

**U.S. TRADE PREFERENCE PROGRAMS**

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the efficacy of United States trade preference programs, after receiving testimony from Meredith Broadbent, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications; Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Eric Reinhardt, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; Marcos Iberkleid, Ametex, La Paz, Bolivia; and Katrin Kuhlmann, Women's Edge Coalition, Washington, DC.

**INTERNET DRUG TRAFFICKING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking, including S. 980, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies, and S. 399, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program, after receiving testimony from Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Francine Hahn Haight, Ryan's Cause, Laguna Niguel, California; Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Columbia University, New York, New York; Philip B. Heymann, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and A. Thomas McLellan, Treatment Research Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**NOMINATION**

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing on the nomination of Michael J. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Akaka, testified and answered questions in his own behalf, and after receiving testimony from Darrell G. Kirch, Association of American Medical Colleges, and Robert E. Wallace, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, both of Washington, D.C.; Frederick J. Frese III, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Arlington, Virginia; and Douglas H. Mitchell, Jr., Association of VA Social Workers, Mesa, Arizona.

**MEDICARE ADVANTAGE**

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the sales and marketing by Medicare health plans, including Medicare Advantage organizations and Medicare Part D prescription drug plan sponsors, after receiving testimony from Abby L. Block, Director, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Sean Dilweg, Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner, Madison; Kim Holland, Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner, and Albert Sochor, Old Surety Life Insurance Company, both of Oklahoma City; Sherry Mowell, Georgia Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, Atlanta; Karen Ignagni, America's Health Insurance Plans, Washington, D.C.; Heidi Margulis, Humana Inc., Louisville, Kentucky; Peter J. Clarkson, UnitedHealth Group, Minnetonka, Minnesota; and Gary Bailey, WellCare Health Plans, Inc., Tampa, Florida.

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## House of Representatives

***Chamber Action***

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 20 public bills, H.R. 2336–2355; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 149; and H. Res. 410–411 were introduced. **Pages H5290–91**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H5292–94**

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

Conference report on S. Con. Res. 21, a resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and includ-

ing the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012 (H. Rept. 110–153);

H.R. 811, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require a voter-verified permanent paper ballot under title III of such Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–154);

H.R. 698, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to establish industrial bank holding company regulation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–155); and

H. Res. 409, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21 setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012 (H. Rept. 110–156). **Page H5290**

**Committee Resignations:** Read a letter from Representative Calvert wherein he resigned from the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science and Technology, and the Committee on Natural Resources due to his election to the Committee on Appropriations. **Page H5060**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Rejected the Buyer motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 161 yeas to 253 nays, Roll No. 350. **Pages H5066–67**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Rejected the Davis (KY) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 157 yeas to 245 nays, Roll No. 353. **Page H5071**

**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008:** The House began consideration of H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008. Further consideration is expected to resume Thursday, May 17th.

**Pages H5060–71, H5127–H5282**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Page H5149**

Rejected the Price (GA) motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 177 yeas to 219 noes, Roll No. 355. Earlier, a vote was called pending the absence of a quorum, and, subsequently 397 members recorded their presence, Roll No. 354.

**Pages H5128–31**

Rejected the Westmoreland motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 222 noes, Roll No. 357. Earlier, a vote was called pending the absence of a quorum, and, subsequently 393 members recorded their presence, Roll No. 356.

**Pages H5132–35**

Rejected the Westmoreland motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 186 yeas to 213 noes, with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 359. Earlier, a vote was called pending the absence of a quorum, and, subsequently 407 members recorded their presence, Roll No. 358.

**Pages H5135–41**

Rejected the Buyer motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 178 yeas to 217 noes, Roll No. 361. Earlier, a vote was called pending the ab-

sence of a quorum, and, subsequently 403 members recorded their presence, Roll No. 360.

**Pages H5141–43**

Rejected the Buyer motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 188 yeas to 221 noes, Roll No. 363. Earlier, a vote was called pending the absence of a quorum, and, subsequently 398 members recorded their presence, Roll No. 362. **Page H5143**

Agreed to:

Schakowsky amendment (No. 33 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that edits sections 831 and 833 of the bill by (1) limiting the number of times the President can waive restrictions on contracting should the Memorandum of Understanding regarding contracts for Iraq and Afghanistan not be completed; (2) clarifying that members of Congress on the relevant Committees can view contracts regardless of the MOU, as well as the database of contract information for work to be performed in Iraq and Afghanistan; and (3) clarifying that the Select Intelligence Committees shall be allowed to view contracts that fall under their jurisdiction;

**Pages H5241–43**

Fossella amendment (No. 29 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the United States Postal Service, to provide vouchers for free (less than 10 lbs) parcel or letter mailing to service members serving in Iraq or Afghanistan or currently hospitalized under the care of the Armed Forces; **Pages H5243–44**

Skelton en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 110–151: No. 5, that increases funding for the Army National Guard military personnel account to fund the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program; No. 9, that bars courts from entering or modifying an order changing the custody of the child of a servicemember during that servicemember’s period of military service; No. 10, that expands to all the uniformed services the authority for an enhanced increase in the monthly basic pay during fiscal years 2009 through 2012; No. 17, that creates a Combat Medevac Badge; No. 18, that allows the Secretary of the Navy to establish a Naval ROTC program at the University of Miami; No. 26, that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a survey examining the feasibility of measuring family member satisfaction with the quality of health care services provided to patients; No. 27, that allows a member of the Armed Forces to request a deferment of a deployment to a combat zone if their spouse is deployed to a combat zone and the couple has minor dependent children; No. 36, that revises DoD command policy to include membership in a criminal street gang among the list of prohibited activities by

members of the Armed Forces; No. 37, that expresses the sense of Congress that an appropriate site in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 40 members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the air crash at Bakers Creek, Australia; No. 47, that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of a pilot program on family support services for National Guard and Reserve members and the feasibility of entering into a contract with a private sector entity to enhance support services for children; No. 48, that requires the Secretary of the Defense to provide a written, voluntary authorization form to servicemembers to enable them to release their medical records to the Veterans Administration; and No. 50 that requires the Department of Defense of study and report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees within 9 months on the participation rate of servicemembers in the federal tuition assistance program;

**Pages H5244–49**

Israel amendment (No. 38 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the U.S. and the Government of Chad should upgrade the Abeche Airfield in Chad in order to support potential NATO operations, facilitate a future U.N. deployment to Chad and the Darfur region of Sudan and to support humanitarian operations;

**Pages H5254–55**

Skelton en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 110–151: No. 2, that requires DoD to perform Federal background checks for all unescorted visitors who seek entry to a military installation or facility; No. 3, that requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit a report identifying the non-retention vessels with the highest risk for environmental damage to local waters if further deterioration continues and a plan to dispose of these vessels; No. 6, that would strike section 233, which authorizes \$10 million for the Army Capital Fund demonstration; No. 12, which provides \$169,000,000 of medical military construction support at Fort Belvoir and Bethesda; No. 13, which requires the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the Congressional defense committees containing a plan for the current and future assets at the Niagra Air Reserve Base; No. 22, that requires that the transportation infrastructure necessary to accommodate the large influx of military personnel and civilian employees to be assigned to Fort Belvoir, VA be substantially completed before the relocation of these employees; No. 23, that requires the Secretary of Defense to study and report back to Congress on the financial and emotional impact of multiple deployments on the families who serve multiple tours; No. 24, that re-

quires the Secretary of Defense to take necessary steps to ensure that Army National Guard and Reserve ROTC scholarships are available to students attending historically black colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving institutions; No. 25, that extends by three years the authorization for the DoD to participate in the Information Technology Exchange Program; No. 39, that directs the Secretary of Defense to study commercial optimization solutions in aviation technology and make any recommendations that would best support the mission of the Department; No. 44, that restricts the use of the name or image of a member of the Armed Forces for commercial purposes without written permission from the soldier (or from the family if the soldier is deceased); No. 45, that requires the DoD to utilize lighting fixtures and bulbs that are energy efficient; and No. 46, that provides that employees covered by FMLA, whose family member is a member of the Armed Forces and has been called to active duty, may use FMLA leave to deal with exigencies arising from that call of duty;

**Pages H5255–62**

Stupak modified amendment (No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that requires the Department of Defense to transport remains of service members by air to the airport nearest to the intended place of burial;

**Pages H5262–63**

Carney amendment (No. 49 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that expresses the sense of Congress that Guard and Reserve members should have up to ten years to use their education benefits;

**Pages H5263–64**

Sessions amendment (No. 31 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that clarifies that nothing in this legislation would prevent the United States' missile defense capabilities from being placed on operational alert to respond to an immediate, threat posed by ballistic missiles;

**Pages H5271–72**

Skelton en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 110–151: No. 4, that adds Mexico and the Dominican Republic to the list of countries to which the DoD may provide non-lethal equipment to support counter-narcotics operations; No. 19, that states Congress's findings that Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Technology has become an essential component of national defense and states that it is important for the DoD to study the effects of warfare and disasters on urban environments; No. 28, that requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the Department's policies on administering and evaluating multiple vaccinations within a 24-hour period to active duty members and members of the reserve components; No. 34, that mandates that the Office of the Secretary of Defense report to Congress on its plans to implement management software that can measurably reduce energy consumption

of PC's; No. 35, that adds \$10 million to Defense-wide research, development, test and evaluation for the X Lab battlespace laboratory; No. 40, that requires that the Moab uranium mill tailings pile be remediated; and No. 42, that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a thorough review of the procedures by the Department's existing classification procedures have failed to prevent the transfer of defense articles and defense services with military technology components to terrorists, state sponsors of terrorism, or other unfriendly countries or groups;

**Pages H5278–80**

Andrews modified amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that requires DoD to use renewable energy to meet at least 25% of its electricity needs by 2025, unless the Secretary determines a waiver is in the best interest of DoD; and

**Pages H5280–81**

Skelton manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that makes a number of technical and conforming changes.

**Pages H5281–82**

Rejected:

Andrews amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that sought to prevent funds authorized in the bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from being obligated or expended to plan a contingency operation in Iran (by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 364);

**Pages H5249–50, H5264–65**

DeFazio amendment (No. 14 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that sought to clarify that no previously enacted law authorizes military action against Iran. It also prohibits funding authorized by the bill or in any other act from being used to take military action against Iran without specific authorization from Congress unless there is a "national emergency created by an attack by Iran upon the United States, its territories or possessions or its armed forces" (by a recorded vote of 136 ayes to 288 noes, Roll No. 365); and

**Pages H5251–52, H5265**

Woolsey amendment (No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 110–151) that sought to require the Secretary of Defense to issue a report on the continued use, need, relevance, and cost of weapons systems designed to fight the Cold War and the former Soviet Union (by a recorded vote of 119 ayes to 303 noes, Roll No. 366).

**Pages H5252–53, H5266–67**

H. Res. 403, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 352, after agreeing to order the previous question by a ye-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 351.

**Pages H5060–71**

**Amendments:** Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H5294–H5334 .

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Five quorum calls, four ye-and-nay votes and eight recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5066–67, H5070, H5070–71, H5071, H5128–29, H5129, H5132, H5132–33, H5135–36, H5137, H5141, H5141–42, H5143, H5144, H5264, H5265, H5266.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAMS

*Committee on Education and Labor:* Held a hearing on Evaluating the Effectiveness of MSHA's Mine Safety and Health Programs. Testimony was heard from Representatives Rahall and Capito; Dan Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Labor: Richard Stickler, Assistant Secretary, Mine Safety and Health; and Jonathan Snare, Acting Solicitor of Labor; and a public witness.

### MEDICAL DEVICE USER FEE AND MODERNIZATION REAUTHORIZATION

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act." Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Shuren, M.D., Assistant Commissioner, Policy, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

### BP PRUDHOE BAY SHUTDOWN

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures." Testimony was heard from Stacy Gerard, Acting Assistant Administrator Chief Safety Officer, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; Carolyn Merritt, Chair and CEO, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; Richard Fairfax, Director, Directorate of Enforcement Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor; Jonne Slemmons, Coordinator, Petroleum Systems Integrity Office, Division of Oil and Gas, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska; and a public witness.

### PRIVATE EQUITY'S EFFECTS FROM MARKET IMPACTS

*Committee on Financial Services:* Held a hearing entitled "Private Equity's Effects on Workers and Firms." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.