

**EMPLOYMENT TRENDS**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine issues relating to the 21st century workplace, focusing on preparing for tomorrow's employment trends today, after receiving testimony from Tamara J. Erickson, The Concours Group, Watertown, Massachusetts; and Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Hudson Institute, and Jared Bernstein, Economic Policy Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 852, to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, with amendments; and

The nominations of Richard A. Griffin, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, David W. McKeague, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, and Paul D. Clement, of Virginia, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Anthony Jerome Jenkins, of Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands, Stephen Joseph Murphy III, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Gretchen C.F. Shappert, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, and Regina B. Schofield, of Virginia, to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, all of the Department of Justice.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship concluded a hearing to examine the need for comprehensive immigration reform relating to the national economy,

focusing on the proposed Temporary Worker Program recognizing that the economy relies on temporary foreign workers to fill workforce shortages when there are insufficient numbers of willing or able domestic workers, after receiving testimony Steven J. Law, Deputy Secretary of Labor; Thomas J. Donahue, United States Chamber of Commerce, and Daniel Griswold, Cato Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

**VA DISABILITY CLAIMS PROCESS**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine challenges facing the VA claims adjudication and appeal process, focusing on the current state of VA's disability claims process and factors that may impede VA's ability to improve performance, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits, Ronald Garvin, Acting Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and Robert H. Epley, Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Program Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Cynthia A. Bascetta, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Kenneth B. Kramer, former Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Robert Chisholm, National Organization of Veterans Advocates, Providence, Rhode Island; and Rick Surratt, Disabled American Veterans, Washington, D.C.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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## House of Representatives

***Chamber Action***

**Measures Introduced:** 97 public bills, H.R. 2646–2742; 1 private bill, H.R. 2743; and 13 resolutions, H.J. Res. 52; H. Con. Res. 167–173; and H. Res. 299–302, were introduced. **Pages H4138–42**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H4142**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1496, to return general aviation to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, amended (H. Rept. 109–98);

H.R. 2293, to provide special immigrant status for aliens serving as translators with the United States Armed Forces, amended (H. Rept. 109–99); and

H.J. Res. 27, resolution withdrawing the approval of the United States from the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, adversely (H. Rept. 109–100). **Page H4138**

**Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY**

2006: The House passed H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, by a yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 226. **Pages H4085–H4114**

Agreed to:

Jones of Ohio amendment that prohibits the use of funds to close or realign any military installation approved for closure or realignment in 2005 before the Secretary of Defense makes the information available upon which the closure and realignment recommendations were based. **Pages H4109–10**

Rejected:

Melancon amendment that sought to increase funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 224); and **Pages H4096–97, H4111–12**

Blumenauer amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of May 25) that sought to increase funding for Base Realignment and Closure Account 1990 (by a recorded vote of 171 yeas to 254 noes, Roll No. 225). **Pages H4100–02, H4112–13**

Withdrawn:

Blumenauer amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of May 25) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase funding for Base Realignment and Closure Account 1990; **Pages H4102–03**

Jones of Ohio amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to prohibit the use of funds to implement the results of the 2005 round of base closures and realignments until the completion of all environmental remediation associated with the closure of military installations approved for closure in the 1995 round; and **Page H4109**

Tiaht amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to prohibit the use of funds to promulgate regulations without consideration of the effect of such regulations on the competitiveness of American businesses. **Pages H4110–11**

Point of Order:

Obey amendment that increases funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and adds a new section to the end of the bill regarding tax reduction. **Pages H4105–06**

H. Res. 298, the rule providing for consideration of the measure was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 223. **Pages H4078–84**

**Late Report:** Agreed that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight on June 3 to file a report on a bill making appropriations for Agriculture,

Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. **Page H4114**

**Late Report:** Agreed that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence have until midnight on June 5 to file a report on H.R. 2475. **Page H4114**

**Transportation Equity Act—Motion to go to Conference:** The House disagreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and requested a conference. **Pages H4114–18**

Rejected the Oberstar motion to instruct conferees by a yea-and-nay vote of 189 yeas to 223 nays, Roll No. 227. **Pages H4114–18**

Appointed as conferees: From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill (except title X) and the Senate amendment (except title V), and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Young of Alaska, Petri, Boehlert, Coble, Duncan, Mica, Hoekstra, LaTourette, Bachus, Baker, Gary G. Miller of California, Hayes, Simmons, Brown of South Carolina, Graves, Shuster, Boozman, Oberstar, Rahall, DeFazio, Costello, Norton, Nadler, Menendez, Corrine Brown of Florida, Filner, Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Taylor of Mississippi, Millender-McDonald, Cummings, Blumenauer, and Tauscher; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of secs. 8001–8003 of the House bill, and Title III of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Nussle, Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, and Spratt; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 1118, 1605, 1809, 3018, and 3030 of the House bill, and secs. 1304, 1819, 6013, 6031, 6038, and 7603 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Kline, Keller, and Barrow; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of provisions in the House bill and Senate amendment relating to Clean Air Act provisions of transportation planning contained in secs. 6001 and 6006 of the House bill, and secs. 6005 and 6006 of the Senate amendment; and secs. 1210, 1824, 1833, 5203, and 6008 of the House bill, and secs. 1501, 1511, 1522, 1610–1619, 1622, 4001, 4002, 6016, 6023, 7218, 7223, 7251, 7252, 7256–7262, 7324, 7381, 7382, and 7384 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Barton of Texas, Pickering, and Dingell; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Government Reform, for consideration of sec. 4205 of the House bill, and sec. 2101 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Tom Davis of Virginia, Platts, and Waxman; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 1834, 6027, 7324, and 7325 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Cox, Daniel E. Lungren of California, and Thompson of Mississippi; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 1211, 1605, 1812, 1832, 2013, 2017, 4105, 4201, 4202, 4214, 7018–7020, and 7023 of the House bill, and secs. 1410, 1512, 1513, 6006, 6029, 7108, 7113, 7115, 7338, 7340, 7343, 7345, 7362, 7363, 7406, 7407, and 7413 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Sensenbrenner, Smith of Texas, and Conyers; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Resources, for consideration of secs. 1119, 3021, 6002, and 6003 of the House bill, and secs. 1501, 1502, 1505, 1511, 1514, 1601, 1603, 6040, and 7501–7518 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Pombo, Walden of Oregon, and Kind; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Rules, for consideration of secs. 8004 and 8005 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Dreier, Capito, and McGovern; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of secs. 2010, 3013, 3015, 3034, 3039, 3041, 4112, and Title V of the House bill, and Title II and secs. 6014, 6015, 6036, 7118, 7212, 7214, 7361, and 7370 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Ehlers, Reichert, and Gordon; **Page H4136**

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of Title X of the House bill, and Title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Thomas, McCrery, and Rangel; and **Page H4136**

For consideration of the House bill and Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Majority Leader Mr. DeLay. **Page H4136**

**Memorial Day District Work Period:** The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 167 providing for a conditional adjournment of the House and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate. **Page H4118**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, May 30, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con.

Res. 167 in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

**Page H4118**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, June 8.

**Page H4119**

**Resignation of Inspector General:** Read a letter from Steven A. McNamara, in which he announced his resignation as Inspector General for the House of Representatives, effective May 30, 2005. **Page H4119**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thornberry, or if he is not available, Representative Gilcrest to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through June 7, 2005.

**Page H4136**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H4125.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H4084, H4111–12, H4112–13, H4113–14, and H4117–18. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and at 6:23 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 167 stands adjourned until noon on Monday, May 30, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in the H. Con. Res. 167, in which case the House shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **FEDERAL WORKERS COMPENSATION IMPROVEMENT; FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS FAIRNESS ACT**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 2561, To amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to cover services provided to injured Federal workers by physician assistants and nurse practitioners; and H.R. 697, Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2005. Testimony was heard from Representative Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; and public witnesses.

### **CLEAR SKIES INITIATIVE**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing on the Administration's Clear Skies Initiative. Testimony was heard from James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality; and Jeffrey R. Holmstead, Assistant Administrator, Air and Radiation, EPA.