

As a senior member of the House Science Committee, I feel it is important to invest in our children's futures. This Congress has led the fight to address access to higher education, enrichment programs in STEM fields, advancement in educational programs for minorities, and spur critical research and development to meet the needs of the country. Education is the foundation to building a better and brighter future for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, honest, hard-working men and women are struggling to make a decent living as they go about their daily routines. The economic disparities of African American and other minorities are truly hurting this country. I am hopeful that the President will join this Congress to help find long-term, comprehensive measures as opposed to a temporary bandaids to our economic problems.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in district.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

Ms. GRANGER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today through April 11, 2008, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of unforeseen travel difficulties.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today, April 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today, April 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today, April 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today, April 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. WAMP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHMIDT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, April 1, 2, and 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 10 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PATRICK J. ALWINE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 31 AND FEB. 3, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Patrick J. Alwine	1/31	2/1	Turkey		140.00				46.00		186.00
	2/1	2/2	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	2/2	2/3	Austria		209.00				295.29		504.29
Committee total											765.29

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

PATRICK J. ALWINE, Mar. 3, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KENNETH A. KRAFT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 31 AND FEB. 3, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kenneth A. Kraft	1/31	2/1	Turkey		140.00				46.00		186.00
	2/1	2/2	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	2/2	2/3	Austria		209.00				295.29		504.29
Committee total											765.29

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KENNETH A. KRAFT, Mar. 3, 2008.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL MURPHY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Daniel Murphy	2/16	2/21	Cape Verde		1,600.00		6,845.60				8,445.60
Committee total					1,600.00		6,845.60				8,445.60

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DANIEL MURPHY, Mar. 10, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL MURPHY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Daniel Murphy	2/16	2/16	Portugal		1,600.00		6,845.60				8,445.60
	2/16	2/21	Cape Verde								
Committee total					1,600.00		6,845.60				8,445.60

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DANIEL MURPHY, Mar. 10, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ed Perlmutter	11/30	12/2	Jordan		139.65		6815.13		174.00		7128.78
	12/2	12/4	Iraq		9.63		4432.90		5.00		4447.53
Hon. Yvette Clarke	11/24	12/26	Italy		954.00		(³)				954.00
	11/27	11/27	Chad		286.00		(³)				286.00
	11/28	11/30	Ethiopia		610.00		(³)				610.00
	12/1	12/2	Belgium		452.00		(³)				452.00
Committee total					2,451.28		11,248.03		179.00		13,878.31

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Chairman.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF SUBSTANTIVE REGULATIONS AND SUBMISSION FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2008.

Hon. NANCY J. PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: On March 14, 2008, The Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance sent to your office the Text of Adopted Veterans' Employment Opportunities Regulations and a Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Congressional Approval. We have been advised that there are a few typographical errors in the Text of the Regulations and in the Notice and Submission. Please accept the attached documents and disc as the corrected versions of both the Text of the Regulations and the Notice and Submission.

The Notice and Submission has been corrected to show that it is in Section 1.118(c), rather than Section 1.117(c) that the Board has clarified that an applicant's request for information must be made in writing. In addition, the Notice and Submission has been corrected to show that it is Section 1.118(d), rather than Section 1.118(e) that has been revised to provide that employing offices are expected to answer applicant questions concerning the employing office's veterans' preference policies and practices only if such questions are "relevant and non-confidential."

The Text of the Regulations has also been corrected to be consistent with the Notice and Submission and modifies Section 1.108(b) to require employing offices to consider veterans' preference as "an affirmative factor in the employing office's determination of who will be appointed from among qualified applicants."

The Board requests that the accompanying corrected Notice be published in both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal. The Board also requests that Congress approve the proposed Regulations, as corrected and further specified in the accompanying Notice.

An inquiries regarding the accompanying Notice should be addressed to Tamara E. Chrisler, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, 110 2nd Street, SE., Room LA-200, Washington, DC. 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS, AS REQUIRED BY 2 U.S.C. 1316a, THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED (CAA)

PROCEDURAL SUMMARY

Issuance of the board's initial notice of proposed rulemaking

On February 28, 2000, and March 9, 2000, the Office of Compliance published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") in the Congressional Record (144 Cong. Rec. S862 (daily ed., Feb. 28, 2000), H916 (daily ed., March 9, 2000)). On December 6, 2001, upon consideration of the comments to the ANPR, the Office published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPR") in the Congressional Record (147 Cong. Rec. S12539 (daily ed. Dec. 6, 2001), H9065 (daily ed. Dec. 6, 2001)). The Board took no action on those earlier Notices and instead, after extensive consultation with stakeholders, issued a subsequent Notice on December 1, 2001.

Why did the Board propose these new Regulations? Section 4(c) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1316a (4), requires that the Board of Directors propose substantive regulations implementing the rights and protections relating to veterans' employment which are "the same as the most relevant substantive regulations (applicable with respect to the executive branch) promulgated to implement the statutory provisions . . . except insofar as the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section."

What procedure followed the Board's December 1, 2001 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking? The December 1, 2001 Notice of Pro-

posed Rulemaking included a thirty day comment period, which began on December 2, 2001. A number of comments to the proposed substantive regulations were received by the Office of Compliance from interested parties. The Board of Directors has reviewed the comments from interested parties, engaged in extensive discussions with stakeholders to obtain input and suggestions into the drafting of the regulations, made a number of changes to the proposed substantive regulations in response to comments, and has adopted the amended regulations.

What is the effect of the Board's "adoption" of these proposed substantive regulations? Adoption of these substantive regulations by the Board of Directors does not complete the promulgation process. Pursuant to section 304 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384, the procedure for promulgating such substantive regulations requires that:

(1) the Board of Directors issue proposed substantive regulations and publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the Congressional Record (the December 1 Notice);

(2) there be a comment period of at least 30 days after the date of publication of the general notice of proposed rulemaking; and

(3) after consideration of comments by the Board of Directors, that the Board adopt regulations and transmit notice of such action together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for Congressional approval of the regulations to the Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record.

This Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Congressional Approval completes the third step described above.

What are the next steps in the process of promulgation of these regulations? Pursuant to section 304(b)(4) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(4), the Board of Directors is required to "include a recommendation in the general notice of proposed rulemaking and in the regulations as to whether the regulations should be approved by resolution of the Senate, by resolution of the House of Representatives, by concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution." The Board of Directors recommends that the House of Representatives