

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR 55-TO 64-YEAR-OLDS

Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Committee concluded hearings to examine a report entitled *Private Health Insurance: Declining Employer Coverage May Affect Access for 55-to 64-Year-Olds*, which addresses the employment, income, health, and health insurance status of the near elderly population, and their ability to obtain employer-based health insurance if they retire before becoming eligible for Medicare, and proposed legislation to expand access to health coverage for certain uninsured Amer-

icans aged 55–64 who are not yet eligible for Medicare, after receiving testimony from Senator Daschle; William J. Scanlon, Director, Health Financing and Systems Issues, Health, Education, and Human Services Division, General Accounting Office; C. Keith Campbell, Seward, Alaska, on behalf of the American Association of Retired Persons; Paul Fronstin, Employee Benefit Research Institute, and Charles N. Kahn III, Health Insurance Association of America, both of Washington, D.C.; David Shactman, Institute for Health Policy/Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts; and Teresa DeRuiter, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 4138–4192; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 124–125, H. Con. Res. 297, and H. Res. 495–497 were introduced.

Pages H5402–04

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 2795, to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation water contractors in Wyoming and Nebraska that receive water from Glendo Reservoir, amended (H. Rept. 105–604);

H.R. 3682, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines to avoid laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions, amended (H. Rept. 105–605);

H.R. 3748, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to authorize appropriations for the Federal Election Commission for fiscal year 1999. (H. Rept. 105–606); and

H. Res. 392, relating to the importance of Japanese American relations and the urgent need for Japan to more effectively address its economic and financial problems and open its markets by eliminating informal barriers to trade and investment, thereby making a more effective contribution to leading the Asian region out of its current financial crisis, insuring against a global recession, and reinforcing regional stability and security, amended (H. Rept. 105–607, Part 1).

Page H5402

Independence Day District Work Period: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 297, providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period.

Page H5330

Earlier the House agreed to H. Res. 491, the rule that provided for consideration of the concurrent res-

olution by a ye and nay vote of 225 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 267.

Pages H5302–03, H5329–30

Treasury, Postal Service Appropriations Act: By a recorded vote of 125 yeas to 291 noes, Roll No. 268, the House failed to agree to H. Res. 485, the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 4104, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

Pages H5307–15, H5330–31

Legislative Branch Appropriations Act: The House passed H.R. 4112, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, by a ye and nay vote of 235 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 272.

Pages H5332–52

By a ye and nay vote of 192 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 271, rejected the Obey motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report it back with an amendment to reduce “Committee Employees Standing Committees, Special and Select” funding by \$8.3 million.

Pages H5350–51

Agreed To:

The Farr amendment that clarifies that \$100,000 shall be made available for the Office Waste Recycling Program; and

Pages H5348–49

The Gutierrez amendment that mandates the establishment of a energy conservation plan, thus bringing Congress into compliance with the energy efficiency standards established under the Energy Policy Relief Act of 1992.

Pages H5349–50

A point of order was sustained against Section 108, dealing with transit programs.

Pages H5347–48

H. Res. 489, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote

of 228 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 270. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by a yeas and nays vote of 222 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 269.

Pages H5315–29, H5331–32

Member Sworn: Representative-elect Heather Wilson of New Mexico presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the oath of office by the Speaker.

Page H5352

IRS Restructuring and Reform Act Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2676, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restructure and reform the Internal Revenue Service, by a recorded vote of 402 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 273.

Pages H5352–68

Rejected the McDermott motion to recommit the conference report with instructions to managers on the part of the House to disagree to section 5001, relating to lower capital gains rates to apply to property held more than 1 year by a yeas and nays vote of 116 yeas to 292 nays, Roll No. 273.

Pages H5367–68

H. Res. 490, the rule that waived points of order against the conference report accompanying the bill, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote.

Pages H5304–07

Late Reports: The Committee on Appropriations received permission to have until midnight on Wednesday, July 8, to file reports on bills making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies; and making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD, and sundry agencies.

Page H5369

Legislative Program: Representative Solomon announced the legislative program for the week of July 13.

Pages H5369–70

Honoring the Berlin Airlift: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 230, amended, honoring the Berlin Airlift. Earlier, agreed by unanimous consent to technical amendments offered by Mr. Hefley.

Pages H5385–86

Child Support Performance and Incentive Act: The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3130, to provide for an alternative penalty procedure for States that fail to meet Federal child support data processing requirements, to reform Federal incentive payments for effective child support performance, and to provide for a more flexible penalty procedure for States that violate interjurisdictional adoption requirements, with House amendments.

Pages H5370–85

Private Non-Profit Food Bank Volunteers: The House passed H.R. 3152, amended, to provide that certain volunteers at private non-profit food banks are not employees for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Earlier, agreed by unanimous

consent to the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Ballenger.

Pages H5386–87

Emancipation of African slaves in the Danish West Indies now the United States Virgin Islands: The House agreed to H. Res. 495, relating to the recognition of the connection between the emancipation of African slaves in the Danish West Indies, now the United States Virgin Islands, to the American Declaration of Independence from the British Government.

Pages H5387–88

Presidential Message—Science and Engineering Indicators: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the Science and Engineering Indicators of 1998 report of the National Science Board—referred to the Committee on Science.

Page H5388

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Morella to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through July 14, 1998.

Page H5388

Resignations and Appointments: Agreed that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, July 14, 1998, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader, be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

Page H5389

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on July 15.

Page H5389

Senate Message: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H5299 and H5392.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H5406–08.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yeas and nays votes, and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H5329–30, H5330–31, H5331–32, H5332, H5351, H5351–52, H5367–68, and H5368. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:00 a.m. and pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 297, adjourned at 7:33 p.m., until July 14.

Committee Meetings

FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT—IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing to review the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act. Testimony was heard from Richard Rominger, Deputy Secretary, USDA;