

**Legislative Bulletin.....February 23, 2010**

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**H.Res. 1066 - Recognizing the bravery and efforts of the United States Armed Forces, local first responders, and other members of Operation Unified Response for their swift and coordinated action in light of the devastation wrought upon the nation of Haiti after a horrific 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port-Au-Prince and surrounding cities on January 12, 2010 (Meek, D-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1066 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the efforts of the United States Armed Forces, local first responders, and other members of Operation Unified Response for their swift, compassionate, and courageous action to meet the needs of Haiti's citizens and government and facilitate the evacuation, safety, and medical attention for United States citizens impacted by the earthquake in Haiti;

- “Recognizes the remarkable response by the men and women in the United States Armed Forces for their ability to deploy such a sizeable force in such a short amount of time while also engaged in two separate conflicts; and
- “Recognizes the dedication and sacrifice put forward by United States public servants to procure and deliver the enormous amounts of food, water, medical and hygienic supplies, and shelter and for their tireless effort to repair and rebuild critical infrastructure for the benefit of all Haitians.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The United States Coast Guard was the first to represent the United States in Haiti after the catastrophic earthquake and was an integral part of the initial relief efforts;
- “Within the first 10 days, 24 United States Navy and Coast Guard vessels, thousands of international United States Army Reserve rescue workers, over 14,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, 71 United States helicopters, and 26 Department of Health and Human Services personnel arrived or were en route to provide logistical support, secure aid distribution, and set up temporary housing;
- “The USNS Comfort has already treated 1,427 patients from 10 different hospital sites; and
- “Within the first two weeks, Department of Defense personnel distributed 1,820,463 bottles of water, 1,465,569 meals, and 57,083 lbs. of medical equipment.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1066 was introduced on February 3, 2010, and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1059 - Honoring the heroism of the seven United States Agency for International Development and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance supported urban search and rescue teams deployed to Haiti from New York City, New York, Fairfax County, Virginia, Los Angeles County, California, Miami, Florida, Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and commending their dedication and assistance in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 Haitian earthquake (McMahon, D-NY)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1059 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors the bravery and dedication of the United States Agency for International Development and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance supported urban search and rescue teams, the seven best trained of these teams in the world;
- “Congratulates the 511 United States rescue workers for the many lives they helped to save in Haiti;
- “Recognizes the contribution of these teams not only in the lives that they directly saved, but to the international teams that they trained and to the people of Haiti;
- “Welcomes home the brave first responders of the United States urban search and rescue teams; and
- “Views the work of such teams and volunteers as an important part of the Nation's contribution to the recovery of Haiti.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “A catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the nation of Haiti at 4:53 p.m. (local time) on January 12, 2010;
- “United States urban search and rescue teams were immediately activated and deployed from Fairfax County, Virginia, Los Angeles County, California, and Miami-Dade, Florida, to assist the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART);
- “New York City's first responders asked the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to activate a New York City urban search and rescue (USAR) shortly after the disaster struck;
- “The 511 United States rescue workers comprised roughly one-third of the entire international USAR effort in Haiti; and
- “On January 21, 2010, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs David T. Johnson and New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide the Haitian national police, among other police forces, with training and technical assistance.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1059 was introduced on February 2, 2010, and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1074 - Honoring the life of Miep Gies, who aided Anne Frank's family while they were in hiding and preserved her diary for future generations (*Kilroy, D-OH*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1074 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Miep Gies's courage in risking her own life to hide and provide for the Frank family while they were in hiding;
- “Commends Miep Gies for retrieving and preserving the diary of Anne Frank, which has served as an inspiration to countless people the world over; and
- “Honors Miep Gies for her bravery during Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and her dedication to preserving the memory of Anne Frank and the Holocaust.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “Miep Gies agreed without hesitation to hide and assist the Frank family to avoid Jewish persecution at the hands of Nazi Germany;
- “Miep Gies helped hide and sustain the Frank family, along with Hermann and Auguste Van Pels, their son Peter, and later Fritz Pfeffer, for two years in a secret

- room above Opekta's offices, bringing them food, supplies, and writing supplies for Anne;
- “When the Gestapo captured the Frank family, the Van Pels family, and Mr. Pfeffer, on August 4, 1944, Miep Gies discovered the pages of Anne Frank's diary in the secret room and hid them for safekeeping;
  - “Miep Gies represents the valor demonstrated by the countless ordinary individuals who stood up to and helped defeat Adolph Hitler's Nazi regime; and
  - “Miep Gies passed away on January 11, 2010.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1074 was introduced on February 24, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 944 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq (*Peters, D-MI*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 944 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “The United States remains deeply concerned about the plight of vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq and is particularly concerned for the Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, Yazidis, Baha'is, Jews, and Muslim ethnic minorities, the Shabak and Turkomen, and other religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq;
- “The United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to enhance security at places of worship in Iraq, particularly where religious minorities are known to be at risk;

- “The United States Government should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to--
  - “Urgently train and deploy into the Iraqi police and security forces members of vulnerable minority communities in Iraq, including in Nineveh and other areas in which religious minorities are located, who are as representative as possible of those communities; and
  - “Ensure that members of such communities--
    - “Suffer no discrimination in recruitment, employment, or advancement in the Iraqi police and security forces; and
    - “While employed in the Iraqi police and security forces, be assigned to their locations of origin, rather than being transferred to other areas;
- “The Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government--
  - “Ensure that the upcoming national elections in Iraq are safe, fair, and free of intimidation and violence so that all Iraqis, including religious minorities, can participate in the elections; and
  - “Permit and facilitate election monitoring by experts from local and international nongovernmental organizations, the international community, and the United Nations, particularly in minority areas;
- “The Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional government should work towards a peaceful and timely resolution of disputes over territories;
- “The United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to work with minority communities and their representatives to develop measures to implement article 125 of the Iraq Constitution, which guarantees ‘the administrative, political, cultural, and educational rights of the various nationalities, such as Turkomen, Chaldeans, Assyrians, and all the other constituents’ in Nineveh and other areas where these groups are present;
- “The Government of Iraq should take affirmative measures to reverse the legal, political, and economic marginalization of religious minorities in Iraq;
- “The United States Government should direct assistance to projects that develop the ability of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq to organize themselves civically and politically to effectively convey their concerns to government;
- “The United States Government should continue to fund capacity-building programs for the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, the independent national Human Rights Commission, and a new independent minorities committee whose membership is selected by minority communities of Iraq;
- “The Government of Iraq should direct the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights to investigate and issue a public report on abuses against and the marginalization of minority communities in Iraq and make recommendations to address such abuses;
- “The Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government and international organizations, help ensure that displaced Iraqis considering return to Iraq have the proper information needed to make informed decisions regarding such return; and

- “The United States Government and international organizations should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to develop the legal framework necessary to address property disputes resulting when displaced Iraqis attempt to return to their homes in Iraq.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, there are grave threats to religious freedom in Iraq, particularly for the smallest, most vulnerable religious minorities in Iraq, including Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, and Yazidis;
- “The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom continues to recommend that the President designate Iraq as a ‘country of particular concern’, or CPC, under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, because of the ongoing, severe abuses of religious freedom in Iraq;
- “Members of small religious minority communities in Iraq do not have militia or tribal structures to defend them, do not receive adequate official protection, and are legally, politically, and economically marginalized;
- “Many religious minorities in Iraq, who made up about 3 percent of the population of Iraq in 2003, have fled to other areas in Iraq or to other countries, where they reflect a disproportionately high percentage of registered Iraqi refugees; and
- “The ancient and once-large Jewish community in Iraq now numbers fewer than 10, and they essentially live in hiding.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 944 was introduced on December 3, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures. However, the resolution does encourage the assistance of the United States in a number of areas, each that would bring about a cost to the American taxpayer.

**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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1048 - Commending the efforts and honoring the work of the men and women of USNS Comfort and the United States Navy in the immediate response to those affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 (Murphy, R-PA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1048 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss of life and the physical and psychological damage caused by the earthquake of January 12, 2010;
- “Expresses solidarity with Haitians, Haitian-Americans, and all those who have lost loved ones or have otherwise been affected by the tragedy;
- “Commends the efforts of the people of the United States, including the Haitian-American community, to provide relief to families, friends, and unknown peoples suffering in the country; and
- “Commends the efforts and honors the work of the men and women of USNS Comfort and the United States Navy in the immediate response to those affected by this calamity.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Casualty estimates, upwards of 150,000, as well as damage to roads, ports, hospitals, and homes, make this earthquake one of the worst catastrophes to hit Haiti in over two centuries;
- “The United States Navy responded within hours of the earthquake to swiftly provide the Haitians with aid;
- “The USNS Comfort's 550-person medical staff includes trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, head and neck surgeons, eye surgeons, and obstetricians and gynecologists;
- “The extraordinary USNS Comfort medical staff has saved the lives of 98 percent of the ship's patient population as of January 25, 2010; and
- “The USNS Comfort and the USS Carl Vinson have been aided in their efforts by other Navy vessels, including the crews of the USS Higgins, the USS Underwood, the USS Normandy, the USS Bunker Hill, the USS Bataan, the USS Carter Hall, the USS Gunston Hall, the USS Fort McHenry, the USNS Grasp, the Navy.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1048 was introduced on January 27, 2010, and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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### **H.R. 3695 – Billy’s Law (*Murphy, D-CT*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 3695 authorizes the Attorney General to maintain public databases, known as the “National Missing and Unidentified Persons System” or “NamUs” to contain missing persons records and unidentified remains cases in order to assist with locating these individuals and solving these cases.

This legislation allows the information gathered to be shared with the National Crime Information Center, and allows the National Crime Information Center to share information with the NamUs databases.

H.R. 3695 also authorizes (subject to appropriation) \$10 million annually to provide grants to qualifying law enforcement agencies, offices of coroners, offices of medical examiners, and others to report information to the NCIC database and NamUs databases. The legislation then establishes best practices for reporting this information to the databases, and requires a biennial report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

This legislation expands an existing intergovernmental mandate requiring local law enforcement agencies to share and update information about missing persons under 21 years of age.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3695 was introduced on October 1, 2009 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. The Subcommittee held a hearing on January 21, 2010, and a full committee markup was held on January 27, 2010.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, “H.R. 3695 would cost about \$45 million over the 2011-2015 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. H.R. 3695 would create a new grant program authorizing (subject to appropriation) \$10 million annually to provide grants for reporting information to the NCIC and NamUs databases.

**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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the legislation does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Con.Res. 227 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week (*Towns, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 227 resolves the sense of the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring) that:

“It is the sense of Congress that-

- “National Urban Crimes Awareness Week provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about urban violence and to take steps to encourage the prevention of urban violence, provide assistance, and support to crime victims;
- “It is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 209,000 men and women who have been victims of urban violence in the United States each year, and to commend the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who work to prevent urban violence;
- “National and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about urban violent crimes, providing information and treatment to victims, families, and

- survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators;
- “Public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of violent urban crime cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders; and
  - “Victim advocates and criminal justice professionals should be recognized, applauded, and encouraged for their work to establish effective programs as alternatives to incarceration, re-entry interventions for offenders who are completing sentences, and rehabilitation programs for offenders and victims alike; and

“Congress--

- “Strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote through education and prevention measures, awareness of violent urban crimes and strategies to decrease the incidence of these crimes; and
- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “National Urban Crimes Awareness Week will be celebrated the second week in February 2010;
- “48,430 violent crimes occurred in New York City in 2008, compared to 28,941 in non-New York City counties;
- “According to the 2008 National Crime Victimization Survey, African-Americans experienced higher rates than Whites of every violent crime except simple assault;
- “Data suggests that more than 60 percent of the Nation's youth have been exposed to violence within the past year;
- “Numerous studies demonstrate the evidence-based prevention and intervention programs can reduce delinquency and serious juvenile crime.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 227 was introduced on January 13, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 274 - Expressing support for designation of March as National Nutrition Month (*Castor, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 274 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of National Nutrition Month;
- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Nutrition Month;
- “Encourages local communities to raise awareness surrounding nutritional health;
- “Encourages awareness about diseases and death caused by lack of nutrition; and
- “Recognizes and salutes health care professionals such as registered dietitians, that spread the knowledge and importance of nutrition each day.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “According to the American Dietetic Association the National Nutrition Month campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits;
- “According to the Centers for Disease Control, since 1980 obesity rates for adults have doubled and rates for children have tripled;
- “These health conditions are estimated to cost the United States over \$600,000,000,000 each year in medical expenses and lost productivity; and
- “March would be an appropriate month to designate as National Nutrition Month.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 274 was introduced on March 23, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. \_\_ - Honoring and celebrating the contributions of African-Americans to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States  
(Brown, D-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National African American History Month;
- “Honors and celebrates the important contributions that African-Americans have made throughout history to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States; and
- “Urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government to recognize the substantial contributions that African-Americans have made and continue to make to the Nation’s transportation and infrastructure systems.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “African-Americans have played an instrumental role in developing and improving the transportation and infrastructure of the United States through leadership, design, and innovation;
- “The contributions of African-Americans have had significant and far-reaching impacts on modern transportation systems, including airways, highways, and rail-ways, and have led to momentous improvements to transportation safety and security;
- “The work of many influential African-Americans through the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States led to desegregation in transportation as well as significant improvements to the working conditions and rights of transportation workers throughout the United States;
- “Rosa Parks, Homer Plessy, and many other civil rights activists insisted on equitable access to public transportation;
- “National African American History Month is celebrated in February 2010.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_ was introduced on February 23, 2010, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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