



**Legislative Bulletin.....April 8, 2008**

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

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** at least 6

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$139 million in FY 2009 and \$1.9 billion over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period.

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

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

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

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 1

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 7

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

## H.Res. 265— Honoring military children during “National Month of the Military Child” (*Moran, D-VA*)

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 265 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 265 would express the sense that the House:

- “joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring the children of members of the Armed Forces and recognizes that they too share in the burden of protecting the Nation;
- “urges Americans to join with the military community in observing the ‘National Month of the Military Child’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children; and
- “recognizes with great appreciation the contributions made by private-sector organizations that provide resources and assistance to military families and the communities that support them.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “more than 2,000,000 Americans are demonstrating their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- “43 percent of the members of the Armed Forces, when deployed away from their permanent duty stations, have left families with children behind;
- “no one feels the effect of those deployments more than the children of deployed service members;
- “as of March 31, 2005, approximately 2,000 of these children have lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces during the preceding 5 years;
- “the daily struggles and personal sacrifices of children of members of the Armed Forces too often go unnoticed;
- “the children of members of the Armed Forces are a source of pride and honor to all Americans and it is fitting that the Nation recognize their contributions and celebrate their spirit;
- “the ‘National Month of the Military Child’, observed in April each year, recognizes military children for their sacrifices and contributes to demonstrating the Nation’s unconditional support to members of the Armed Forces;
- “in addition to Department of Defense programs to support military families and military children, various programs and campaigns have been established in the private sector to honor, support, and thank military children by fostering awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices and the challenges they face; and
- “a month-long salute to military children will encourage support for those organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support for military children and families.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 265 was introduced on March 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, 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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**H.J.Res. 70— Congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States (*Sanford, D-GA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.J.Res. 70 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.J.Res. 70 would express the sense that the House:

- “congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;
- “recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and
- “extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation’s commitment in support of their noble efforts.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a ‘special message’ to the Senate and the House of Representatives that ‘earnestly recommended passage’ of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring ‘our Army ... to the highest point of efficiency’;
- “on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, ‘strongly commending ... proposed legislation’ to ‘increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army’ by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;
- “in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled ‘An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army’, ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;
- “Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

- “Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;
- “the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;
- “many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;
- “since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deploying or providing mobilized soldiers and more than 180,294 individual soldiers either being mobilized or deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism;
- “24,329 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and 18 other countries on October 30, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;
- “the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;
- “the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;
- “the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;
- “the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army’s total budget.”

**Committee Action:** H. J. Res. 70 was introduced on December 13, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, 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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## **H.Res. 1020— Recognizing the tremendous service that members of the Armed Forces have given to the Nation, especially those who have been wounded in combat (*Welch, D-VT*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1020 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1020 would express the sense that the House:

- “ recognizes the tremendous service that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have given to the Nation, especially those who have sustained injury in combat;
- “ is committed to providing wounded warriors with the highest quality medical care available, and to supporting wounded members of all Armed Forces and their families during their recovery;
- “commends the actions of private citizens and organizations who volunteer their continued support to America’s wounded warriors; and
- “encourages Members and all citizens to take steps to show support and appreciation for returning troops, especially those who have been wounded.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and their families have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve our country in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- “more than 1,600,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have been deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom since September 2001;
- “more than 30,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have been wounded in battle;
- “advances in battlefield medicine have resulted in hundreds of lives being saved;
- “mental and psychological injuries sustained in battle can be as or more damaging than physical injuries; and
- “both physical and mental injuries sustained during combat have a life-altering impact on our servicemen and women as well as their families.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1020 was introduced on March 4, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, 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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## H.R. 1198—Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2007 (*Capps, D-CA*)

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1198 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 1198 would amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the newborns and infants hearing loss program to include services for young children (which are currently limited only to infants and newborns) and to include diagnostic services.

H.R. 1198 would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to assist in the recruitment, retention, education, and training of qualified personnel and health care providers for such services.

Furthermore, H.R. 1198 would require the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish a postdoctoral fellowship program to foster research and development in the area of early hearing detection and intervention.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1198 was introduced February 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On March 13, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** There is no CBO score available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, H.R. 1198 would expand the newborns and infants hearing loss program to include young children, and diagnostic services.

**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?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## H.R. 2464—Wakefield Act (*Matheson, D-UT*)

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2464 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2464 would extend the length of time for which a grant may be awarded under the emergency medical services for children grant program by one year. This grant program allows the

Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to states or schools of medicine to support projects to expand and improve emergency medical services for children who need treatment for trauma or critical care.

The bill would require that the Secretary support emergency medical services for children by supporting projects that develop and present scientific evidence; promote existing innovative technologies appropriate for the care of children; and provide information on health outcomes and effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

Furthermore, H.R. 2464 states that the purpose of the legislation is to “reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality by supporting improvements in the quality of all emergency medical care children receive.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2464 was introduced May 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On March 13, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** There is no CBO score 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## **H.R. 1237— Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2007** *(Gordon, D-TN)*

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1237 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 1237 amends the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) by requiring clinical laboratories to ensure that all individuals involved in screening and interpreting cytological preparations participate in annual continuing medical education programs in gynecologic cytology. The bill would repeal the current requirement for proficiency testing for laboratory personnel performing cytology laboratory tests.

**Background:** According to CBO, CLIA activities, which are administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), are funded through user fees, which cover 100 percent of the



cost of implementing the program. This legislation would have a minor impact on CMS's workload. However, because the CLIA program recovers 100 percent of its costs through fees (which are accounted for in the budget as offsetting collections), any change in its administrative costs would be offset by an equal change in the fees that CMS charges.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1237 was introduced February 28, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On March 13, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, implementing H.R. 1237 would have no net budgetary effect. Furthermore, CBO finds that enacting the legislation 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?** Yes, the bill would require clinical laboratories, including laboratories of public and private hospitals, to comply with record-keeping and management standards for personnel performing cytology laboratory tests. That requirement would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). However, according to CBO, the costs to laboratories would be small because compliance would probably involve minor adjustments to existing administrative procedures. The bill also would impose a private-sector mandate on individuals who screen and interpret cytological preparations by requiring them to participate in continuing medical education programs. CBO estimates that the costs of carrying out that mandate also would be small because only several thousand individuals would be subject to the education requirements and most of them are already enrolled in such programs.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## **S. 845— Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Enzi, R-WY)**

**Order of Business:** S. 845 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S. 845 would modify the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for programs to detect, prevent, and treat injuries among senior citizens. S. 845 would also direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to undertake research, education, and other activities aimed at reducing the extent and effect of falls among older adults.



S. 845 authorizes \$58.4 million for 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

**Committee Action:** S. 845 was introduced March 12, 2007, and on August 1, 2007, the bill passed the Senate, with an amendment, by unanimous consent. S. 845 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, assuming that the costs in 2009 and 2010 would be equal to the 2008 authorization adjusted for inflation, HHS would require \$178 million in budget authority to carry out those activities over the 2008—2010 period. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 845 would cost \$22 million in 2008 and \$172 million over the 2008—2012 period. CBO finds that enacting S. 845 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, S. 845 authorizes funding for new programs under the Public Service Health Act.

**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?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## H.R. 2063— Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007 (*Lowey, D-NY*)

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2063 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2063 would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a policy for managing the risk of food allergies and anaphylaxis in schools. (Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that involves multiple organs.) The bill would require that the policy be made available to schools within one year of enactment. Implementation of the policy by schools would be voluntary. The bill authorizes \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years to carry out these programs.

**Background:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received an appropriation of \$491,000 for fiscal year 2008 to develop guidelines for schools regarding food allergies and anaphylaxis.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2063 was introduced April 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On March 13, 2008, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, because the development of the policy set forth in H.R. 2063 currently is underway, CBO estimates that the bill would not result in any additional federal spending.

**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?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## S. 1858— Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 (*Dodd, D-CT*)

**Order of Business:** S. 1858 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S. 1858 would amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grant programs and other initiatives to promote expanded screening of newborns and children for heritable diseases. S. 1858 authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2008—2012 for grants for demonstration programs to evaluate the effectiveness of screening, counseling, or health care services in reducing the morbidity and mortality caused by heritable disorders in newborns and children.

S. 1858 would also require the Secretary to establish and maintain a central clearinghouse of current information on newborn screening. Furthermore, S. 1858 requires the Secretary to develop a national contingency plan for newborn screening in the event of a public health emergency. S. 1858 also authorizes the Secretary to continue to carry out, coordinate, and expand research in newborn screening (to be known as the Hunter Kelly Newborn Screening Research Program).

**Background:** According to the CDC's website, for more than 26 years,

“CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory has been the only comprehensive source in the world for quality assurance and proficiency testing involving the testing of newborns for preventable diseases. If these diseases are not accurately diagnosed and treated, they cause mental retardation, severe illness, and premature death in newborns. Within 48 hours of a child's birth, a sample of blood is obtained from a 'heel stick,' and the blood is analyzed for treatable diseases, including phenylketonuria, sickle cell disease, and hypothyroidism. More than 98% of all children born in the United States are tested for these disorders. The sample, called a 'blood spot,' is tested at a state public health or other

participating laboratory. CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory evaluates the performance of all participating laboratories (73 domestic and one or more laboratories in 53 other nations), ensuring that they analyze the blood spots correctly and providing technical assistance to resolve any diagnostic problems. Each year, at least 4 million babies in the United States are tested for these diseases, and severe disorders are detected in about 5,000 newborns. Accurate screening ensures that— affected babies are identified quickly; cases of disease are not missed; the number of false-positive results is minimized; early treatment will begin that will prevent negative and irreversible health outcomes for affected newborns.

“Thousands of children are living healthy and productive lives as a result of newborn screening and the CDC Environmental Health Laboratory's quality assurance and proficiency testing program.”

**Committee Action:** S. 1858 was introduced July 23, 2007, and on December 13, 2007, the bill passed the Senate, with amendment, by unanimous consent. S. 1858 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, the act would authorize the appropriation of \$45 million for 2008 and \$229 million over the 2008—2012 period. Assuming the appropriation of those amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost \$11 million in 2008 and \$218 million over the 2008—2013 period. S. 1858 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, S. 1858 would expand existing programs at the CDC.

**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?:** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## **S. 793— Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act (Hatch, R-UT)**

**Order of Business:** S. 793 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S. 793 would reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act under the Public Health Service Act to make grants for state traumatic brain injury surveillance systems or registries (currently, only for registries) in order to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury and related disability; ensure the uniformity of reporting under each such system or registry; link individuals with traumatic brain injury to services and supports; and link such individuals with academic institutions to conduct applied research.

S. 793 would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report to the relevant congressional committees on activities and procedures that can be implemented by the CDC, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the collection and dissemination of compatible epidemiological studies on the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury in the military and veterans populations who return to civilian life.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary to conduct a study to: determine the incidence of traumatic brain injury and prevalence of traumatic brain injury related disability; report national trends in traumatic brain injury; identify common therapeutic interventions which are used for the rehabilitation of individuals with such injuries; identify interventions and therapies that can prevent or remediate the development of secondary neurologic conditions related to traumatic brain injury; and develop practice guidelines for such rehabilitation.

S. 793 also authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2008—2011 for the National Institute of Health's trauma research program.

S. 793 would allow the Secretary to make grants to states and American Indian consortia (currently, only states are eligible) to improve access to rehabilitation and other services (currently, to health and other services) regarding traumatic brain injury. S. 793 authorizes appropriations for such grants for fiscal year 2008—2011.

S. 793 directs the Administrator to make a grant for training and technical assistance to protection and advocacy systems, if funds permit (authorizes appropriations through fiscal year 2011).

Finally, S. 793 directs the Comptroller General to conduct a study regarding members of the armed forces who have acquired a disability resulting from a traumatic brain injury incurred while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom that examines how these individuals are being reintegrated into their communities.

**Committee Action:** S. 793 was introduced March 7, 2007, and on December 11, 2007, S. 793 passed the Senate, with amendment, by unanimous consent. S. 793 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, implementing the bill would cost \$106 million in 2008 and \$1.5 billion over the 2008—2012 period, subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts. Furthermore, according to CBO, enacting S. 793 would not affect direct spending or federal revenues.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, S. 793 authorizes new studies and programs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

**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?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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**H.Res. 1077— Calling on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes (Pelosi, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1077 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1077 would express the sense that the House:

- “calls on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to end its crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protestors and its continuing cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression inside Tibet;
- “calls on the Chinese Government to begin a results-based dialogue, without preconditions, directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people and provide for a long-term solution that respects the human rights and dignity of every Tibetan;
- “calls on the Chinese Government to allow independent international monitors and journalists, free and unfettered access to the Tibet Autonomous Region and all other Tibetan areas of China for the purpose of monitoring and documenting events surrounding the Tibetan protests and to verify that individuals injured receive adequate medical care;
- “calls on the Chinese Government to immediately release all Tibetans who are imprisoned for nonviolently expressing opposition to Chinese Government policies in Tibet;
- “ calls on the United States Department of State to publicly issue a statement reconsidering its decision not to include the People’s Republic of China among the group of countries described as ‘the world’s most systematic human rights violators’ in the introduction of the 2007 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; and
- “calls on the United States Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State ‘seek to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet to monitor political, economic and cultural developments in Tibet’, and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies, and further urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government office in Lhasa.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “March 10, 2008, marked the 49th anniversary of a historic uprising against Chinese rule over the Tibetan people, which forced His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, to escape into exile in India;

- “Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns in and around Lhasa were blocked by Chinese authorities from staging peaceful demonstrations on this anniversary date and were met with excessive force by the Chinese authorities;
- “protests by Tibetans spread inside the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas of China;
- “the accumulated grievances of almost six decades of cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression of the Tibetan people by the Government of the People’s Republic of China has resulted in resentments which are at the root of the Tibetan protests;
- “resentment of the Chinese Government by the Tibetan people has increased sharply since 2005 as a result of Chinese policies, laws, and regulations that have reduced economic opportunity for Tibetans and severely eroded the ability of Tibetans to preserve their distinctive language, culture, and religious identity;
- “the response by the Chinese Government to the Tibetan protests was disproportionate and extreme, reportedly resulting in the deaths of hundreds and the detention of thousands of Tibetans;
- “there have been reports that some Tibetans engaged in rioting that may have resulted in the destruction of government and private property, as well as the deaths of civilians;
- “His Holiness the Dalai Lama has used his leadership to promote democracy, freedom, and peace for the Tibetan people through a negotiated settlement of the Tibet issue, based on autonomy within the context of China;
- “six rounds of dialogue between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials have not resulted in meaningful progress;
- “the Chinese Government has rebuffed calls by the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and world leaders to respond positively to the Dalai Lama’s willingness to be personally involved in discussions with Chinese leaders on the future of Tibet;
- “the Chinese Government has denigrated the Dalai Lama, labeling him as ‘a splittist’ and ‘a wolf in monk’s robes’, thereby further alienating Tibetans who consider the Dalai Lama their spiritual leader;
- “the Dalai Lama was recognized for his contribution to world peace when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989;
- “the United States Congress, in recognition of the Dalai Lama’s outstanding moral and religious leadership and his advocacy of nonviolence, awarded him with the Congressional Gold Medal on October 17, 2007;
- “the Chinese Government has failed to honor its commitment to improve the human rights situation in China as a condition for Beijing being selected as the site for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games;
- “the Chinese Government has impeded the access of international journalists to Tibetan areas of China and distorted reports of events surrounding the Tibetan protests, thereby violating the commitment it made that ‘there will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists up to and including the Olympic Games’;
- “for many years, the Chinese Government has restricted the ability of foreign journalists and foreign government officials, including United States Government officials, to freely travel in Tibetan areas of China, thereby curtailing access to information on the situation in Tibetan areas;

- “ the Chinese Government’s use of propaganda during the protests to demonize Tibetans and incite ethnic nationalism is exacerbating ethnic tensions and is counterproductive to resolving the situation;
- “the United States Department of State included the People’s Republic of China among the group of countries described as ‘the most systematic violators of human rights’ in the introduction of the 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and in previous Human Rights Reports, but did not do so in the 2007 Human Rights Report, despite no evidence of significant improvements in the human rights situation in China in the past year; and
- “it is the policy of the United States ‘to support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to safeguard their distinct identity’ and ‘to support economic development, cultural preservation, health care, and education and environmental sustainability for Tibetans inside Tibet’, in accordance with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note).”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1077 was introduced on April 3, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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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