

## Legislative Bulletin.....July 19, 2010

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### **H.Res. 1472 - Expressing support for designation of the week of September 13, 2010, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (*Polis, D-CO*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 19, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1472 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, including raising public awareness about the importance of adult education and family literacy;
- “Encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education and family literacy programs; and
- “Requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing the importance of adult education and family literacy programs, calling upon the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, consumer advocates, institutions of higher education, labor unions, and businesses to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Literacy and education skills are a prerequisite to individuals reaping the full benefit of opportunities in the United States;

- “Our Nation needs older adults to reenter the education pipeline and transition to college if we are to meet the President's goal of the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020 and if we are to be internationally competitive by 2025;
- “Studies show that two important factors that influence student achievement are the mother's education level and poverty in the home, it is clear that if adults are not part of the learning equation, then there is no long-term solution to our Nation's education challenges;
- “Many of our Nation's immigrants do not have the literacy skills to succeed in their new home country;
- “The National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that 90,000,000 adults lack the literacy, numeracy, or English language skills to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society; and
- “The week of September 13, 2010, would be an appropriate date to designate as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.”

**Additional Information:** A similar resolution, H.Res. 707, passed the House on October 6, 2009, by a [roll call vote](#) of 412 – 0.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1472 was introduced on June 24, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Con.Res. 126 - Recognizing the 50th anniversary of Title VI international education programs within the Department of Education (*Watson, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 19, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 126 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Title VI international education programs; and
- “Recognizes the need to continue development and promotion of international educational programs.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The International Education Programs Services (IEPS) located in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Post Secondary Education, manages 14 international education programs;
- “The International Education Programs Service performs planning, policy development, and grant administration functions for the international education programs;
- “Overseas programs are intended to improve secondary and postsecondary teaching and research concerning other cultures and languages, training of specialists, and the American public's general understanding of people of other countries;
- “Over time, additional programs have been added to Title VI to address the Nation's growing interest in international education; and
- “Title VI programs now address business needs for international expertise, strengthening undergraduate education, international as well as area studies, advancement of technology use, and overall improvement of foreign language training and assessment.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 126 was introduced on May 13, 2009, and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, which took no public action.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1219 - Expressing support for designation of September as National Child Awareness Month (Calvert, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 19, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1219 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States;
- “Recognizes the efforts of children's charities and youth-serving organizations on behalf of children and youth as a critical contribution to the future of the United States; and
- “Encourages the President to issue a proclamation to emphasize the importance of National Child Awareness Month.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Numerous individuals, children's organizations, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of the young;
- “Heightening awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will assist in the development of character and the future success of youth in the United States;
- “The House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 1296 in 2008 and H. Res. 438 in 2009 to support the designation of September as ‘National Child Awareness Month’; and
- “Designating September as National Child Awareness Month would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for the charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1219 was introduced on March 25, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, which took no 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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### **H.Res. 1491 - Congratulating the University of South Carolina Gamecocks on winning the 2010 NCAA Division I College World Series (Wilson, R-SC)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 19, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1491 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the University of South Carolina Gamecocks on the outstanding accomplishment of winning the 2010 NCAA Division I College World Series.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On June 29, 2010, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks won the 2010 NCAA Division I College World Series in Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska;
- “A base hit to right field drove in the final run for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks to win 2-1 against the UCLA Bruins in the bottom of the 11th inning;

- “The University of South Carolina Gamecocks showed great skill, patience, and will by withstanding a first-round loss and then winning 6 consecutive games for the national title;
- “The University of South Carolina Gamecocks won their first NCAA baseball title; and
- Head coach Ray Tanner and the University of South Carolina Gamecocks bring great pride and honor to the fans and residents of South Carolina with this victory.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1491 was introduced on June 30, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.R. 1855 – Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2010 (*Loebsack, D-IA*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 19, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1855 would create a new competitive grant program under the Workforce Investment Act that would allow the Secretary of Labor to issue grants to “eligible entities” (defined below) to plan and implement their strategic objectives to, among other things, fill skill gaps they deem as critical to competitiveness and innovation for their industry (e.g. recruiting key stakeholders, identifying the training needs of multiple businesses, facilitating economies of scale by aggregating training and education needs of multiple employers, helping postsecondary education institutions, training institutions, apprenticeship programs, and other training programs).

This legislation defines “eligible entities” as “an industry or sector partnership; or an eligible state agency.” \*Note that the original text of the bill included a heavy tilt towards involvement of labor unions as members of an industry or sector partnership, but the language was changed at the request of the Republicans on Committee.

Grants awarded may not exceed \$2.5 million for a 3-year period, and renewal grants may not exceed \$1.5 million for a 3-year period.

The federal share of a grant will be:

- 90% for the first year of the grant;
- 80% for the second year of the grant; and
- 70% for the third year of the grant.

The non-federal share of these grants may come from the state, or local, philanthropic, private, or other sources. The Secretary shall have the authority to require that the federal share of the grant be 100% if they determine the entity is in a state or local area that is receiving a national emergency grant. Each entity receiving a grant shall designate an entity within to serve as the fiscal agent.

The Secretary shall award grants to ensure geographic diversity and give priority to eligible entities that:

- Work with employers within a targeted industry cluster to retain and expand employment in high wage, high growth areas;
- Focus on helping workers move toward economic self-sufficiency;
- Address the needs of firms with limited human resources; and
- Coordinate with entities carrying out state and local workforce investment, economic development and education activities.

All eligible entities, no later than one year after receiving a grant, shall report to the Secretary on the results of the use of the grant.

**Potential Conservative Concerns:** Many conservatives also might be concerned that this bill funds a new grant program under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Many conservatives might also argue that Congress should first engage in a broader discussion of reauthorizing WIA, rather than a piecemeal approach that creates a new grant program.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on April 1, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. No further public action was taken.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The bill creates a new grant program under the Workforce Investment Act.

**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?:** Although 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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