



The Daily Whip

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Morning Hour 10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	10:00 – 11:00 p.m.

**** IMPORTANT VOTES ARE EXPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF YOUR MEMBER WILL NOT BE VOTING.**

**** DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN THE MARSHALL DISCHARGE PETITION (AVAILABLE TODAY) TO ELIMINATE THE DISABLED VETERANS' TAX (CONCURRENT RECEIPT). THIS DISCHARGE PETITION WOULD FORCE ACTION ON H.R. 303 -- A BILL TO PROVIDE FULL RETIREMENT PAY AND DISABILITY PAY TO DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H. Res. 291 – Rule providing consideration for H.R. 2419 – Energy & Water Development Appropriations for FY06 (Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart - Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended an open Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Amendments that do not require waivers of points of order will be considered under the five-minute rule. The Rule protects most provisions in the bill from points of order regarding legislating on an appropriations bill (Rule XXI), however, the Rule does not protect section 104 of the bill (which concerns the Army Corps of Engineers' "continuing contract" authority). Unfortunately, the Rule does not allow for consideration of an important amendment by Rep. Schwartz to provide an additional \$250 million to the Department of Energy to accelerate the research and development of new energy technologies --- this increase is paid for by reducing the tax cut for individuals who earn more than \$1 million in FY06 by 0.78%. Therefore, **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the PREVIOUS QUESTION ON THE RULE** in order to allow for consideration of this important amendment.

H.R. 2419 - Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act for FY06 (Rep. Hobson - Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$29.7 billion for FY06 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior, the Department of Energy, and several Independent Agencies. Funding in this bill includes: \$24.28 billion for the Department of Energy (\$6.18 billion for Nuclear Activities; \$6.46 billion for Defense Environmental Management; \$8.84 billion for the National Security Administration; and \$1.2 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs); \$4.75 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers; \$1.01 billion for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation; and \$207 million for several Independent Agencies. This bill includes \$310 million for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, limits the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to reprogram funds, and requires 5-year planning for future budget requests from the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Energy Department.

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.R. 2520 - Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 (Rep. Smith {NJ} - Energy & Commerce) (1 hour of debate). This bill creates a new federal program to collect and store umbilical-cord-blood stem cells, and expands the current bone-marrow registry program.

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H.R. 810 - Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 (Rep. Castle - Energy & Commerce) (Unanimous Consent Agreement – 3 hours of debate). This bill expands current federal policy -- which restricts federally funded research on embryonic stem cell lines created before August 9, 2001 -- to provide that stem cell lines shall be eligible for federally funded research regardless of the date on which they were derived. Under this bill, stem cell lines would be eligible for federal research only if they meet the following requirements: 1) the stem cells were derived from human embryos that have been donated from in vitro fertilization clinics, were created for the purposes of fertility treatment, and were in excess of the clinical need of the individuals seeking such treatment; 2) prior to the consideration of embryo donation and through consultation with the individuals seeking fertility treatment, it was determined that the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded; 3) the individuals seeking fertility treatment donated the embryos with written informed consent and without receiving any financial or other inducements to make the donation. HR 810 also requires that the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Director of NIH, issue final guidelines for eligible research. This bill was not considered in Committee.

Postponed Suspension Vote (1 bill)

1) H.R. 1224 - Business Checking Freedom Act of 2005 (Rep. Kelly - Financial Services)
(Suspension Bill)

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

Members are urged to attend the Democratic Caucus Meeting at 9:00 a.m. with Special Guest Robert Rubin, Former Treasury Secretary.

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to begin consideration of **H.R. 1815 – National Defense Authorization Act for FY06 (Rep. Hunter/Armed Services) (Subject to a Rule).**

Daily Quote...

"President Bush's approval ratings for handling the economy, Iraq and Social Security have fallen to the lowest levels of his White House tenure, according to a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll taken Friday through Sunday. Satisfaction with congressional Republicans also has sagged. By 47%-36%, those polled say the country would be better off if Democrats controlled Congress. That's the best showing for Democrats since the GOP won control of both houses of Congress in 1994."

- From a *USA Today* news article today