



# The Daily Whip

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006**

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY**

**H.Res. 741 – Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 609 – College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005 (Rules).** The rule provides one hour of general debate and makes in order 15 amendments. This is the first of two rules providing for consideration of HR609, and is anticipated that the House will consider a second rule for HR609 tomorrow.

**H.R. 609 – College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005 (Rep. Boehner – Education and the Workforce) (Subject to a Rule).** HR609 was marked up last July by the Education and the Workforce Committee and was reported out on a party-line vote of 27-20. Several provisions included in the Committee-reported bill were taken out of HR609 and included in the recently enacted budget reconciliation bill. Some highlights of the remaining portions of HR609 include:

- Pell Grants – the bill increases authorization of the maximum grant from \$5,800 to \$6,000 (subject to appropriation), creates a "Pell Grants Plus" program, and authorizes awards year-round. (Republicans have frozen the maximum Pell Grant for the past three years at \$4,050);
- Proprietary Schools – the bill creates a single definition of a higher education institution. Also makes changes to current law (the 90/10 Rule) by moving the requirement that schools obtain at least 10% of their revenues from sources other than student aid programs into the Program Participation Agreement;
- Minority Serving Institutions – the bill reauthorizes funding for HBCUs, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and creates a new graduate program for HSIs;
- College Cost – establishes a College Affordability Index, requiring the Secretary to collect data regarding college tuition and fees;
- Transfer of Credits – Requires institutions to publicly disclose their transfer of credit policies, but these policies cannot be based solely on the accreditor of the sending college so long as the accreditor is recognized by the Secretary of Education.

The higher education provisions in the budget reconciliation bill included \$12 billion in cuts to student assistance programs. Those provisions: raised interest rates on parent borrowers from 7.9% to 8.5%; raised loan consolidation fees; reduced excessive subsidies to lenders, but Republicans refused to re-direct those dollars into low-interest loans or grants to help students as Democrats believed they should do; and required that student and parent borrowers be charged a 1% insurance fee on college loans.

Despite the fact that the average tuition and fees for four-year public colleges have risen over 40% since 2001, Republicans have done nothing to help students better afford college, and have in fact passed harmful provisions to make it harder. The average student now owes \$17,500 when he/she graduates. When Pell Grants were first enacted to help low-income families, it covered 72% of the average cost of a four-year public college, today it pays for only 30%. **This bill is a missed opportunity to offer true assistance to America's students and, therefore, Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on Final Passage of HR609.**

All but one of the fifteen amendments made in order by the rule are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **McKeon Amendment.** To make many technical changes to ensure that the bill conforms to language currently included in the Higher Education Act. In addition, this amendment: updates all the reauthorization years to begin in fiscal year 2007 (and authorizes for the 5 succeeding years); modifies the College Cost provisions to streamline reporting requirements; adds three postsecondary institutions to the list of named institutions authorized to participate in Historically Black Graduate Institutions programs; retains current law for the Campus-Based Aid formula and adds a GAO study of the current allocation formula; provides for coordination of issues for foster care youth within the TRIO and GEAR UP programs; allows fund for improvement of Postsecondary Education activities to support anti-piracy efforts on college campuses.
- **Blumenauer/Wu/Ehlers Amendment.** To direct the Secretary of Education, representatives of Federal Agencies, businesses and industry leaders to focus on establishing administrative and educational sustainability programs, share innovative ideas, and explore funding opportunities and partnerships.



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- **Burton Amendment.** To require colleges and universities, if receiving funds under Title VI International Education Programs of that Act, to disclose contributions and gifts under the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.
- **Boustany/Andrews Amendment #12.** To require a study by GAO to evaluate and determine reasons for the decline in the number of medical school graduates entering residency programs lasting more than 5 years.
- **Boustany/Andrews Amendment #13.** To amend Section 421 – Loan Forgiveness for Service in Areas of National Need to include medical specialists with a residency program of more than 5 years and in medical specialties that have shortages.
- **Castle/Osborne/Ford/Regula/Van Hollen Amendment.** To authorize funding to recruit, select, train and support a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit to teach in low-income communities.
- **Cuellar Amendment #84.** To ensure that student financial aid programs are in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1965.
- **Cuellar Amendment #85.** To ensure that students in certification programs are eligible to receive Pell grants.
- **Fossella Amendment.** To direct the Department of Education to make a matching grant program to eligible universities for the professional installation of fire alarm detection systems and other fire prevention technologies. It applies to student housing, dormitories and other buildings controlled by such entities.
- **Hart Amendment.** To establish and operate pregnant and parenting student services offices to assist students in locating and utilizing child care, family housing, flexible academic scheduling such as telecommuting programs and parenting classes and programs, and post-partum counseling and support groups.
- **Musgrave Amendment.** To include all home school children as eligible applicants for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.
- **Porter/Renzi/Andrews Amendment.** To expand loan relief in areas of national need to include qualified public service employees.
- **Sessions Amendment.** To allow students with intellectual disabilities to access to Federal work-study funds for enrollment in comprehensive post-secondary education programs that improve students' academic and personal skills, independence, and employability.
- **Wilson Amendment.** To provide authority for Mathematics and Science Education Coordinating Councils to support regional workshops designed to permit educators, administrators responsible for professional development and curriculum development, and faculty of teacher preparation programs to share successful research based strategies for improving student achievement in mathematics and science instruction in elementary and secondary schools.
- **McMorris/Holt/Dreier Amendment (20 minutes).** To add uses of funds to Title II (Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants) to increase the number of teachers qualified to teach Advanced Placement courses; Adds uses of funds to the current law Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program to authorize adjunct teacher opportunities and critical foreign language activities.

#### Suspensions (1 bill):

- 1) **H.Res. 736** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that legal action in Afghanistan against citizens who have already converted or plan to convert to other religions is deplorable and unjust (*Rep. Pence - International Relations*)

**Debate on a Rangel Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4297 – Tax Reconciliation Act of 2005.**

#### TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration of **H.R. 609 – College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005** (*Rep. Boehner – Education and the Workforce*) (*Subject to a Rule*); and may also consider **H.R. 1606 – Online Freedom of Speech Act** (*Rep. Hensarling – House Administration*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

#### Daily Quote...

"If the budget has to pass with all Republican votes, I don't think it can pass at the president's number."

- Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), from *CongressDaily AM*, today