

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) and me in making this tax credit for American families a reality.

APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of section 201(A)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-344, the Chair announces that the Speaker and the President pro tempore of the Senate on Wednesday, February 3, 1999, did jointly appoint Mr. Dan L. Crippen as director of the Congressional Budget Office, effective February 3, 1999, for the term of office expiring on January 3, 2003.

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 36 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 36

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Rules now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall

rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 36 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 350, the Mandates Information Act of 1999, a bill that will expand the prior 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to improve congressional deliberation and public awareness on proposed private sector mandates.

H. Res. 36 is a wide open rule providing 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules. The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act prohibiting consideration of legislation within the Committee on the Budget's jurisdiction unless reported by the Committee on the Budget. The bill also waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report.

The rule considers the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Rules, now printed in the bill, as an original bill for the purpose of amendment which is considered as read. The rule provides, further, that it waives points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act.

H. Res. 36 further allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration. The rule also allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone recorded votes and to reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question, provided voting time on the first in any series of questions is not less than 15 minutes.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by explaining exactly what this bill will do. First, the bill amends the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to require committee re-

ports to include a statement from the Congressional Budget Office estimating the impact of private sector mandates on consumers, workers and small businesses.

Second, if the CBO cannot prepare an estimate, the bill allows a point of order against consideration of the bill.

Third, if legislation contains a private sector mandate the direct cost of which exceeds \$100 million, this bill also allows a point of order against consideration of the legislation. In both cases the point of order triggers a 20-minute debate on the costs and benefits of a legislative measure before the House votes to continue.

The argument has been made that this bill will result in delaying tactics. Mr. Speaker, the current bill has been in effect for over three years and the point of order has been utilized seven times, four times by Republicans and three times by Democrats. That is a pretty good balance.

Nonetheless, H.R. 350 constrains the Chair from recognizing more than one point of order with respect to a private sector mandate for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion or conference report. The one vote limit per legislative measure should provide sufficient opportunity for Members to receive the best available information on the cost of a bill.

Mr. Speaker, the intergovernmental mandates legislation was one of the first bills passed by the 104th Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. That law, designed to provide information about mandates on State and local governments, passed the House with 394 votes and has proven to be quite useful in providing accurate information during the course of floor debate.

I chaired a joint hearing of the two Committees on Rules subcommittees on Tuesday in which we examined H.R. 350 and efforts to expand upon the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. We have now had 3 full years to observe how that law has worked, and it has worked well. We heard from the acting director of the congressional Committee on the Budget who stated that the 1995 act had been a useful tool in congressional deliberation. The CBO director said he had been doing mandates estimates for years, but no one really paid any attention to the costs until we passed the 1995 mandates bill.

That is all the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act has done, and that is all that this bill will do. It will force Members to review reliable information from the Congressional Budget Office. This information has increased not only Member consciousness of the costs of legislation, but increased public awareness, and that is why we are here today. In an effort to make the original unfunded mandates legislation a more valuable information tool to advise Members on private sector mandates, the Mandates Information Act has been introduced again in this Congress with over 60 bipartisan cosponsors.