



## Legislative Bulletin.....May 5, 2008

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### **Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs: 0**

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0**

**Effect on Revenue: \$0**

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0**

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates: \$0**

**Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0**

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 2**

**Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0**

**H.R. 3658—To amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service (Fortuño, R-PR)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3658 would authorize the Secretary of State to pay for rest and relaxation travel to U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands) for members of the Foreign Service.

**Additional Information:** Under current law, the Secretary of State is allowed to pay for the travel expenses of members of the Foreign Service and their families for the purpose of rest and relaxation while they are serving overseas. However, such travel is limited to locations abroad that are distinct from where the Foreign Service member is serving and locations within the U.S. H.R. 3658 would expand the definition to allow the Secretary to pay for travel to U.S. territories as well.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3658 was introduced on September 25, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on April 30, 2008, and reported the bill by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3658 was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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**H.Res. 1011—Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable**

**peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan (Wolf, R-VA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1011 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1011 would express the sense that the House:

- “Expresses concern about the safety and well-being of innocent civilians in Chad, and the refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic;
- “Strongly condemns Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress Party for their support of the armed rebellion and aggressive behavior in Chad and throughout the region;
- “Calls on parties to seek a negotiated settlement;
- “Urges the Government of Chad to:
  - “Engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all stakeholders of the current conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address the root causes of the Chadian crisis and strengthen democratic institutions;
  - “Protect its civilians from violence and respect and enforce the rule of law in accordance with international norms and standards; and
  - “Honor its May 9, 2007, agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, ensuring its commitment to end all recruitment of persons under the age of 18 and demobilize all children under the age of 18 from its security forces;
- “Urges the Government of the Central African Republic to:
  - “Fulfill its obligation under international law to protect civilians; and
  - “Engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with opposition and armed groups;
- “Calls on armed opposition groups to:
  - “Renounce violence and respect the rule of law;
  - “Engage in political dialogue to resolve the current crisis in their respective countries; and
  - “Immediately end cooperation with the Government of Sudan and others that encourage and support armed rebellion;
- “Urges the United Nations Security Council to remain focused on the crises in Chad and the Central African Republic, and to ensure the effective and impartial protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly local populations, by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians; and
- “Calls on the President to:
  - “Continue United States humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad and the Central African Republic;
  - “Provide support to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights and rule of law; and
  - “Seek punitive measures against the Government of Sudan by the United Nations Security Council for its aggression and destructive activities in Chad and the region.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1011 was introduced on February 28, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on April 30, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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**H.Res. 1109—Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life’s work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe (*Sires, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1109 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1109 would express the sense that the House:

- “Honors the life and legacy of Mr. Dith for his commitment to raising awareness about the atrocities that took place under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia;
- “Recognizes his courage and his endless pursuit for justice for the victims of the Cambodian genocide and all peoples around the world who have been victims of genocide; and
- “Honors the memory of Mr. Dith by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the world.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Dith Pran was born on September 23, 1942, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, a provincial town near the ancient temples at Angkor Wat;
- “Mr. Dith, a photojournalist and human rights advocate, became the face of the atrocities in Cambodia carried out by the Khmer Rouge;
- “Mr. Dith learned French and English in school and became a translator of Khmer for the United States Armed Forces and visiting film crews while he worked as a receptionist at a hotel near Angkor Wat prior to the escalation of the Vietnam War;
- “During much of the early 1970s, Mr. Dith was a guide, interpreter, and friend of Sydney H. Schanberg of the New York Times;

- “The friendship and partnership between Mr. Dith and Mr. Schanberg became the basis for the 1984 film, ‘The Killing Fields’, which showed the brutality perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 under Pol Pot;
- “Nearly 2,000,000 Cambodians died from 1975 to 1979 at the hands of the Khmer Rouge;
- “For four years, Mr. Dith disguised himself as a peasant, worked in rice fields, and endured regular beatings and harsh labor while living on a diet of a tablespoon of rice a day because the Khmer Rouge would often kill anyone who appeared educated or even wore glasses;
- “Dith fled 60 miles to the border of Thailand and arrived, on October 3, 1979, where Mr. Schanberg flew to greet him;
- “Mr. Dith moved to New York, New York, and was hired in 1980 as a photographer for The New York Times; and
- “On March 30, 2008, Mr. Dith, a resident of Woodbridge, New Jersey, passed away at the age of 65.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1109 was introduced on April 15, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on April 30, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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**H.Res. 1166—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding provocative and dangerous statements and actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia (*Wexler, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1166 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1166 would express the sense that the House:

- “Condemns recent decisions made by the Government of the Russian Federation to establish ‘official ties’ with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a process that further impedes reconciliation between those regions and the Government of the Republic of Georgia and that violates the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia and the commitments of the Government of the Russian Federation to international peacekeeping;

- “Calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately revoke its decision to establish ‘official ties’ with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
- “Strongly supports the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and a peaceful resolution of the conflicts within Georgia’s internationally recognized borders;
- “Encourages the Government of the Russian Federation to work with the Government of Georgia, the peoples of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and the international community to find a peaceful solution to the conflict;
- “Welcomes the measured reaction of the Government of the Republic of Georgia to recent developments and commends President Saakashvili’s latest initiatives to resolve territorial conflicts through peaceful means;
- “Calls on United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to conduct an investigation of the April 20, 2008, incident in which an unarmed Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by what reports indicate was a missile launched from a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet;
- “Urges all parties to the conflicts in the Republic of Georgia and governments around the world to eschew rhetoric and actions that escalate tensions and undermine efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflicts; and
- “Supports the declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Bucharest Summit in Romania, which stated that the Republic of Georgia will become a member of NATO, reiterates its support for the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership, and urges the foreign ministers of NATO member states at their meeting in December 2008 to consider favorably the application of the Government of the Republic of Georgia's Membership Action Plan.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community, international law, and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;
- “The Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued in good faith a peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;
- “The Government of the Russian Federation has also detailed Russian officials to take up positions in the separatist governments, provided military equipment and support to separatists in the regions, and encouraged Russian volunteers to serve in militias in Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
- “The announcement from the Government of the Russian Federation on April 16, 2008, that it will establish ‘official ties’ with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, recognize their official documents and legal entities, and further involve itself in aspects of their governments appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;
- “On April 20, 2008, tensions between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia further escalated when an unarmed and unmanned Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet; and

- “On April 23, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated that ‘the United States is firmly committed to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, that we support Georgia's efforts to make certain that the people of Abkhazia and South Ossetia feel fully a part of Georgia, and that we are very concerned at the recent move by the Russian Federation, the presidential decree that was issued’”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1166 was introduced on April 29, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on April 30, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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### **H.Con.Res. 317—Condemning the Burmese regime’s undemocratic constitution and scheduled referendum (*Holt, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 317 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 317 would express the sense that the House:

- “Denounces the one-sided, undemocratic, and illegitimate act by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to legalize military rule with the constitution;
- “Firmly insists that Burma’s military regime begin a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and ethnic nationality representatives toward national reconciliation, and the full restoration of democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;
- “Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Buddhist monks, and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;
- “Denounces the SPDC for its failure to comply with the United Nation’s recommendations and engage in a meaningful time-bound tri-partite dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and ethnic nationality representatives;
- “Condemns the military regime’s constitution and scheduled referendum;
- “Calls for the SPDC to comply fully and immediately with the recommendations made by United Nations Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement issued on October 11, 2007;
- “Urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to not accept or recognize the SPDC’s constitution which will be the outcome of the referendum;

- “Urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to pass a binding resolution, which will instruct the regime to fully comply with the recommendations made by United Nations Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, and strengthen the mandate of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to engage in a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and ethnic nationality representatives towards an inclusive democratic national reconciliation;
- “Urges the President to push for a comprehensive arms embargo against the Burmese military regime at the United Nations Security Council so that weapons produced by foreign countries, including Ukraine, China, and Russia, who currently sell weapons to Burma's military regime, can no longer contribute the atrocities committed by Burma's military regime against civilians; and
- “Urges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to involve itself more deeply in reaching out to the Burmese democracy movement and work with the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to end junta political intransigence and promote meaningful political dialogue.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In 1988, the people of Burma came to the streets in a massive popular democracy uprising to call for democracy, human rights, and an end to military rule and a single party system;
- “The current military regime violently crushed the mass democracy uprising in 1988, killing more than 3,000 peaceful protesters and took over power from the previous regime;
- “The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) over a period of 14 years held a National Convention to draft a new constitution in which the process was tightly controlled, repressive and undemocratic;
- “The National League for Democracy (NLD) walked out of the convention in 1995 because no one was allowed to table alternative proposals or voice any disagreement with the military regime;
- “In 2005, the leaders of the Shan Nationalities League of Democracy (SNLD) were all arrested on false charges and sentenced to more than 90 years in prison each;
- “On February 9, 2008, the military regime announced that it will hold a constitutional referendum in May 2008 and a general election in 2010;
- “On February 12, 2008, the SPDC extended the house arrest of U Tin Oo, Deputy Chairman of the NLD for another year; and
- “The military regime is once again trying to abolish the 1990 elections results and the election winning party status held by the NLD, and further legitimize military rule through an undemocratic process.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 317 was introduced on March 14, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on April 30, 2008.



**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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**H.Res. 1091—Honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston and extending its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father (Young, R-AK)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1091 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1091 would express the sense that the House:

- “Honors the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston; and
- “Extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Charlton Heston first became beloved by the Nation as a great actor and portrayed many heroic figures, including Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, and El Cid in epic movies of the 1950s and 1960s, and won the 1959 Best Actor Oscar for the lead character in ‘Ben-Hur’;
- “Charlton Heston was a leader in many areas of life outside of acting, including serving as President of the Screen Actors Guild, which he helped to integrate with Ronald Reagan and was Chairman of the American Film Institute;
- “Charlton Heston was an active supporter of the civil rights movement, including protesting the showing of his film at a segregated movie theater in Oklahoma City and participating in and leading the Arts Group in the 1963 civil rights march on Washington;
- “In the last major public role of his life, Charlton Heston was President of the National Rifle Association from June 1998 until April 2003;
- “As President of the National Rifle Association, Charlton Heston was a stalwart defender of the 2nd Amendment right of citizens to keep and bear arms and was an active and effective promoter of wildlife management through hunting;
- “In 2003, Charlton Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor;
- “Charlton Heston was born in Illinois on October 4, 1923, and his parents moved to St. Helen, Michigan, where he grew up; and
- “Charlton Heston passed away on April 5, 2008, and the contributions he made to his family and his Nation will not be forgotten.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1091 was introduced on April 8, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on April 16, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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### **H. Res. 1113—Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother’s Day (Fortenberry, R-NE)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 1113 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 1113 would express the sense that the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother’s Day.

H. Res. 1113 lists several findings, including the following:

- “Mother’s Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;
- “The first official Mother’s Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
- “2008 is the 100th anniversary of the first official Mother’s Day observation;
- “In 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother’s Day a national holiday;
- “In 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother’s Day;
- “It is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;
- “Mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;
- “The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;
- “We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation; and
- “Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 1113 was introduced April 16, 2008, and referred to the House

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up on the bill on May 1, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 1113 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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**H. Res. 952—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States (*Klein, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 952 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 952 would express the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “There should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers; and
- “The President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.”

H. Res. 952 lists several findings, including the following:

- “The education of children in the United States is the foundation of the future success of the United States;
- “Education is critical for the creation of an innovative workforce and for increasing the global competitiveness of the United States;
- “Teachers help students cultivate the knowledge and principles necessary to be successful in life;
- “Teachers are held to high expectations, while often receiving little compensation;
- “Teachers help instill civic responsibility among students in the United States;
- “Teachers deserve annual national recognition for their knowledge, selfless dedication to their profession, compassion, and sacrifice; and
- “The Tuesday of the first full week of May of each year is an appropriate day for the establishment of National Teacher Day.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 952 was introduced January 29, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up on the bill on March 13, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 952 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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**S. 2929—A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (*Kennedy, D-MA*)**

**Order of Business:** S. 2929 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S. 2929 would extend the authorization (at current, FY08 levels) for the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) through May 31, 2008. The HEA expired on April 30, 2008.

**Additional Background:** The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) provides the majority of the federal government’s higher education financial aid programs. According to CRS, HEA programs comprise the government’s “major student aid programs to support postsecondary education attendance, as well as other significant programs such as those providing aid to special groups of institutions of higher education and support services to enable disadvantaged students to complete secondary school and enter and complete college.” The HEA has been operating under temporary extensions while a long-term extension of the program is negotiated. On February 7, 2008, the House passed H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007, which would extend the HEA through FY 2014. The bill has yet to be taken up by the Senate. The last temporary extension of the HEA was passed in March and extended programs through April 30, 2008.

**Committee Action:** S. 2929 was introduced and passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on April 29, 2008. The same day the bill was sent to the House, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for S. 2929 is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** 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 unavailable.

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## **H. Res. 1168—Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes (Boustany, R-LA)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 1168 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 1168 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;
- “Supports the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week; and
- “Joins the President in calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this weeklong celebration in communities throughout the United States.”

H. Res. 1168 lists several findings, including the following:

- “Charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;
- “Charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;
- “Charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;
- “In exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;
- “40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;
- “Over 4,300 charter schools are now serving approximately 1,200,000 children;
- “Over the last 14 years, Congress has provided over \$2,237,256,000 in support to the charter school movement through startup financing assistance and grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination;
- “Over 365,000 children are on charter school waiting lists nationally;
- “Charter schools improve their students’ achievement and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;
- “Charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;
- “Charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

- “Charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;
- “Charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and
- “The ninth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 5 through May 9, 2008, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 1168 was introduced May 1, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 1168 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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### **H. Res. 1155—Honoring the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship (Ross, D-AR)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 1155 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 5, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 1155 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship for choosing to further their education;
- “Observes that April 30, 2008, is the second academic signing day for graduating El Dorado High School students receiving El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships;
- “Acknowledges that the El Dorado Promise scholarship program is important for the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and
- “Recognizes Murphy Oil Corporation for its efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas, who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education, are able to attend college.”

H. Res. 1155 lists several findings, including the following:

- “The 2000 United States Census determined that El Dorado, Arkansas, had a significantly lower percentage of residents with degrees from institutions of higher education and significantly higher percentage of families who fell below the poverty line than the national average;
- “It is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce and global economy;
- “The El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship, created and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, which enables all eligible high school graduates of the El Dorado Public School District in El Dorado, Arkansas, to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year, public or private, college or university;
- “School enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has significantly increased since the El Dorado Promise scholarship program was established, despite a 15-year trend of decreasing enrollment;
- “The El Dorado Promise scholarship program increased the number of El Dorado High School students who chose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent; and
- “On April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who received El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships sign academic letters of intent for the colleges they will be attending upon graduation.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 1155 was introduced April 29, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 1155 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

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

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