

the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, and I expressed concerns about several provisions in the bill, the Comptroller General worked to find language that we could support. The end result is the bill that is before us today. It is a bipartisan bill. It has been improved by compromise, and it is supported by every member of our committee. For that reason, I would urge the Members of the House to accept the legislation as well.

As other agencies approach Congress for personnel flexibilities in the future, I hope they will look to GAO's consensus-building approach as a model. I want to thank the Comptroller General, the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS), and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Chairwoman JO ANN DAVIS) for their cooperation and, of course, our ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY DAVIS). I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

□ 1030

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) to clarify our understanding regarding section 7 of this bill.

This section relates to the executive exchange program, which authorizes a small number of private sector employees to work at GAO. The bill states that these private sector detailees shall be considered GAO employees for the purpose of several Federal ethics provisions. In 1979 and 1999, the Justice Department stated that GAO employees are subject to 18 U.S.C. 208 and 209, which cover financial conflicts of interest. The Comptroller General has confirmed that it is a long-standing practice for GAO employees to be subject to these provisions.

Our understanding is that private sector detailees to GAO shall be subject to the financial conflict of interest provisions in 18 U.S.C. 208 and 209. My question is, does the Chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization have this same understanding?

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, yes, that is our understanding as well.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentlewoman so very much, and I continue to urge support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thought we had one other speaker on his way, but I would just urge that the House pass H.R. 2751.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, please include the attached exchange of letters between Chairman BILL THOMAS of the Committee on Ways and Means and myself in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the end of the debate on H.R. 2751.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2004.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you for your recent letter regarding your committee's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2751, the GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003. I appreciate all of your efforts to ensure that the Government Accounting Office has the resources it needs to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in this legislation and appreciate your cooperation in allowing speedy consideration of the bill. I agree that your decision to forego further action on the bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I will support your request for outside conferees should there be a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record when the House considers the legislation.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2004.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2751, the "GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003," which was reported by the Committee on Government on November 19, 2003.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning the Internal Revenue Code. Sec. 7 of H.R. 2751 deems persons participating in the Executive Exchange Program to be an "employee of the General Accounting Office" for the purposes of section 1043 of the Internal Revenue Code, which governs ethics-related divestiture by government employees. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration we will not take action on this particular proposal. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2751, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2751, the GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003.

Over the last couple of years, the Government Reform Committee has worked tirelessly to revitalize the federal civil service in an effort to bring the Federal workforce into the 21st century. In November 2002, Congress granted the new Department of Homeland Security the

authority to develop its own human resources management system, largely outside of the confines of the 50-year-old Federal civil service system. In June 2003, Congress authorized the Securities and Exchange Commission to utilize streamlined hiring procedures to address critical staff shortages at the Commission. In November 2003, Congress granted the Defense Department authority similar to Homeland Security to develop a human resources management system for its civilian workforce. In January of this year, Congress authorized a number of new workforce authorities for NASA that will enable the space agency to compete with the private sector in recruiting and retaining a highly specialized workforce.

Now GAO—a legislative branch agency that helped us to craft these reforms—has asked Congress to provide it with some of the same personnel flexibilities that we have provided to these other agencies. Civil Service Subcommittee Chair JO ANN DAVIS responded by introducing H.R. 2751, which would provide GAO with the authority to offer early buyout packages, base employee compensation on performance, offer additional relocation benefits, offer more flexible annual leave policies, and establish an executive exchange program with the private sector.

H.R. 2751 was developed in coordination with the minority members of the Government Reform Committee, the General Accounting Office and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, all in a bipartisan manner. We in this body rely on the GAO to ensure the performance and accountability of the Federal Government, and this legislation will assist the Comptroller General in ensuring a vibrant and effective workforce to meet this important task.

I urge Members to support this important legislation.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 24, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this bill will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays

are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE RAUL JULIA

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 287) recognizing and honoring the life of the late Raul Julia, his dedication to ending world hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino community and the performing arts.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 287

Whereas Raúl Juliá made his Broadway debut just a few weeks after arriving in New York City in 1964 in Calderon's "Life is a Dream";

Whereas Raúl Juliá, after only 3 years of living in New York City, was instrumental opening doors for nontraditional parts for Hispanic actors by taking the role of Demetrius in Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus" at the New York Shakespeare Festival and Cradeau in Sartre's "No Exit";

Whereas Raúl Juliá was the busiest Hispanic Shakespearean actor in New York and the first to establish a decades-long association with Joseph Papp and the New York Shakespeare Festival;

Whereas Raúl Juliá began an impressive and productive 28-year association with Joseph Papp and the New York Shakespeare Festival as Macduff in the Festival's Mobile Unit, Spanish language production of Macbeth;

Whereas Raúl Juliá became the first Puerto Rican actor to conquer Broadway stages by having his work be nominated for 4 different Tony Awards in 10 years: "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "Where's Charley?", "Threepenny Opera", and "Nine";

Whereas Raúl Juliá provided a role model for millions of children in his role as "Rafael, the Fix-It Man" in Sesame Street;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a dedicated leader in the fight against the rising rates of teen violence and cosponsored scriptwriting competitions for high school students as a way to encourage teenagers to express their emotions through art rather than through violence;

Whereas Raúl Juliá's dedication to help Hispanic-American film and television writers develop their work led him to co-found the Latino Playwrights Reading Workshops;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was instrumental in the formation of the now legendary Puerto Rico Traveling Theater, an off-Broadway nonprofit Puerto Rican theater that to this day continues to promote and showcase bilingual plays, new Hispanic playwrights and Spanish-speaking actors while bringing theater to those who cannot ordinarily afford it;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a leader in the entertainment industry, particularly as a tireless mentor and role model to emerging Latino actors;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a dedicated activist and humanitarian who in his lifetime became a major supporter and spokesperson for the Hunger Project, a nonprofit organization committed to the eradication of world hunger;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was tireless in his commitment to the Puerto Rican film industry and to the making of Spanish language films and continued to participate in small, independent, Spanish-language films even after having become a Hollywood star;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was an extremely successful stage, film and television actor who

never abandoned his Puerto Rican heritage, never changed his name and never gave up his accent, thereby becoming an enduring role model for hundreds of Latino actors;

Whereas Raúl Juliá received the Hispanic Heritage Award recognizing his many career achievements for the Latino community, including his involvement in "La Familia", a New York City outreach program for Latino families in need, the Puerto Rican traveling theater, the Museo del Barrio, and the New York Shakespeare Festival;

Whereas Raúl Juliá received the National Board of Review Best Actor prize for his interpretation of the political prisoner Valentin in the award-winning landmark film "The Kiss of the Spider Woman", an award he shared with his co-star William Hurt;

Whereas Raúl Juliá posthumously received the prestigious Emmy Award, Cable Ace Award, Golden Globe Award, and the SAG Award, given by his fellow actors for his most famous roles including Chico Mendes in "The Burning Season";

Whereas Raúl Juliá was proud of his Puerto Rican heritage and his life and work reflected his strong commitment to his culture and the people of Puerto Rico;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was given a state funeral in Puerto Rico and since that time there have been many awards and honors created in his name: a scholarship at Juliard, a scholarship given to a promising young actor for the purpose of studying and performing Shakespeare at the Joseph Papp Public Theater, the Raúl Juliá Award for Excellence given annually by the National Endowment for the Hispanic Arts in Washington, DC, El Teatro Raúl Juliá in San Juan Puerto Rico, and the Raúl Juliá Global Citizen Award, an annual award being given this year for the first time by the Puerto Rican Family Institute based in New York City;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was recognized by the Mayor of the City of New York with the creation of Raúl Juliá Day which was celebrated and commemorated in conjunction with Puerto Rican Heritage and Culture Month on November 21, 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes and honors the life of the late Raúl Juliá, his dedication to ending world hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino community and the performing arts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 287, the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 287 that recognizes and honors the life of Raul Julia.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution celebrates the contributions of one of the most dynamic actors of our time. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in March of 1940, Raul Julia began his incredible theatrical career at a very young age. He moved to New York City in 1964 to pursue his livelihood on a grander stage, and he quickly landed parts in a number of Spanish-language productions.

Raul Julia made his Broadway debut 4 years later in 1968 in a show called The Cuban Thing. He capitalized on his Broadway success to acquire a role as Rafael, the Fix-It Man on Sesame Street in 1971, but it was later that year when Julia earned his breakthrough part. He played Proteus in his first Shakespeare drama, two Gentlemen of Verona, for which he earned his first of four Tony Award nominations. Ultimately, Julia became a feature film star as well, starring most prominently in Kiss of the Spider Woman in 1985 and The Addams Family movies in the early 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, while we may best know Raul Julia for his elegance and success as an actor, this resolution appropriately emphasizes Raul Julia's remarkable humanitarian legacy. Julia worked closely with the Hunger Project, which is a nonprofit aid organization, to create the Raul Julia Ending Hunger Fund. Julia worked hard with very little fanfare to recruit individual and business sponsors to contribute to the fund for the purpose of providing food to the hungry worldwide. He was a diligent spokesman for both the Hunger Project, as well as the Raul Julia Ending Hunger Fund, and his efforts are worthy of commendation by this House.

In 1994, Raul Julia's noteworthy life was cut tragically short when he suddenly suffered a severe stroke and died shortly afterwards at the age of 54. However, I am very pleased that the House is remembering Raul Julia's legacy by considering this legislation today, and I urge all Members to support its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Illinois for his work to recognize Raul Julia.

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

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

I, too, want to thank our colleague the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for introducing this resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Raul Julia.

Mr. Speaker, Raul Julia was discovered by the actor Orson Bean, who inspired him to leave his native San Juan, Puerto Rico, and immigrate to the United States in 1964. Over the next three decades, Mr. Julia enjoyed a stellar career as one of our finest stars of stage and screen.

His first love was always the stage, and he was one of the first Puerto Rican actors to make it big on Broadway. He was nominated for four Tony