

Jefferson was very clear that once we overstep the authority that is granted to us by the Constitution, there is no limiting factor on us any more in Congress and the Senate can spend whatever they want on any purpose that they want. The Supreme Court has already opined that they are not going to be the element to rein us in.

So we, therefore, must, fortunately or unfortunately, if not going to rein in ourselves, look to the American public to be the political process to rein the Congress back in the manner that the Constitution and the Founders intended.

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to thank the gentleman from Utah, Mr. BISHOP, for reserving time today so that we can discuss the Constitution, the cornerstone of our Republic and freedoms we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of this body, all of us are sworn to uphold and protect the principles outlined in the Constitution. Yet, all too often, we routinely find ourselves coming to this floor to vote for measures that directly assault the freedoms outlined in it. We too often consider legislation that contradicts the Constitution's core principles of individual freedom together with limited government.

However, make no mistake: Congress isn't the only culprit. It is much more widespread than that. The Constitution is a document of limited, delegated powers for all branches of government. However, we have an executive branch, whether a Republican or Democratic administration, that often looks for ways to grow beyond its constitutionally defined boundaries. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, my constituents are regularly impacted by Federal agencies with legions of bureaucrats who implement regulation upon regulation, each dealing a blow to their pocketbook and very often their liberty.

Again and again, we see the Federal Government taking more power away from the States, effectively leading them to become gigantic, castrated counties solely accountable to Washington, DC. This is wrong and we must take steps to begin rolling back the tide.

Finally, we have the judiciary which, under the principle of checks and balances, is supposed to be the final safeguard of our constitutional liberties. But just last summer, across the street, five people in black robes overturned established constitutional principles by reinterpreting the fifth amendment and the essence of private property rights. No, Mr. Speaker, these examples show that this isn't simply a congressional problem, this is a national problem.

With that, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to remind themselves just why it is they are here. We must remember that we are a body of limited, enumerated powers. We are the first line of defense for our Constitution. As James Madison said, we are the "guardians of . . . (the) rights and liberties" of our citizens. In doing so, we must be willing to question the merits of every bill.

We must be willing to conduct effective and rigorous oversight of the administration's activities. We must be sure to question any initiative that would seek to limit and constrain the rights of the individual and the States. The Constitution is the guide for doing just that. By checking our actions against what is outlined in the Constitution, we'll know when our deeds overstep their limits.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I came to Washington on a platform of freedom—the freedom that is promised to every citizen of the United States in our Constitution. The freedom that makes our Nation a beacon of liberty for the rest of the world.

Through the work of the Constitution Caucus and others in this Chamber, I believe that we can get there—to the Founders' intent: a federal government of limited powers which respects and protects the individuals' various freedoms. We should all heed the words of our Nation's first President, who said, "(t)he Constitution is the guide which I will never abandon."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 28 and 29.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a scholarship event in the district.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1352. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the "Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 25, 2007, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2284. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Self-Insurance Plans Under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program [Docket No. FR-4897-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AC58) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2285. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities and Occupational Radiation Protection [Docket No. EH-RM-02-835] (RIN: 1901-AA95) received June 11, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2286. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's request regarding the use of appropriated funds for the implementation of Section 1221(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2287. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Great Lakes Naval Training Center Harbor, North Chicago, IL [CGD09-07-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2288. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Kenosha Harbor, Kenosha, WI. [CGD09-07-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2289. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Patuxent River, Calvert County, MD [CGD05-07-037] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2290. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Baileys Harbor Fireworks, Baileys Harbor, Baileys Harbor, WI. [CGD09-07-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2291. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Kenosha Harbor, Kenosha, WI. [CGD09-07-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2292. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report regarding its efforts in the area of transportation security for the calendar year 2006, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44938; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

2293. A letter from the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting a joint report setting forth recommendations regarding cooperative activities in areas of mutual interest related to research, development, and test and evaluation, pursuant to Public Law 109-163, section 259; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Science and Technology.

2294. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report of the Department's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 345; jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DICKS: Committee on Appropriations. Supplemental report on H.R. 2643. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-187, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SERRANO: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2829. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-207). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2286. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with respect to bail bond forfeitures (Rept. 110-208). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 2826. A bill to amend titles 28 and 10, United States Code, to restore habeas corpus for individuals detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 2827. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a floor of 1.0 for the practice expense and for the work expense geographic practice cost indices (GPCI) under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

H.R. 2828. A bill to provide compensation to relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombings of United States Embassies in East Africa on August 7, 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 2830. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. McCARTHY of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. FARR, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. CLARKE):

H.R. 2831. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 2832. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct or support a comprehensive study comparing total health outcomes, including risk of autism, in vaccinated populations in the United States with such outcomes in unvaccinated populations in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 2833. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional limitations on pre-existing condition exclusions in group health plans and health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. POMEROY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr.

BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 2834. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat income received by partners for performing investment management services as ordinary income received for the performance of services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 2835. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to extend the requirements under such Act regarding the ability of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use absentee registration procedures and vote by absentee ballot in Federal elections to elections for certain offices in American Samoa; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 2836. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Sea Grant College Program Act for fiscal years 2009 through 2013; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 2837. A bill to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA (for himself and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 2838. A bill to enhance the Department of Energy Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program established under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by explicitly permitting its application on United States Government installations worldwide, in the Insular Areas of the United States, and in those nations in free association with the United States, as well as explicitly authorize loans for ocean thermal energy conversion projects; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 2839. A bill to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to require protection and advocacy systems to give notice to, and obtain the authorization of, an individual (or the individual's legal representative) before pursuing remedies on behalf of the individual; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. CARSON):

H.R. 2840. A bill to amend the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 to allow the direct support by a financial institution of a qualified community-based financial literacy program provided to consumers and borrowers to be taken into account in assessing the institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its entire community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. McHUGH:

H.R. 2841. A bill to amend the wetlands reserve program of the Department of Agriculture to exclude from enrollment under the program land subject to a State or local set-back requirement unless the Secretary determines that enrollment of the land is essential to restore or preserve wetlands; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 2842. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit preexisting condition exclusions for children in group health plans and