of last resort, serving the most chronic of conditions (such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AIDS, and quadriplegia) and individuals with the least ability to pay for services (more than 50 percent of all medicaid home health admissions are by visiting nurse associations);
- “Whereas visiting nurse associations and other nonprofit home health agencies care for the highest percentage of terminally ill and bedridden patients; and
- “Whereas the establishment of an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week would increase public awareness of the charity-based missions of visiting nurse associations and of their ability to meet the needs of chronically ill and disabled individuals who prefer to live at home rather than in a nursing home, and would spotlight preventive health clinics, adult day care programs, and other customized wellness programs that meet local community need.”

The resolution goes on to express the sense of Congress that a National Visiting Nurse Association week should be established during the second week in May.

Committee Action: The resolution was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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H.Res. 111—Honoring the legacy of Fred Rogers and his dedication to creating a more compassionate, kind, and loving world for children and adults (*Doyle*)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on Tuesday, March 4th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has 10 findings regarding the creator and star of “Mister Rogers' Neighborhood,” who died on February 27, 2003, including:

- “Whereas Mr. Rogers encouraged millions of children across the world to love themselves and their neighbors and to deal with complex emotional issues in a safe, reassuring way;
- “Whereas the final show of ‘Mister Rogers' Neighborhood' aired in August 2001, after having completed 33 television seasons and nearly 1,000 episodes; and
- “Whereas Mr. Rogers always remained humble and true to his philosophy, saying ‘I have really never considered myself a TV star. . . . I always thought I was a neighbor who just came in for a visit.’”

H.Res. 111 further states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives:

1. “honors Fred Rogers for his legendary service to the improvement of the lives of children, his steadfast commitment to demonstrating the power of compassion, and his dedication to spreading kindness through example; and
2. “expresses condolences and sympathies to his wife Joanne, his two sons, and his two grandsons.”

Additional Information: Mr. Rogers’ homepage, which includes audio clips such as “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” can be found at <http://pbskids.org/rogers/>

Committee Action: H.Res. 111 was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform on February 27, 2003. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution has no cost.

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