

H.R. 2. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-252. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, authorization of 2 officers to wear the insignia of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-253. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of General John P. Abizaid, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-254. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Office, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Off-set Under Reciprocal Agreements with States" (RIN1510-AB09) received on January 9, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-255. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations" (RIN1557-AD00) received on January 9, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-256. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Awards" (RIN3206-AL06) received on January 9, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-1. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana relative to memorializing Congress to adopt the Constitution Restoration Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, in 2005, the United States Supreme Court, in two razor thin majorities of 5-4 in *Van Orden v. Perry* (Texas) and *ACLU v. McCreary County* (Kentucky), concluded that it is inconsistent with the First Amendment to display the Ten Commandments in an outdoor public square in Texas, but not on the courthouse walls of two counties in Kentucky; and

Whereas, at the instance of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, a federal judge recently ordered the Indiana House of Representatives to discontinue opening its sessions in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, ruling that the practice is now "unconstitutional"; and

Whereas, despite the fact that America's Constitution ends with an acknowledgment of Jesus Christ in Article VII, providing in

pertinent part "Done . . . in the Year of our Lord . . .," threats of federal court litigation over the acknowledgment of God now have some Americans doubtful whether it is even "constitutional" to extend greetings of "Merry Christmas" or otherwise publicly acknowledge the historical birth of Christ; and

Whereas, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which provides in part that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," is specific and unequivocal instruction to only the United States Congress and the United States Constitution makes no restriction on the ability of states, municipalities, or individuals to acknowledge God, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe; and

Whereas, the federal judiciary has overstepped its constitutional boundaries and ruled against the acknowledgment of God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, and government by local and state officers and other state institutions, including state schools; and

Whereas, a constant complaint from the federal courts is that their caseloads are too heavy due in part to an increasingly large proportion of cases consuming the docket of federal courts which involve "unconstitutional separation between church and state" claims involving litigants who claim to be offended at the mention of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, one significant way dockets of federal courts could be reduced would be the adoption of the Constitutional Restoration Act by Congress which would remove the jurisdiction of the federal courts over these types of claims or controversies under the authority of Article III, Section 2, of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature recognizes that this is the season to give gifts and be charitable and an integral part of the season is the inclusion and acknowledgment of Jesus Christ: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to adopt the Constitution Restoration Act, thereby reducing the caseload of our federal courts by removing from their jurisdiction any and all cases involving the acknowledgment of God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, or government as authorized by Article III, Section 2, of the United States Constitution. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-2. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to memorializing Congress to adopt the Constitution Restoration Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, in 2005, the United States Supreme Court, in two razor thin majorities of 5-4 in *Van Orden v. Perry* (Texas) and *ACLU v. McCreary County* (Kentucky), concluded that it is inconsistent with the First Amendment to display the Ten Commandments in an outdoor public square in Texas, but not on the courthouse walls of two counties in Kentucky; and

Whereas, at the instance of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, a federal judge recently ordered the Indiana House of Representatives to discontinue opening its sessions in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, ruling that the practice is now "unconstitutional"; and

Whereas, despite the fact that America's Constitution ends with an acknowledgment

of Jesus Christ in Article VII, providing in pertinent part "Done . . . in the Year of our Lord . . .," threats of federal court litigation over the acknowledgment of God now have some Americans doubtful whether it is even "constitutional" to extend greetings of "Merry Christmas" or otherwise publicly acknowledge the historical birth of Christ; and

Whereas, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which provides in part that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," is specific and unequivocal instruction to only the United States Congress and the United States Constitution makes no restriction on the ability of states, municipalities, or individuals to acknowledge God, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe; and

Whereas, the federal judiciary has overstepped its constitutional boundaries and ruled against the acknowledgment of God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, and government by local and state officers and other state institutions, including state schools; and

Whereas, a constant complaint from the federal courts is that their caseloads are too heavy due in part to an increasingly large proportion of cases consuming the docket of federal courts which involve "unconstitutional separation between church and state" claims involving litigants who claim to be offended at the mention of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, one significant way dockets of federal courts could be reduced would be the adoption of the Constitutional Restoration Act by Congress which would remove the jurisdiction of the federal courts over these types of claims or controversies under the authority of Article III, Section 2, of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes that this is the season to give gifts and be charitable and an integral part of the season is the inclusion and acknowledgment of Jesus Christ: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to adopt the Constitution Restoration Act, thereby reducing the caseload of our federal courts by removing from their jurisdiction any and all cases involving the acknowledgment of God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, or government as authorized by Article III, Section 2, of the United States Constitution. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-3. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana relative to memorializing Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a federal catastrophe fund; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund is a comprehensive, integrated approach to help better prepare and protect the nation from natural catastrophes, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, snowstorms, and earthquakes; and

Whereas, the current system of response to catastrophes leaves many people and businesses at risk of being unable to replace what they lost, wastes tax dollars, raises insurance premiums, and leads to shortages of insurance needed to sustain our economy; and

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund would help stabilize insurance markets following a catastrophe and help steady insurance costs for consumers while making it