

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE CHARTER
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4387) to provide that the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is ratified by voters of the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4387

by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD FOR SCHOOL GOVERNANCE CHARTER AMENDMENT ACT OF 2000.

Notwithstanding section 303 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act or any provision of the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000, the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is ratified by a majority of the registered qualified electors of the District of Columbia voting in a referendum held to ratify such Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4387, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4387, introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), waives the 35-day congressional review period on the upcoming June 27 referendum. It will allow the results of that referendum to be enacted immediately. If the referendum is successful, the District of Columbia may move forward with the creation of a hybrid school board. This waiver will allow candidates for the new school board to be on the ballot for the November 7 election. H.R. 4387 will allow the choice that District residents make on June 27 to go forward without the delay it would otherwise face due to our own shortened legislative calendar.

The mayor and the D. C. Council have come together to craft this compromise referendum that will return accountability to the D.C. school board and to the District of Columbia schools. The new school board will be comprised of five elected and four mayor-appointed members. I believe this reasonable compromise will remove much of the politics that has characterized the D.C. school boards in the past.

Most of all, this was not crafted from Congress, this was crafted from the

city itself and the city leaders working together. I think if we want to continue to have democracy to be successful in the city, we have to allow them this flexibility. So I am eager that once this referendum is passed, or whatever happens to it, that we can move ahead and enact it immediately in time for the November 7 election.

I hope that the new school board will return to its primary mission of oversight and management of the schools. It is my goal to assist the city in returning accountability to the schools. For too long the education system has not worked for the children of the Nation's capital. The mayor and the council have worked together to ensure that this situation does not continue. I commend them for their dedicated efforts to achieve reform.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) for his expeditious consideration of this waiver. I urge passage of this legislation so that the District may move forward on June 27.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the action of the chairman of the full committee in moving this bill forward. Had it not moved, there would have been a cascading effect on a referendum that is required in order to settle the matter of the school board in the District of Columbia, the central issue facing the City at this time.

The School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 waives the congressionally mandated 35-day layover period for a D.C. referendum that will be considered by the voters in the special election of June 27. The referendum restructures the D.C. School Board to have five elected and four appointed members.

This local legislation is a result of an agreement between D.C. Mayor Tony Williams and the City Council. If the referendum passes, H.R. 4387 would waive the layover period so that candidates can seek signatures and run for the new board without legal challenge. This waiver is necessary because petitions for signature will be available on July 7 and the expiration of the 35-legislative-day congressional layover period may not come until early October. The waiver of the layover period will allow elections of the new school board to proceed without legal challenge on November 7.

H.R. 4387 is also noncontroversial and was unanimously passed in subcommittee and full committee. It has the full support of the mayor and the City Council of the District of Columbia. I strongly urge passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just summarize. Again, I thank the gentlewoman for taking the lead on an issue that was very controversial at one point in terms of how we structure the school system in the District. There is no question that it has failed.

I think we need to understand that before there was an elected D.C. Council, before there was an elected mayor, there was an elected school board. This has been a long Democratic tradition in the city.

We also, though, recognize there is a need for accountability in the decisions being made at the school system. I think when we got all the entities together, this was the compromise that they have worked out. They are going to submit it to the voters. I do not think anything could be clearer or fairer than that. We just need to give it a chance to succeed.

So, again, I thank my colleague for stepping up to the plate on this. I know this has been an issue of some controversy in the city, but it is that kind of leadership that is going to turn this city around.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I want only to note that at a time when it was not clear that the mayor and the City Council would come together, the chairman stepped back and let them see if they could reach an accommodation. They did reach an accommodation that is now before the people of the District of Columbia and they will decide.

I thank the gentleman very much for his work on this bill and on so many other bills for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1927

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA) at 7 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 761, ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-670) on the resolution (H. Res. 523) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 761) to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, and other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-671) on the resolution (H. Res. 524) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. OBEY. Before we move into the Committee of the Whole, I thought that an understanding was being reached about the sequence of an amendment. Is that not correct?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. If the gentleman will yield, it is our understanding based on our agreement of last week that we would take the Obey amendments as they appeared in the bill.

Mr. OBEY. The problem is that one of the Members who would offer those amendments is called away to another meeting and so we wanted to ask unanimous consent before the House went into the Committee that that amendment be taken out of order simply so that she could leave.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. If the gentleman will yield further, is that one of the amendments that we had agreed to in the unanimous consent?

Mr. OBEY. Yes.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would find no objection to accommodating that Member. But I expect that the same agreement of the time limitation would still apply.

Mr. OBEY. Yes, absolutely.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I have no objection to that.

ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT NO. 10 DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to consider amendment No. 10 notwithstanding that portion of the bill may have been passed in the reading of the bill for amendment, but otherwise subject to the order of the House of June 8, 2000.

□ 1930

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 518 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4577.

□ 1930

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. BEREUTER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Thursday, June 8, 2000, the amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 19, line 21.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word. I rise to enter into a colloquy with our distinguished chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), who is standing in for our distinguished subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. Chairman, is the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) prepared to enter into that colloquy with me?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, the answer is affirmative.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to thank the gentleman

from Illinois (Chairman PORTER) for his outstanding leadership of the subcommittee and because we have the unique opportunity of having the chairman of the full committee here, I also want to thank him for his leadership of the full committee.

Mr. Chairman, this is not in the colloquy, but I want to say with great assurance there is not a fairer, more thoughtful chairman of any standing committee in the Congress of the United States than the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), who chairs the Committee on Appropriations.

It is with great affection and great respect that I rise and thank him for participating in this colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned about the funding level for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of childhood immunizations. The operations and infrastructure account, which provides grants to States for outreach and education on immunization, has, Mr. Chairman, as you know, decreased from \$271 million in 1995 to \$139 million in 2000, almost cut in half.

While this bill increases funding for the operations and infrastructure account by \$15 million this year, it is my hope that this funding would increase by an additional \$60 million for a total of \$75 million.

Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned about the vaccine purchase account within the Childhood Immunization Program at CDC. The President requested, as you know, an increase of \$10 million this year and funding has remained level. I would like to see funding in this account increased by the \$10 million President Clinton requested, plus an additional \$10 million on top of that.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for his hard work on this bill, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), in his absence, for his hard work on this bill.

Given the constraints of the budget resolution, the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from Florida have done an outstanding job of writing what has proved to be a difficult bill for Members on both sides of the budget debate.

It is my hope, Mr. Chairman, that we may work together on this account in conference.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and I both appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) on this issue.

As the gentleman knows, our allocation was not nearly as high as we had hoped, and we prepared the best bill that we could while under the current budget constraints.

With that said, I agree that the operations on infrastructure portion of the