



**Legislative Bulletin.....March 31, 2008**

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

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 2

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$973 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2012 period.

**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:** 8

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

## **H.R. 1187—Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (*Woolsey, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1187 would expand the boundaries of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell National Marine Sanctuaries in Northern California. The bill would expand the existing sanctuary areas by approximately 1,200 nautical miles, effectively doubling both areas.

H.R. 1187 would also require the Secretary of Commerce to create a revised management plan for both sanctuary areas and issue revised regulations to include the new boundaries. The Secretary would be required to consider public and private use of the national marine sanctuaries as well as marine protection and research when developing the revised management plans for the areas. The bill would prohibit leasing, exploration, development, production, or transporting by pipeline of minerals or hydrocarbons within the Sanctuaries.

Finally, the bill would authorize \$3 million annually for FY 2009 through FY 2013 for expansion purposes (excluding construction) and \$3.5 million in FY 2009 for construction and acquisition projects.

**Additional Background:** According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the [National Marine Sanctuary System](#) was established to manage “specially designated areas of the nation’s oceans and Great Lakes that contain unique habitats; threatened and endangered species; and historic, archeological, recreational, and esthetic resources.” The system currently contains 14 different sanctuaries that cover more than 113,000 nautical miles. The Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine sanctuaries currently combine to include 1,347 nautical miles of sanctuary area in Northern California.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1187 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On February 13, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was referred to the full committee, as amended, by unanimous consent. On March 12, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 1187 was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, it would expand the size of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell National Marine Sanctuaries in Northern California.

**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.R. 2342—National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2007 (Allen, D-ME)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2342 would establish the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System. The system would be comprised of federal and non-federal components that would gather and disseminate costal and ocean data for the purpose of supporting “national defense, marine commerce, energy production, scientific research, ecosystem-based marine and coastal resource management, and public safety.”

H.R. 2342 would also stipulate that collected data be used to “improve the Nation’s capability to measure, track, explain, and predict events related directly and indirectly to climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments.”

The bill would authorize activities to develop, test, and deploy improvements in costal observation technologies to improve “our conceptual knowledge of global climate change and physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean and coastal and Great Lakes environments.”

The bill would establish the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of NOAA, as the lead federal agency for the system. The Secretary would be authorized to certify and coordinate with Regional Information Coordination Entities to gather and disseminate costal information according to the purposes of the bill. The bill would authorize departments and agencies that are members of the [National Ocean Research Leadership Council](#) to make grants and agreements to carry out the purposes of the bill, subject to appropriation.

**Additional Background:** According to, [An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century: Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy](#), costal and oceanic observation technology in the U.S., though sufficient, is not adequately integrated to be considered a functional national program. H.R. 2342 seeks to integrate costal and oceanic integration efforts by establishing the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System, under the administration of NOAA and the National Ocean Research Leadership Council.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2342 was introduced on May 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science and Technology. The same day, the

Committee on Natural Resources referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On February 13, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was referred to the full committee, as amended, by unanimous consent. On March 12, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote. The Committee on Science and Technology took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2342 was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, it would create the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System, directed by the Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of NOAA and the National Ocean Research Leadership Council.

**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.R. 4933—Captive Wildlife Safety Technical Amendments Act of 2008** *(Bordallo, D-GU)*

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 4933 would make technical changes to the Captive Wildlife Safety Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-191) to allow for improved prosecution of those who import, transport, or receive live lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars. In addition, the bill would reauthorize \$3 million annually over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 to carry out the purposes of the bill.

**Additional Background:** In order to support states in their efforts to increase wildlife populations, the Lacey Act of 1900 made it illegal for wildlife taken in violation of state law to be transported, received, or sold. In 2003, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act amended the Lacey Act to prohibit the export, transport, or sale of live lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars by placing those animals on the Lacey Act's "prohibit wildlife species" list.

According to the Natural Resources' Republican staff, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act has been difficult to enforce because the previous Lacey Act violations have been held to a two step

standard. First, a prosecutor must prove that the animal was taken in contravention of existing law. Second, a prosecutor must prove that the animal was transported, received, or sold. However, since many of the animals covered by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act are obtained overseas, it is nearly impossible to demonstrate the first step. This legislation seeks to rectify this problem by making technical amendments to create a one-step standard for live lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 4933 was introduced on January 15, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On February 13, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was referred to the full committee, as amended, by unanimous consent. On March 12, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 4933 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.R. 3352—Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments (Young, R-AK)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3352 would reauthorize the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out hydrographic (underwater coastal mapping) research and provide hydrographic services for the purpose of:

- Supporting the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources.
- Saving and protecting life and property.
- Supporting the resumption of commerce in response to emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made disasters.
- Meeting homeland security and maritime domain awareness needs.

The bill would also authorize NOAA to alter the composition of the Hydrographic Services Review Panel and compensate its voting members.

H.R. 3352 would also authorize funding for hydrographic research and services as follows.

To carry out nautical mapping and charting functions:

- \$55 million in FY 2009
- \$56 million in FY 2010
- \$57 million in FY 2011
- \$58 million in FY 2012

To contract for private hydrographic surveys:

- \$32.1 million in FY 2009
- \$32.7 million in FY 2010
- \$33.4 million in FY 2011
- \$34 million in FY 2012

To operate hydrographic survey vessels owned by NOAA:

- \$25.9 million in FY 2009
- \$26.4 million in FY 2010
- \$26.9 million in FY 2011
- \$27.4 million in FY 2012

To carry out geodetic functions:

- \$32.6 million in FY 2009
- \$32.3 million in FY 2010
- \$33.9 million in FY 2011
- \$34.5 million in FY 2012

To carry out tide and current measurement functions:

- \$27 million in FY 2009
- \$27.5 million in FY 2010
- \$28 million in FY 2011
- \$28.5 million in FY 2012

Finally, the bill would authorize \$75 million for NOAA to acquire a hydrographic survey vessel capable of staying at sea for at least 30 days.

**Additional Background:** Hydrographic surveys, conducted by NOAA's [Office of Coast Survey](#) (OCS), measure the depth and bottom configuration of water bodies in order to create nautical

charts across the U.S. [Exclusive Economic Zone](#), which includes some 3.4 million nautical miles of water. According to NOAA, the surveys are used to support a variety of activities such as port and harbor maintenance (dredging), coastal engineering (beach erosion and replenishment studies), coastal zone management, and offshore resource development.

From the inception of the program, NOAA carried out ocean-bottom mapping by itself. A 1994 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), [NOAA Needs to Consider Alternatives to the Acquisition of New Vessels](#), found that NOAA's operation of vessels and the hydrographic program were "high risk" (of waste, fraud and abuse) activities. As a result of that study and additional congressional oversight, NOAA was required to begin privately contracting hydrographic surveys. For instance, amendments made to Department of Commerce appropriations bills required NOAA to privately contract at least 50% of its underwater mapping programs and to begin to reduce the size of its fleet in order to reduce government waste. The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (HSIA) continued to require private contracting in order to improve the efficiency of NOAA's ocean-bottom mapping. The HSIA also created the Hydrographic Services Review Panel, which asked NOAA to produce an analysis of in-house versus contractor performance.

Currently, NOAA contracts 50% of hydrographic surveys privately, but has not produced a performance report comparing the efficiency of private surveys and surveys produced by NOAA. H.R. 3352 does not increase private contracting requirements for hydrographic mapping, nor does the bill require NOAA or the GAO to produce a report on the merits of private contracting.

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives maybe concerned that H.R. 3352 would authorize \$953 million to expand hydrographic mapping programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—including the purchase of a new ship—when the GAO has found in the past that NOAA's fleet operates with a high risk for waste, fraud, and abuse. Conservatives may also be concerned that the bill would not increase private contracting requirements, despite GAO's contention that hydrographic mapping is more efficiently carried out by private contracting.

In addition, conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 3352 is scheduled under a suspension of the rules and, as such, Members will not have an opportunity to offer amendments to reduce the authorization level or increase competitive private contracting requirements. Finally, some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 3352 authorizes nearly \$1 billion, but is not accompanied by a CBO score or a committee report.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3352 was introduced on August 2, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On February 13, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was referred to the full committee, as amended, by unanimous consent. On March 12, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3352 was not available at press time. However, the bill would authorize \$953 million from FY 2009 through FY 2012 for hydrographic underwater mapping services.



**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, it would authorize NOAA to expand its fleet by creating a new hydrographic survey vessel.

**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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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## **H.R. 3891—To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Brown, R-SC)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3891 would increase the number of board members serving on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors from 25 to 30. The bill would also require that each board member be a U.S. citizen.

**Additional Background:** The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984. The NFWF's purpose is to sustain and restore the nation's fish and wildlife habitats through conservation investments with public and private partners. According to their website, the NFWF has "awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged—with its partners—more than \$400 million in federal funds into over \$1.3 billion for conservation." The NFWF has agreements with more than 14 federal agencies and "has traditionally exceeded its 1:1 matching requirement and often attracts three or more additional project dollars for each federal dollar invested."

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3891 was introduced on October 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. On February 13, 2008, a subcommittee mark-up was held and the bill was referred to the full committee, as amended, by unanimous consent. On March 12, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3891 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.R. 2675—Help to Access Land for the Education (HALE) of Scouts Act (Boren, D-OK)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2675 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2675 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey, at fair market value, approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest, Oklahoma, to the Indian Nations Council, Inc. (a chartered council of the Boy Scouts of America).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2675 was introduced June 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On March 12, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, “Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget. The council would be required to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance. Further, the Forest Service would be able to retain the proceeds from the sale of the land to acquire other land. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues.”

**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.R. 3651—Utah National Guard Readiness Act (Bishop, R-UT)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 3651 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 3651 directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to convey, without consideration, about 430 acres of land in Utah to the state. The conveyed property would be used by Utah for activities of the state national guard.

**Additional Information:** According to the sponsor’s office, “the Utah National Guard is one of only a few states that have met its recruiting and retention goals for the past several years. As a result, the Utah Guard is expected to grow by several hundred personnel positions over the next few years. Camp Williams is the existing headquarters of the Utah National Guard and the main cantonment area was planned and developed in the 1940s and sits on lands owned by the State of Utah. In order to accommodate future expansion needs identified in its master plan for the main cantonment area, the Utah Guard must acquire ownership of contiguous lands already within the existing boundaries of Camp Williams which are technically owned by the federal government.

“HR 3651 would transfer fee ownership of approximately 431 acres of federal land at Camp Williams, under the administrative control of the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior, to the Utah National, as identified in the Guard’s master plan. The legislation will also help consolidate checkerboard land ownership patterns in the area leading to more efficient management of the affected lands. The transfer is subject to a reverter that the lands must be used for National Guard or defense purposes.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3651 was introduced September 25, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On March 12, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, “implementing H.R. 3651 would have no effect on the federal budget. The land to be conveyed to Utah is already reserved for military purposes of the U.S. Army and the Utah National Guard and does not produce income for the federal government.”

**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.R. 2515—Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act (Heller, R-NV)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2515 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 31, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2515 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. This program is a collaborative effort between the federal government and entities in the states of Nevada, Arizona, and California to address the needs of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife along the lower Colorado River while developing water and power deliveries to the states involved in the program.

**Background:** According to their website, “The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term multi-agency effort to conserve and work towards the recovery of endangered species, and protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River. The MSCP’s purposes are: protect the lower Colorado River environment while ensuring the certainty of existing river water and power operations, address the needs of threatened and endangered wildlife under the Endangered Species Act, and reduce the likelihood of listing additional species along the lower Colorado River. The MSCP covers areas up to and including the full-pool elevations of Lakes Mead, Mohave and Havasu and the historical floodplain of the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the United States-Mexico Southerly International Boundary, a distance of about 400 river miles. Conservation measures currently focus on the area from Hoover Dam to the border, but may include Grand Canyon in the future.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2515 was introduced May 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On March 12, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, “based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that the program would cost approximately \$70 million to implement over the next five years and several hundred million dollars over the 50-year life of the program. The bureau, however, has been implementing the program since 2005 under existing authorities, and this legislation would not authorize any activities beyond those in which the bureau already is

engaged. Hence, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would not significantly affect the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

**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.Con.Res. 302—Supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and for other purposes (Granger, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 302 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 302 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in order to provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;
- “Recognizes and applauds the national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about colorectal cancer, providing information on the importance of prevention and early detection through regular screening, and facilitating access to treatment for its sufferers; and
- “Urges organizations and health practitioners to ‘earn a Blue Star’ by using this opportunity to promote awareness about colorectal cancer and to support early identification and removal of pre-cancerous polyps, detectable only through colorectal cancer screenings.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States;
- “Colorectal cancer affects men and women equally;
- “More than 148,810 people in the United States will be diagnosed with colon cancer this year;
- “Over 49,960 people in the United States will die from colon cancer this year;

- “Every 3.5 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 9 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer;
- “Every 5 seconds someone who should be screened for colorectal cancer is not;
- “the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection;
- “The survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early stages versus only a 10 percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to distant organs;
- “only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage;
- “Uninsured Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage colon cancer than patients with private insurance;
- “Only 18.8 percent of those without health coverage in the United States have currently been properly screened for colorectal cancer;
- “If the majority of Americans age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 80 percent;
- “Regular colorectal cancer screening has been ranked as one of the most cost effective screening interventions available, with the potential to save more than 30,000 lives a year;
- “Treatment costs for colorectal cancer are extremely high, estimated at \$8,400,000,000 for 2004;
- “Increasing the number of people between the ages of 50 years and 64 years of age who are regularly screened in the United States, would provide significant savings in billions of dollars to the Medicare program from cancer prevention and treatment costs;
- “The Blue Star, developed by the Members of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, the American Cancer Society, the Colon Cancer Alliance, and C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition represents the collective fight against colon cancer, the eternal memory of the people whose lives have already been lost to the disease, and the shining hope for a future free of colon cancer;
- “Coaches vs. Cancer (a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches), the Colon Cancer Alliance, and Ethicon Endo-Surgery have created ‘Earn a Blue Star Day’ as a means for individuals and corporations to raise awareness of the importance of screening for colon cancer;
- “Greater awareness of this cancer and the means to prevent it will save the lives of tens of thousands of Americans each year; and
- “Observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 302 was introduced on February 25, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

**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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