

Thursday, June 19, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: Late Afternoon
Ten "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 1277 –Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5781 – Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008 (Rep. McGovern-Rules):**  
The structured rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report shall be in order if offered by Rep. Davis of Illinois or his designee. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. McGovern, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **H.R. 5781 – Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008( Rep. Maloney – Oversight and Government Reform):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chair Rep. Henry Waxman, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on passage of the bill.**

- **H. Res. 1281–Rule Waiving a requirement of Clause 6 (a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions from the Committee on Rules. (Rep. Slaughter-Rules):** The rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported from the Rules Committee on the legislative day of June 19, 2008, providing for consideration or disposition of a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Chair Rep. Slaughter, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  
- **H.R. 2642 - Iraq/Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations bill (Rep. Obey - Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule)**
  
- **Postponed Suspension Votes (4 Bills):**
  - 1) **H.R. 5710** - Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act (Rep. Udall (NM) – Natural Resources)
  - 2) **H.R. 5511** - Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2008 (Rep. Lamborn – Natural Resources)
  - 3) **H.Res. 1029** - Congratulating and recognizing Mr. Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez for his continued success on and off of the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity, and for his exemplary dedication to the intellectual and moral growth of thousands of low income and disadvantaged youth in our country (Rep. Gutierrez – Oversight and Government Reform)
  - 4) **H.Res. 1230** - Condemning post election violence in Zimbabwe and calling for a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis (Rep. Payne – Foreign Affairs)

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **H.R. 5781, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act**

Under existing law, most federal and congressional employees are entitled to a total of 12 workweeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period due to the birth or adoption of a child. Federal employees must currently use accrued annual or sick leave, if available, if they want to receive pay for any of the time that they are out on parental leave. This policy is particularly difficult for newer employees who have not accrued much leave or employees who have used up their leave. Many employees cannot afford to take unpaid leave, and are forced to choose between spending more time with their new child or maintaining an income to support their family.

**H.R. 5781, as amended, will help families by providing four weeks of paid parental leave to federal and congressional employees.** In addition to the four weeks, employees will also be allowed to use any accrued annual or sick leave for parental leave. Unlike current law, employees using their sick leave for parental leave will not need to demonstrate a medical need for the leave. The bill also authorizes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to extend the parental leave period to up to eight weeks. Enactment of this measure will ensure that the federal government, as an employer, is providing the type of benefits offered to government workers in other industrialized countries. This family friendly measure will also have a positive impact on the ability of the federal government to attract and retain a highly qualified workforce.

### **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 5781**

- 1. Davis, Danny (IL):** Would make certain technical and conforming changes to the bill, would strike a requirement for a study by the Government Accountability Office, and would make section 4 not effective with respect to births or placements occurring within 6 months of the enactment of the Act. (10 minutes)

### **Quote of the Day**

“A good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.”

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.