

have not improved. Today, these companies, instead of going to the public equity markets, have opted to use private equity deals to divest themselves of government ownership.

I fully supported the goal of independence and competition when we enacted the ORBIT Act, and I still do today. Indeed, the action we take today is fully consistent with this policy objective.

This bill, while it does not eliminate the IPO requirement, allows other methods, which are currently being used in the marketplace to show "substantial dilution." This bill makes the ORBIT Act consistent with what is happening today in the real world.

There are certainly other issues in the ORBIT Act that deserve to be explored and I intend to ask Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee Chairman UPTON to hold a hearing on the Act early next year to examine what further needs to be accomplished. But today, I fully support S. 2896 and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2896.

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

There was no objection.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5294) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the chairman of the subcommittee for an explanation of the measure before us.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for yielding under his reservation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5294 is virtually identical to H.R. 3198, the John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2003, which passed the House of Representatives on November 17, 2003.

The legislation reauthorizes the programs of the Kennedy Center for 4 years. This is a bipartisan bill. I urge our colleagues to support the bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the distinguished ranking member of the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for his work; also the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the ranking member

of our subcommittee, for the outstanding work on this bill and so many others during the 108th Congress.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I compliment the chairman of the subcommittee for his diligent work in shepherding this bill through this historic moment.

He has been a dedicated and informed and forthright leader of the subcommittee and on the issues under its jurisdiction, particularly those relating to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

For the last decade, as a member of the Board of Trustees, I have watched firsthand the center undertake major capital projects, renovating the theaters, creating state-of-the-art concert halls, the Opera House, replacing a badly deteriorated roof.

Throughout all these major capital maintenance renovation construction projects, the center opened every day of the year and welcomed over 5 million visitors and has stayed true to its mission as a national cultural arts center and a living memorial to our 35th President.

The chairman has described the principal features of the bill. What I want to emphasize, however, is the great difficulty of running this incredible living memorial and arts center while managing the major construction initiatives. The Kennedy Center, in doing so, and the chairman I know agrees with this position, must improve its construction management.

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The General Accounting Office reviewed the Kennedy Center's operation and found that the Center needs, one, to develop policy and procedures to guide the plans and management of its construction projects; two, ensure that its construction contractors provide schedule and cost information in a timely fashion; and three, invest in the key human capital resources and the expertise to manage better its construction projects.

The Center has made progress. The chairman has held hearings on this matter, and we greatly appreciate those hearings. They reveal that the Center needs to do much better.

Just last month, GAO reported that the Center has not updated its building plan each year as the law requires. The building plan does not explain how the Kennedy Center prioritizes its capital projects. It fails to provide adequate information on project-specific status, updates and budgets so that we in the Congress and the board of trustees will have the information necessary to ensure that the Center's capital projects are well managed.

I think this legislation, by requiring further steps to strengthen the construction management process, will move the Kennedy Center forward in directions that we feel are important, and for that, I thank the chairman for his vigilance and greatly appreciate the partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5294

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76f) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

"(a) MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H)—

"(1) \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

"(2) \$18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

"(b) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1)—

"(1) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

"(2) \$18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007."

SEC. 3. JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PLAZA.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 12(b) of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76q-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) PROJECT TEAM.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—To further construction of the Project, the Secretary shall establish a Project Team.

"(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Project Team shall be composed of the following members:

"(i) The Secretary (or the Secretary's designee).

"(ii) The Administrator of General Services (or the Administrator's designee).

"(iii) The Chairman of the Board (or the Chairman's designee).

"(iv) Such other individuals as the Project Team considers appropriate.

"(C) PROJECT DIRECTOR.—The Project Team shall have a Project Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Chairman of the Board. The Project Director shall report directly to the Project Team."

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76q-1(c)(1)) is amended by inserting ", in consultation with the Project Team," after "The Board".

(2) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.—Section 12(c)(3) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76q-1(c)(3)) is amended by inserting ", in consultation with the Project Team," after "The Board".

(3) APPROVAL BY PROJECT TEAM.—Section 12(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76q-1(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) APPROVAL BY PROJECT TEAM.—Notwithstanding section 5(e), any decision by the Board that will significantly affect, as determined by the Project Team in consultation with the Board, the scope, cost, schedule, or engineering feasibility of any element of the Project, other than buildings to be constructed on the Plaza, shall be subject to the approval of the Project Team."

(c) GAO REVIEW.—Section 12 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76q-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) GAO REVIEW.—Until completion of the Project, the Comptroller General shall review the management and oversight of construction of the Project by the Board and report periodically on the results of the review to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.”

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4175) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2004, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2004, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1311(b) of such title.

(7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 2004.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Se-

curity Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2004, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2005, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that section.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4175, as amended, would provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), in the same amount as given to Social Security recipients, to disabled veterans and surviving spouses. All veterans and qualified survivors of veterans who receive disability compensation would receive a full COLA beginning on December 1 of this year.

More than 2.5 million veterans were receiving service-connected disability compensation as of April 2004. The basic purpose of the disability compensation program is to provide a measure of relief from the impaired earning capacity of veterans disabled as a result of their military service. These benefits are paid monthly, and range from \$106 for a 10 percent disability to \$2,239 for a 100 percent disability. Additional monetary benefits are available for our most severely disabled veterans, as well as those with dependents.

Spouses of veterans who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected disability likewise are entitled to monetary compensation, as the Nation assumes, in part, the legal and moral obligation of the veteran to support the spouse and children. Depending on their spouse's rank or grade in service, a spouse receives between \$967 and \$2,063 monthly. Currently, there are more than 300,000 surviving spouses and more than 29,000 children receiving dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC).

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank CHRIS SMITH, Chairman of the Full Committee, the Benefits Subcommittee Chairman, HENRY BROWN and Ranking Member of the Benefits Subcommittee, MICHAEL MICHAUD, for working together to assure that the spending power of our Nation's disabled veterans and their survivors will not be eroded by the pas-

sage of time. Once again the Committee on Veterans Affairs had demonstrated the meaning of bipartisanship. Your work is strongly supported by Members from both sides of the aisle.

H.R. 4175, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004 will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors to maintain the value of their compensation benefits despite any increase in the cost-of-living. Although we will not know the exact amount of the increase until computations of the Social Security cost-of-living increase are completed later this month, we can rest assured that benefits will be increased in 2005.

The Nation's veterans and survivors have earned these benefits. H.R. 4175 is a bill which deserves the support of all Members of this House and I urge all Members to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4175, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM REVIEW ACT OF 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 2292) to require a report on acts of anti-Semitism around the world, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2292

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Acts of anti-Semitism in countries throughout the world, including some of the world's strongest democracies, have increased significantly in frequency and scope over the last several years.

(2) During the first 3 months of 2004, there were numerous instances of anti-Semitic violence around the world, including the following incidents:

(A) In Australia on January 5, 2004, poison was used to ignite, and burn anti-Semitic