

Legislative Bulletin.....March 24, 2009

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H.Con.Res 77— Recognizing and honoring the signing by Abraham Lincoln of the law authorizing the establishment of collegiate programs at Gallaudet University (*Woolsey, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday March 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 77 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates and honors Gallaudet University on the 145th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the law the legislation authorizing the establishment of collegiate programs at Gallaudet University; and
- “Congratulates Gallaudet University for 145 years of unique and exceptional service to the deaf citizens of the United States and the world deaf community.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “During 2009, the United States honored the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln;
- “On July 4, 1861, President Lincoln stated in a message to Congress that a principal aim of the United States Government should be `to elevate the condition of men--to lift artificial weights from all shoulders--to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all--to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life';
- “On April 8, 1864, President Lincoln signed into law the legislation (Act of April 8, 1864, ch. 52, 13 Stat. 45) authorizing the conferring of collegiate degrees by the Columbia Institution for Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, which is now called Gallaudet University;
- “This law led for the first time in history to higher education for deaf students in an environment designed to meet their communication needs;

- “Gallaudet University was the first, and is still the only, institution in the world that focuses on educational programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing students from the pre-school through the doctoral level;
- “Gallaudet University has been a world leader in the fields of education and research for more than a century; and
- “Since 1869, graduates of Gallaudet University have pursued distinguished careers of leadership in the United States and throughout the world.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 23, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of cost to taxpayers is not available.

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

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

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.Con.Res 55— Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (*Berkley, D-NV*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday March 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 55 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of United States relations with Taiwan;
- “Reaffirms its support for Taiwan's democratic institutions; and
- “Supports the strong and deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “April 10, 2009, will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), codifying in law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan);
- “The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979;
- “When the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted, it affirmed that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means;
- “The Taiwan Relations Act states that it is the policy of the United States to provide defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;
- “The Taiwan Relations Act also states that it is the policy of the United States to maintain the capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan;
- “The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has strengthened with--
 - “Taiwan's evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy;
 - “The development of Taiwan's robust free-market economy, with Taiwan becoming the ninth largest trading partner of the United States in 2007 and imports from the United States in that year totaling over \$26,000,000,000;
 - “Taiwan's determined effort and collaboration with the United States to combat global terrorism, as demonstrated in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund; and
 - “The leadership role Taiwan has demonstrated in addressing transnational and global challenges, including its active engagement in humanitarian relief measures, public health endeavors, environmental protection initiatives, and financial market stabilization efforts; and
- “Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another after the presidential election in March 2008.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on February 23, 2009 and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment. On March 19, 2009, the resolution was marked up by the Subcommittee, sent to the full Committee and reported, as amended, out of the full Committee by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of cost to taxpayers is not available.

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

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

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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