

Stupak	Turner	Waxman
Tanner	Udall (CO)	Weiner
Taylor (MS)	Udall (NM)	Wexler
Thompson (MS)	Velazquez	Weygand
Thurman	Visclosky	Wise
Tierney	Waters	Woolsey
Towns	Watt (NC)	Wynn

NOT VOTING—9

Cooksey	McCollum	Spence
Granger	Scarborough	Strickland
Johnson, E. B.	Schaffer	Vento

1832

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 89 and HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 90

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) be removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 89 and H.J. Res. 90.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3575

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3575.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent Resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 434, I call up the bill (H.R. 3846) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

UNFUNDED MANDATE POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I make a point of order against consideration of H.R. 3846.

Section 425(a) states that a point of order lies against consideration of a bill that would impose an intra-governmental unfunded mandate in excess of \$50 million.

The Congressional Budget Office has scored the language in H.R. 3846 as an \$880 million unfunded mandate on America's State and local governments over 5 years. Section 1 of H.R. 3846 increases the Federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 an hour over 3 years. Therefore, I make a point of order against consideration of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT) makes a point of order that the bill violates section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In accordance with section 426(b)(2) of the Act, the gentleman has met his threshold burden to identify the specific language in the bill (section 1) on which he predicates the point of order.

Under section 426(b)(4) of the Act, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT) and a Member opposed will each control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

Pursuant to section 426(b)(3) of the Act, after that debate the Chair will put the question of consideration, to wit: "Will the House now consider the bill?"

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT) will be recognized for 10 minutes, and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) will be recognized for 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT).

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one of the real problems that I see we face in this body is that we are consumed with so much business from day-to-day that the institutional memory of the House of Representatives tends to be very short. And so, I hope to enter into a discourse here of a little history from 5 years ago about a bill that we passed overwhelmingly called the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

In 1995, the House decided to change the way Washington works with America's State houses and city halls. The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act was passed to protect hard-working State and local officials from the bullies in Washington, D.C.

Its sponsors stood on this floor and said, "For too long, Congress has imposed its own agenda on State and local governments without taking responsibility for the costs."

The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act passed this House by a vote of 394-28.

Several Members who have introduced the bill that is currently before us were, in fact, cosponsors of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act. Today we are scheduled to trample this law by passing a Federal minimum wage increase.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep our promise to America's State and local officials. By voting against their own State and local officials, the Members are telling them, "I know more than you do."

I want to be able to look my State and local officials square in the eye and tell them that I trust them.

Many of our colleagues worked at the local level as mayors or city councilmen. Others were State legislators. These Members know the frustration of having Washington tell them how to spend their limited resources.

One Member who used to work in a New York county government and who has been instrumental in shaping this bill on the floor today and the bill on the floor in 1995 said, "Many Federal mandates involve important programs that many of us might support in concept. But, if we are going to ask others to pay for them, we should give them more of a say in developing them, we should level with them about who is going to pay for them, and we should be ready to defend the costs."

Where was this principle when the minimum wage bill was drafted?

Unfunded mandates force State and local governments to reduce vital services and/or increase taxes, revamp their budgets and order their priorities. This is not the kind of Federal, State, and local government partnership the Founders envisioned.

The vote on this point of order should not be confused with support for or opposition to a minimum wage. That issue is irrelevant. Rather, it is a vote for or against local control and limited government.

Who knows best, Washington or City Hall?

Many States, including the State of Oklahoma, have raised the minimum wage above the Federal level. They did not need Washington to tell them to do this. Because, believe it or not, they did it all by themselves.

The Unfunded Mandate point of order can be raised against any bill that will cost State and local governments more than \$50 million. CBO estimates that this increase will cost America's State and local governments \$880 million. It costs the private sector \$13.1 billion, \$4.1 billion in one year alone.

The Unfunded Mandate will affect 750,000 State and local government employees. Twenty percent of these employees work for State colleges. Twenty-seven percent work for State and local schools. And we all know how much trouble school districts are having with the money as it is. Why make it harder?

Two-thirds of these employees work for local governments, one-third for State governments. Over 40 percent of the Mandate falls on States in the Southeast. Twenty-eight percent falls on States in the Midwest. Seventy-two percent of the burden falls on people in small towns and rural areas.

The States that will be hardest hit by this Unfunded Mandate are California, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Arizona.