



**Legislative Bulletin.....May 8, 2007**

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**Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today**

**Total Number of New Government Programs: 0**

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: 0**

**Effect on Revenue: \$0**

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0**

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0**

**Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0**

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 2**

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0**

**H.Res. 307 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 7 through 13, 2007 (Davis, D-IL)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res 307 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res 307 would express that Congress:

- “commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- “salutes their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;
- “honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- “calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and
- “encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;
- “millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;
- “public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;
- “the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;
- “public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;
- “May 7 through 13, 2007, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and
- “Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 23rd anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits.”

**Committee:** H.Res. 307 was introduced on April 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on May 1, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Con.Res 307 authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.Con.Res. 117 — Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown (Davis, R-VA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 117 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 117 would express that the House of Representatives “commemorates the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the colony Jamestown in 1607 and urges all Americans to honor this seminal event in our Nation’s history.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the founding of the colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, the first permanent English colony in America, and the capital of Virginia for 92 years, has major significance in the history of the United States;
- “the Jamestown Settlement owed its survival in large measure to the compassion and aid of the Native people in its vicinity;
- “Native Virginia people substantially aided the Jamestown colonists with food and supplies at times that were crucial to their survival;
- “the Native people served as guides to geography and natural resources, crucial assistance in the Virginia colonists’ exploration of the Chesapeake Region;
- “the Jamestown Settlement brought people from throughout the Atlantic Basin together to form a society that drew upon the strengths and characteristics of English, European, African, and Native American cultures;
- “economic, political, religious, and social institutions that developed during the first 9 decades of the existence of Jamestown continue to have profound effects on the United States, particularly in English common law and language, cross cultural relationships, manufacturing, and economic structure and status;
- “in 2000, Congress established the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission to ensure a suitable national observance of the Jamestown 2007 anniversary, and Congress commends the Commission’s hard work and dedication;
- “Congress reminds all Americans of the importance of their country’s history and founding at Jamestown; and
- “the 2007 observance of the founding of Jamestown commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English colony in America.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 117 was introduced on April 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up was held on May 1, 2007, and the resolution was reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Con.Res. 117 authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.Res. 291 — Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day (Poe, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 291 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 291 would express that the House of Representatives “supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “there are more than 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers throughout the United States;
- “law enforcement officers are dedicated to serving this country, and protecting this country and its citizens from harm;
- “law enforcement officers face dangers and threats to their personal safety each day;
- “more than 56,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted every year;
- “every 53 hours, a law enforcement officer in the United States is killed in the line of duty;
- “143 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2006, 12 fewer than the 155 officers killed in 2005;
- “Public Law 87-726 requests that the President issue proclamations designating May 15th of each year as National Peace Officers Memorial Day; and
- “section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 291 was introduced on March 29, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up on May 1, 2007, and the resolution was reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res. 291 authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.Con.Res. 105 — Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States (*Berkley, D-NV*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res.105 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 105 would express that the House of Representatives “supports the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “one of the first public appeals for women's suffrage came in 1848 when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848;
- “Sojourner Truth gave her famous speech titled ‘Ain't I a Woman?’ at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention, in Akron, Ohio;
- “in 1869, women suffragists formed the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association, which were national organizations designed to work for the right of women to vote;
- “these organizations united in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association;
- “in 1872, Susan B. Anthony and a group of women voted in the Presidential election, in Rochester, New York;
- “at her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, Susan B. Anthony made a speech that ended with the following slogan: ‘Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God’;
- “on August 18, 1920, ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution was completed, thus guaranteeing women in the United States the right to vote;
- “July 19th is the anniversary of the first women's rights convention; and
- “designating July 19th as National Suffragists Day would raise awareness of the importance of women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States.”

**RSC Bonus Fact:** In addition to her work for women's suffrage, Susan B. Anthony was also an outspoken pro-life advocate.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 105 was introduced on March 29, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up on May 1, 2007, and the resolution was reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res. 105 authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 2080 — To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to conform the District charter to revisions made by the Council of the District of Columbia relating to public education (*Norton, D-DC*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 407 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2080 would amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to alter the District of Columbia's charter concerning education.

The legislation would repeal the section of the Home Rule that gives the Mayor and the Council the power to establish the annual budget for the District's Board of Education. H.R. 2080 would also strike a provision that prohibits the Mayor and the Council from specifying purposes for which funds may be expended or the amount of such funds.

In addition, H.R. 2080 repeals the authority of the Board of Education to govern the D.C. public schools and provisions for the election of the Board of Education.

**Addition Information:** Congress must pass H.R. 2080 before the District of Columbia can formally hand control of the city's schools to Mayor Adrian Fenty (D). Although the D.C. Council voted 9-2 in favor of the power transfer on April 19, 2007, Congress must approve the change to the Home Rule before the mayoral takeover can legally take effect.

According to the [Washington Post](#), a small, but vocal, number of D.C. residents opposed the takeover on the grounds that the move would marginalize the city's Board of Education without a vote by the residents. Other residents, however, seem eager for a change in policy and favor the shakeup as a means of fixing D.C.'s 55,500 student, \$2.3 billion dollar school system.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2080 was introduced on May 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up the same day and reported the bill by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2081 is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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**H.R. 2081 — To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to increase the salary of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia (*Norton, D-DC*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2081 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2081 would amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to raise the salary of D.C.’s Chief Financial Officer to 150% of the rate of basic pay for level I of the Executive Schedule.

**Addition Information:** H.R. 2081 would almost double the annual salary of Washington D.C.’s Chief Financial Officer, Natwar M. Gandhi, from \$186,600 to \$279,000, which would make him the city’s second highest paid official. According to an [article](#) in the Washington Post, Gandhi has been the CFO of the city since 2000. During his tenure Gandhi has been “credited with helping rescue the District from the brink of bankruptcy.”

Recently, Gandhi’s services were sought after by officials at Amtrak, who reportedly offered him \$250,000 annually with a \$100,000 signing bonus. In an effort to retain him as CFO, D.C. officials offered to support Gandhi in his attempt to procure a raise to \$279,000. Gandhi subsequently turned down Amtrak’s offer, agreeing to stay in D.C. at the new, higher salary.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2081 was introduced on May 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up the same day and reported the bill by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2081 is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports

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