

Legislative Bulletin.....May 4, 2009

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H.Res. 230— Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo (*Baca, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 4 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 230 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the historical struggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people and requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing that struggle and calling upon the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “May 5, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;
- “The Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom;
- “Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico's most famous national holidays and is celebrated annually by nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;
- “The Battle of Puebla was but one of the many battles that the courageous Mexican people won in their long and brave struggle for independence and freedom;
- “The French, confident that their battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the almost amateurish Mexican forces, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army;

- “The French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of Europe's finest troops in over half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered, ill-equipped, and ragged, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican force;
- “After three bloody assaults upon Puebla in which over a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops;
- “The courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle can never be forgotten;
- “Many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;
- “The sacrifice of the Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination;
- “The Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who have fought for freedom and independence against foreign aggressors;
- “Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States is built by people from many nations and diverse cultures who are willing to fight and die for freedom;
- “Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes;
- “In a larger sense Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez once said, ‘El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz’ (‘The respect of other people's rights is peace’); and
- “Many people celebrate during the entire week in which Cinco de Mayo falls.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 230 was introduced on March 10, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no subsequent public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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H.Con.Res. 111— Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel (Garrett, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 4 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution. The resolution was co-drafted by the RSC.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 111 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;
- “Commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being;
- “Congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and
- “Extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;
- “The United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;
- “Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;
- “Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;
- “Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;
- “The people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;
- “Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

- “Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;
- “The rocket attacks that have occurred in Israel in recent years have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure;
- “The Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;
- “Despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;
- “Iran, which does not believe Israel should exist as a nation, is a continued threat to Israel's safety and security;
- “Visionary Israeli leaders like Yitzhak Rabin, Ariel Sharon, Ehud Olmert, and Benjamin Netanyahu were at the forefront of creating conditions for peace in the Middle East;
- “The United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;
- “The people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;
- “Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and
- “Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 29, 2009.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 111 was introduced on April 28, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no subsequent public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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H.Con.Res. 103 – Supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day (*Payne, D-NJ*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 4 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 103 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, including the achievable target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;
- “Calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness and support to save the lives of those affected by malaria;
- “Reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria outlined in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008;
- “Commends the progress made during the last year by anti-malaria programs including the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- “Reaffirms United States support for and contribution toward the achievement of the targets set by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Global Malaria Action Plan;
- “Encourages fellow donor nations to maintain their support and honor their funding commitments for Malaria programs worldwide;
- “Urges greater integration of United States and international health programs targeting malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, and basic child and maternal health; and
- “Commits to continued United States leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed, and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day;
- “Despite malaria being completely preventable and treatable and the fact that malaria was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria;
- “According to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa;
- “Malaria greatly affects child health, roughly every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria, and more than 3,000 children die from malaria every day;
- “Malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

- “HIV infection increases the risk and severity of malarial illness, and malaria increases the viral load in HIV-positive people, which can lead to increased transmission of HIV and more rapid disease progression, with substantial public health implications...”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 103 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no subsequent public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

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

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H.Res. 283 – Honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig (*Peters, D-MI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 4 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 283 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Mourns the passing of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig and pauses to remember the 6,000,000 Jews killed in the Holocaust and the more than 11,000,000 people murdered in World War II; and
- “Honors the life and accomplishments of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig as a scholar, teacher, rabbi, and Founder and Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig, Holocaust survivor, scholar, teacher, and founder of the Nation's first free-standing Holocaust Memorial Center, passed away on December 11, 2008, which corresponds to the 14th of Kislev, 5769 of the Hebrew calendar, and was buried in Jerusalem, Israel;

- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was beloved by friends, family, and congregants and is survived by his wife Helen and four children, Martin Rosenzveig, Rabbi Ely Rosenzveig, Judy Rosenzveig, and Adina Novogrodsky, and ten grandchildren;
- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was born on November 13, 1920, in Ostrovitz, Poland, to Yente and Eliezer Lippa Rosenzveig;
- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was educated in the Jewish cheder and prestigious Bialystok Yeshiva, and studied the laws of his faith concerning the importance of good deeds and social justice, and developed exceptional knowledge of the Talmud, the rabbinic interpretation of Jewish Law;
- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig endured and bore witness to the horrific atrocities of the Holocaust, the Shoah, and members of his immediate and extended family perished at the hands of the Nazis;
- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig managed to escape his Nazi persecutors, fled from Poland to the Soviet Union, and then to Kazakhstan, before immigrating to the United States, settling at first in New York City in 1947;
- “Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig attended the world-renowned Yeshiva University in Manhattan and was ordained in 1951 as a rabbi, leader, and teacher in the Jewish community;
- “Upon receiving the rabbinic designation, Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig led Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron, Michigan, where he served as spiritual leader until 1993, when he left the pulpit to devote his entire energy and spirit to the Holocaust Memorial Center, a project he had envisioned since his escape from Europe...”

Committee Action: H.Res. 283 was introduced on March 24, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no subsequent public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

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