

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

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Monday, March 1, 2004

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

HOUSE APPROVES PROTECTION FOR UNBORN CHILDREN – Congressman Ehlers joined with the majority of the House of Representatives Thursday in approving legislation that makes the killing or injury of an unborn child a crime under federal law. The *Unborn Victims of Violence Act* closes gaps in federal law to protect the right of a mother to choose to bring her child to term, safe from the violent hands of criminals who would brutally deny her that right. The bill explicitly excludes abortion-related conduct. The bill was approved by a bipartisan vote of 254-163, with 207 Republicans and 47 Democrats supporting the bill.

EHLERS TO CORPS: KEEP ASIAN CARP OUT OF GREAT LAKES! -

Congressman Ehlers pressed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect and sustain the Great Lakes today at a congressional hearing on the agencies' budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. At a Thursday hearing, Ehlers questioned the Army Corps' efforts to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of invasive species, specifically three varieties of Asian carp that are moving up the Mississippi River system and that have the potential to severely impact the fisheries and ecosystems in the lakes. Ehlers expressed regret about the decision to cut funding for the construction of a permanent electric dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (which connects the Chicago River with Lake Michigan) and called for the Corps to reinstate funding for the project. He estimated that the carp could potentially cause billions of dollars in economic harm to the Great Lakes, particularly the fisheries.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/022604AsianCarp.html

EHLERS TESTIFIES IN FAVOR OF ALGAL BLOOM RESEARCH –

Congressman Ehlers, chairman of the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee of the House Science Committee, told members of the House Resources Committee Thursday that continued research on harmful algal blooms (HABs), such as red tides and other waterborne environmental problems, is needed to combat those problems, which cause more than \$50 million in damages every year.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/022604HABs.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a pro forma session.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (4 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.Res. 439 - Honoring the life and career of the late Willie Shoemaker:**
Resolves that the House of Representatives honors the life and legendary career in horse racing of Willie Shoemaker and expresses condolences on the passing of Willie Shoemaker to his family and friends.
- 2) **H.R. 3769 - Ben Atchley Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Knoxville, Tenn.*)
- 3) **H.Res. 530 - Urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China:** Resolves that it is the sense of Congress that the United State Government should continue to insist that the People's Republic of China adhere to fundamental human rights principles and allow its citizens the full enjoyment of those rights. At the 60th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the appropriate representative of the United States should introduce a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China and meet internationally recognized standards for human rights. The United States government should take the lead in organizing multilateral support to obtain passage by the Commission of such a resolution and should draft the resolution in such a way as to highlight specific human rights abuses.
- 4) **H.Res. 526 - Expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran.**

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 3 AND 4, 2004

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m.

Suspensions (5 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 912 - Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act:** Authorizes the NASA Administrator to establish the Charles "Pete" Conrad Astronomy Awards program and to contract with the Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory to administer the program. The bill awards outstanding amateur astronomers who discover the largest new asteroid having a near-Earth orbit and asteroids using information derived from professional sources and locating newly discovered asteroids. Awards also are made for those who provide the greatest service to update the Minor Planet Center's catalogue of known asteroids.
- 2) **H.R. 3389 - To amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to permit Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to be made to nonprofit organizations.**
- 3) **H.R. 1417 - Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2003:**
Information on this bill not available at time of publication.
- 4) **H.Res. 412 - Honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary:** Congratulates the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary. The

bill honors the heroic sacrifice of those of its employees who have given their lives or been wounded or injured in the service of our Nation. Finally, it thanks all the men and women of the DEA for their past and continued efforts to defend the American people from the scourge of illegal drugs.

- 5) **H.Res. 56 - Supporting the goals of the Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian-American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II:** Resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of February 19, 1942, the date Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Executive Order 9066 restricted the freedom of Japanese-Americans, German-Americans, and Italian-Americans, and legal resident aliens through required identification cards, travel restrictions, seizure of personal property, and internment. H.Res. 56 supports the goals of the Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian-American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of these events.

H.R. 1561 - United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2003:

Begins the implementation of the revised Strategic Business Plan to transform the Patent and Trademark Office's (PTO) operations. The bill incorporates a revised fee schedule previously submitted by the PTO that would generate an additional \$191 million in revenue. Former Director of the PTO, Jim Rogan, said that the Strategic Plan could not be implemented in the absence of the new fee schedule. This is the first step toward improving patent and trademark quality while reducing application backlogs and pendency at the agency.

H.R. 3752 - Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004: Designed to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry by putting in place a clear, balanced regulatory regime. The bill is drafted as an amendment to the existing Commercial Space Launch Act to minimize disruption and confusion.

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On March 1 ...

1781 - In America, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.

1790 - The U.S. Congress authorized the first U.S. census.

1872 - The U.S. Congress authorized the creation of Yellowstone National Park. It was the world's first national park.

1954 - Five U.S. congressmen were wounded when four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives.

1961 - The Peace Corps was established by U.S. President Kennedy.

1971 - A bomb exploded in a restroom in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol. There were no injuries. A U.S. group protesting the Vietnam War claimed responsibility.

On March 2 ...

1807 - The U.S. Congress passed an act to "prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States ... from any foreign kingdom, place, or country."

1877 - In the U.S., Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election by the U.S. Congress. Samuel J. Tilden, however, had won the popular vote on November 7, 1876.

1917 - Citizens of Puerto Rico were granted U.S. citizenship with the enactment of the Jones Act.

1925 - State and federal highway officials developed a nationwide route-numbering system and adopted the familiar U.S. shield-shaped, numbered marker.

On March 3 ...

1791 - The U.S. Congress passed a resolution that created the U.S. Mint.

1812 - The U.S. Congress passed the first foreign aid bill.

1845 - The U.S. Congress passed legislation overriding a U.S. President's veto. It was the first time the Congress had achieved this.

1849 - The U.S. Department of the Interior was established.

1863 - Free city delivery of mail was authorized by the U.S. Postal Service.

1908 - The U.S. government declared open war on U.S. anarchists.

1931 - "The Star-Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key, became the official national anthem of the United States.

1952 - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld New York's Feinberg Law that banned Communist teachers in the U.S.

On March 4 ...

1778 - The Continental Congress voted to ratify the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance. The two treaties were the first entered into by the U.S. government.

1789 - The first Congress of the United States met in New York and declared that the U.S. Constitution was in effect.

1917 - Jeanette Rankin of Montana took her seat as the first woman elected to the House of Representatives.

1997 - U.S. President Clinton barred federal spending on human cloning.

On March 5 ...

1845 - The U.S. Congress appropriated \$30,000 to ship camels to the western U.S.

1868 - The U.S. Senate was organized into a court of impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson.

1933 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a four-day bank holiday in order to stop large amounts of money from being withdrawn from banks.

1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the ban on segregation in public schools.