

THE DAILY WHIP

Thursday, May 8, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

| HOUSE MEETS AT... | LAST VOTE PREDICTED... |
|--|------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business | 3:00 p.m. |
| Number of "One-Minutes" Today: 10 per side | |

***** NOTE THAT ON FRIDAY WE EXPECT IMPORTANT VOTES ON THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

The House will convene at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. At 4:00 p.m., there will be a Members-Only briefing on the House floor regarding Iraq. Administration officials attending include Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld and General Tommy Franks.

H.Res. 221 – Rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1261 – Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003 (Pryce – Rules)

Rolled Suspension Votes (2 bills):

H.R. 874 - Rail Passenger Disaster Family Assistance Act of 2003 (Young(AK)-T&I)

H.Res. 213 – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public service employees should be commended for their dedication and service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week (Davis (IL) –Gov't Reform)

H.R. 1261 - Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003 (McKeon - Ed & Work) (Subject to a Rule).

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.Res. 221 – Rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1261 – Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003 (Pryce – Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that denies Democrats the opportunity to offer key amendments to the bill, including amendments that would extend unemployment benefits and delete the bill's hiring discrimination provision.

Therefore, Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question on the Rule to allow consideration of Democratic amendments.

If the Previous Question is not defeated, Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Republican Rule. If the rule is not defeated, eight amendments will be considered in the following order:

- **McKeon/Boehner Amendment (Manager's Amendment) (10 minutes).** Among other provisions, this amendment clarifies that if a state has more than one state unit for vocational rehabilitation, the representative of the designated state unit that serves the most individuals with disabilities would serve on the state workforce investment board; makes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) a mandatory partner in the one-stop career center system, unless the Governor of the state notifies the Labor and HHS Secretaries that the Governor does not want the TANF program to be mandatory partner; reinstates the requirement that youth providers be selected by competitive process, unless the local board determines that there are insufficient numbers of eligible providers of youth services in the local area involved; revises the factors for the youth formula for allocation of funds to states to better reflect available data on youth; revises the formula for allocation of funds to states under the consolidated adult funding stream. The amendment includes a hold-harmless provision for states so that in each year each state will receive at least what that state would have received under the current formulas for the three adult employment and training programs; revises the new formula to create a two-part formula reflective of the population to be served; and clarifies that reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants are core services.
- **Allen Amendment (10 minutes).** To require local Workforce Investment Boards to include an adult education representative (current law).
- **Vitter Amendment (10 minutes).** To insert language from Section 118 (relating to the local plans of the WIA boards) into two parts of the bill: the

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Certification of One-Stop Centers (section 121) and Criteria for One-Stop Centers to be eligible for Infrastructure funds (section 122).

- **Kline Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment clarifies the methodology for determining the contributions that one-stop partner programs will make to the costs of infrastructure of the one-stop career center system; requires that, when making the determination regarding the funds to be contributed, the Governor, in consultation with the State board, consider: the proportionate use of the one-stop centers by each partner; the costs of administration unrelated to the use of the one-stop centers by each partner; and other relevant factors.
- **Lewis Amendment (GA) (10 minutes).** This amendment extends the eligibility criteria age for those to be served by the programs that are intended to target services to out of school youth to 24 years old.
- **Hastings Amendment (FL) (10 minutes).** To increase the amounts that are required according to the formulas established under section 132(b)(2)(B) from 80 to 85 percent and reduces the discretionary amounts from 20 to 15 percent.
- **Millender-McDonald Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment clarifies the definition of eligible populations for job training services to include single parents, displaced homemakers and pregnant single women.
- **Kaptur Amendment (10 minutes).** To require the Department of Labor to establish a coordinated system that provides technical assistance to localities when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by a state.

H.R. 1261 - Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003 (McKeon - Ed & Work) (Subject to a Rule). This bill authorizes and funds employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs for adults and dislocated workers, as well as activities for low income youth. Unfortunately, this Republican proposal, rather than responding to the needs of the unemployed by extending unemployment benefits or including a jobs creation package, would repeal dedicated funding for vulnerable workers, permit Governors to take unspecified amounts of funds from adult education, disability and veteran's services, cut job opportunities for youth, and permit the direct funding of faith-based organizations that discriminate in hiring. The House Education and Workforce Committee reported the bill on a 26-21 vote, with all Democrats opposed.

- **Republicans repeal dedicated funding for vulnerable workers as the nation's unemployment rate rises to 6%** by block-granting funding for Employment Services and services to adults and dislocated workers. At the same time, President Bush has called for more than \$700 million in cuts to job training programs for FY03 and 04 in addition to a \$300 million FY02 WIA funding rescission.
- **Republicans allow Governors to divert funds from critical adult education, disability, and veterans' services** by permitting them to take unlimited amounts of funds from adult education, vocational rehabilitation, and veterans' services to use for infrastructure and administrative costs.
- **Republicans undermine current Civil Rights protections by allowing grantees to hire and fire employees based on religion.** Under current law, faith-based organizations are eligible to receive WIA funds if they do not discriminate. This bill REMOVES this protection, permitting faith-based organizations that receive funds under this act to hire or fire employees based on religion.
- **Groups opposed to H.R. 1261** include: the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, SEIU, the Communications Workers of America, the National Rehabilitation Coalition, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the American Jewish Committee, the American Association of University Women, and the NAACP.

DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO VOTE NO ON FINAL PASSAGE OF H.R. 1261

DAILY QUOTE...

"Neither the acceleration of the phased income taxes nor the dividend tax relief will do enough for anyone in the time we need it - now, or rather, yesterday."

- Mort Zuckerman, Editor in Chief, *U.S. News & World Report*, 5/12/03

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