



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of October 4, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS SUPPORTS MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT – Saying marriage should “retain its historic meaning,” Congressman Ehlers joined 226 of his colleagues Thursday in supporting the Marriage Protection Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/093004MarriageAmendment.html

EHLERS URGES FBI TO VIGOROUSLY INVESTIGATE ‘DIPLOMA MILLS’ – Expressing deep concern that taxpayers, employers and institutions of higher learning are being defrauded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a year, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers is urging federal officials to investigate and shut down so-called “diploma mills.”

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/092804Diplomamills.html

COMMITTEE ACTION HELPS AVERT CLOSURE OF MANUFACTURING CENTERS – Congressman Ehlers joined House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., and Ranking Minority Member Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., in announcing Thursday that emergency funding has been secured to ensure Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers remain open. MEP, a network of 59 centers and hundreds of satellite offices that provide technical advice to small and medium-sized manufacturers to help them remain globally competitive, is considered one of the federal government’s most successful programs and has been credited with helping save or create tens of thousands of jobs nationwide.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/093004MEPFunding.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004

On Monday, 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 (23 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.R. 1630 - Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act of 2003: Adds approximately 125,000 acres to the park, slightly more than half of which are currently in private ownership. The park is located in Arizona.

2) H.R. 2129 - Taunton, Massachusetts Special Resources Study Act: Directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the appropriate state historic preservation officers, state historical societies, the City of Taunton, and other appropriate organizations, to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System. The study shall be conducted within three years of passage of this act.

3) H.R. 4593 - Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004: Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct specified sales of land in Lincoln County, Nevada, identified for initial or annual disposal to qualified bidders. Segregates such land, with an exception, from all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws (including the mining laws) and operation of the mineral geothermal leasing laws.

4) H.R. 4817 - To facilitate the resolution of a minor boundary encroachment on lands of the Union Pacific Railroad Company in Tipton, California

5) S.Con.Res. 76 - Recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

6) S. 1521 - Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 Land Conveyance Act (*Pahrump, Nevada*)

7) S. 2319 - Tapoco Project Licensing Act of 2004: Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to exchange the flooded park land for approximately 186 acres of land currently owned by ALCOA and located within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Once the land exchange has been completed, the bill would grant FERC the jurisdiction to relicense the Tapoco facility. Agreement on the proposed land exchange is the result of more than seven years of negotiations between ALCOA, the Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and numerous state agencies, environmental organizations and private landowners. The land to be acquired by the National Park Service includes a biologically diverse habitat that is occupied by 21 endangered species, including the Junaluska salamander. Under the negotiated Settlement Agreement, ALCOA will also grant a permanent easement to the Forest Service on 6,000 acres that are adjacent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherokee National Forest and a 40-year recreation easement on more than 4,000 acres to the Tennessee Nature Conservancy.

8) H.R. 2960 - To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Brownsville Public Utility Board water recycling and desalinization project

9) H.R. 3391 - Provo River Project Transfer Act: Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and facilities of the Provo River Project.

10) H.R. 4389 - To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California

11) H.R. 3982 - To direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah

12) S. 1421 - Alaska Native Allotment Subdivision Act: Provides Native landowners the authority to subdivide property they have received under the Native Allotment Act of 1906. Individual Alaska Native landowners cannot subdivide their native allotments to transfer it either by gift or by sale. Native landowners also lack authority to dedicate rights-of-way across their land for public access or for utility purposes. The lack of explicit statutory authorization calls into question the legal validity of lands that have been subdivided in the past and lands that likely could be subdivided in the future. S. 1421 will provide the necessary authorization to Alaska Native landowners to dedicate their land for public purposes, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. S. 1421 allows Alaska Natives to own lands with the same obligations and privileges of other private landowners in Alaska, but creates no obligation of Alaska Natives to do anything with their allotments unless they elect to sell or dispose of their lands.

13) S. 144 - Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004: Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through states to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public and private land.

14) S. 1814 - To transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior: Authorizes the transfer of the Mingo Job Corps CCC in Puxico, Missouri, from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

15) H.Res. 567 - Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program

16) S. 551 - Southern Ute and Colorado Intergovernmental Agreement

Implementation Act of 2003: Provides for the implementation of air quality programs developed in accordance with an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the state of Colorado concerning Air Quality Control on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

17) H.R. 4011 - North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004: To promote human rights, humanitarian transparency, and refugee protection for the people of North Korea. This text is largely identical to the text that the House passed by unanimous voice vote on July 21, 2004. On September 28, the Senate unanimously passed the bill with 3 modest modifications (the product of a bipartisan, consensus amendment introduced by Senators Brownback and Bayh), which necessitates House passage of the Senate amendments to the House text.

18) H.Con.Res. 415 - Urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the presidential election on October 31, 2004

19) H.R. 854 - Belarus Democracy Act of 2003: Authorizes the President to support primarily indigenous Belarusian groups that are committed to the support of democratic processes in various activities that may include: (1) observation of elections and the promotion of free and fair electoral processes, including the development of democratic political parties; (2) development of independent media supported by nonstate-controlled printing facilities; (3) support of human rights; and (4) establishment of international

exchanges and advanced professional training programs for leaders and members of democratic forces that foster the growth of civil society.

20) H.Con.Res. 304 - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding oppression by the Government of the People's Republic of China of Falun Gong in the United States and in China

21) H.Res. 774 - Commending the people and Government of Greece for the successful completion of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games

22) H.Con.Res. 496 - Expressing the sense of Congress with regard to providing humanitarian assistance to countries of the Caribbean devastated by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne

23) H.J.Res. ___ - To Amend H.J.Res 107, as enacted: To provide technical corrections to the Continuing Resolution approved by Congress last week.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (13 bills):

1) H.Con.Res. 306 - Honoring the service of Native American Indians in the United States Armed Forces

2) H.Con.Res. 480 - Recognizing the spirit of Jacob Mock Doub and his contribution to encouraging youth to be physically active and fit and expressing the sense of Congress that "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" should be established in Jacob Mock Doub's honor

3) H.R. 918 - Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2003: *A summary of this bill was not available at the time of publication.*

4) H.R. 3015 - National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003: *A summary of this bill was not available at the time of publication.*

5) H.R. 3858 - Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2004: Amends the Public Health Service Act to: (1) allow pancreata procured for use in islet cell transplantation or research to be counted for certification purposes for qualified organ procurement organization grants; and (2) require the Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordinating Committee to include in its annual report an assessment of the Federal activities and programs related to pancreatic islet cell transplantation.

6) H.R. 2023 - Asthmatic Schoolchildren's Treatment and Health Management Act of 2004: Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give preference when making asthma-related grants to states that require schools to allow students to self-administer medications for asthma and/or anaphylaxis.

7) H.R. 4555 - Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2004: Reauthorizes the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). In 1992, Congress enacted the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure that all women have access to quality mammography for the detection of breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stages. In 1998, Congress reauthorized MQSA through 2002 in the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 1998.

8) H.R. 2929 - Safeguard Against Privacy Invasions (SPY) Act: Prohibits deceptive practices related to spyware programs and requires notice and consent for the execution of information collection programs.

9) H.Con.Res. 250 - Recognizing community organization of public access defibrillation programs: Recognizes the growing number of community activists, organizations, and municipal governments leading the national effort to establish public access defibrillation (PAD) programs; and encourages the continued development and implementation of PAD programs in schools, sports arenas, large hotels, concert halls, high-rise buildings, gated communities, buildings subject to high-security, and similar facilities to increase the survival rate for victims of cardiac arrest.

10) H.Con.Res. 34 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that private health insurance companies should take a proactive role in promoting healthy lifestyles

11) H.R. 4504 - Orderly and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2004: Will expedite the safe placement of foster and adoptive children into homes across State lines. Currently, these placements take an average of one year longer than placements within a single state, delaying the safe placement of thousands of children.

12) H.J.Res. 57 - Expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the contributions of the seven Columbia astronauts by supporting establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning

13) H.R. 5011 - Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act: *A summary of this bill was not available at the time of publication.*

S. 878 - Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2003: Authorizes the creation of certain new U.S. circuit and district judgeships (permanent as well as temporary) and to convert other temporary judgeships to permanent status.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m.

Suspensions (24 bills):

1) H.R. 4302 - District of Columbia Civil Commitment Modernization Act of 2004: Amends the District of Columbia Code to modify the composition of, appointment to, and organization of the Commission on Mental Health. It limits to Commission members who are psychiatrists or qualified psychologists (currently, the Commission or any of its members) the competency to be witnesses at any mental health proceeding. The bill authorizes Superior Court extension for up to 21 days, under certain conditions, of the period for which an individual may be detained for emergency observation and diagnosis in a facility, hospital, or mental health provider.

2) H.Con.Res. 464 - Honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-America City Award: Resolves that Congress honors the cities of Concord, North Carolina; Evansville, Indiana; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Springfield, Ohio; Montevideo, Minnesota; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Stockton, California; Philippi, West Virginia; and Hidalgo, Texas, on receiving the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award.

3) S. 129 - Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2003: Will modernize and update personnel flexibilities and authorities available to agencies of the federal government to assist them in recruiting, retaining, rewarding and managing human capital. The measure will enhance and improve recruitment, retention and relocation bonuses, enhance annual leave entitlements, streamline critical pay authority to enable agencies to fill critical

positions, require agencies to link training activities with performance plans and strategic goals in performing the agency mission, and provide federal employees with the ability to earn compensatory time off for travel that meets specific requirements.

4) H.R. 5131 - Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004: Provides support to Special Olympics to increase athlete participation in and public awareness about the Special Olympics movement; dispels negative stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities; builds athlete and family involvement through sport; and promotes the extraordinary gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

5) H.R. 5185 - To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965

6) H.R. 5186 - To reduce certain special allowance payments and provide additional teacher loan forgiveness on Federal student loans: *A summary of this bill was not available at the time of publication.*

7) H.Res. 805 - Supporting efforts to promote greater public awareness of effective runaway youth prevention programs and the need for safe and productive alternatives, resources, and supports for youth in high-risk situations

8) H.Con.Res. 131 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that student travel is a vital component of the educational process

9) H.Res. 809 - Supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool"

10) H.R. 4306 - To amend section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve the process for verifying an individual's eligibility for employment

11) H.R. 4453 - Access to Rural Physicians Improvement Act of 2004: Amends the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 to extend to one year after enactment of this Act the deadline for seeking waivers of the two-year foreign residence requirement applicable to foreign medical graduates (FMGs) who entered the United States on J-1 (exchange visitor) visas and are seeking to change status.

12) S. 1194 - Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003: amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible state and local governments and Indian tribes and organizations to plan and implement programs that: (1) promote public safety by ensuring access to mental health and other treatment services for mentally ill adults or juveniles; and (2) are overseen cooperatively by a criminal justice agency, juvenile justice agency, or mental health court and a mental health agency (collaboration programs).

13) S. 2742 - To extend certain authority of the Supreme Court Police, modify the venue of prosecutions relating to the Supreme Court building and grounds, and authorize the acceptance of gifts to the United States Supreme Court

14) H.Res. 389 - Honoring the young victims of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing, recognizing the historical significance of the tragic event, and commending the efforts of law enforcement personnel to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice on the occasion of its 40th anniversary

15) H.R. 4620 - To confirm the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation to enter into memorandums of understanding with a State regarding the collection of approved State commodity assessments on behalf of the State from the proceeds of marketing assistance loans

16) H.R. 4569 - To provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death

17) H.R. 3514 - Pennsylvania National Forest Improvement Act of 2003: Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to: (1) convey specified National Forest System lands and administrative sites in Pennsylvania; (2) convey the Sheffield Ranger District Headquarters to the Warren County Development Association, Warren County, Pennsylvania; and (3) convey, without consideration, the Marienville ranger residence to the Marienville Volunteer Fire Department, Forest County, Pennsylvania.

18) H.R. 2984 - To amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order applicable to pears

19) H.Res. 481 - Recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States

20) H.Res. 261 - Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the efforts of organizations such as Second Harvest to provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States

21) H.R. 5042 - To amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education

22) S. 33 - To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests (Arkansas)

23) H.R. 2119 - To provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina

24) H.R. 4661 - Internet Spyware (I-SPY) Prevention Act of 2004: Enhances existing fraud and computer crime law with strong criminal penalties targeting egregious abuses perpetrated Internet users by persons who maliciously employ various covert software applications, programs, applets, or computer code commonly known as "spyware." H.R. 4661, as amended, also provides resources and guidance to the Department of Justice for the dedicated prosecution of these offenses as well as fraudulent online identity theft ("phishing") offenses and similar computer crimes.

H.R. 5107 - Justice for All Act of 2004: Enhances the rights and protections for all persons involved in the criminal justice system. H.R. 5107 does this through two different, but complementary mechanisms: (1) a new set of statutory victims' rights that are both enforceable in a court of law and supported by fully-funded victims' assistance programs; and (2) a comprehensive DNA bill that seeks to ensure that the true offender is caught and convicted for the crime.

H.R. 10 - 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act: *A summary of this legislation was not available at time of publication.*

*** Possible Motions to go to Conference**

*** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

Historical Tidbits

On Oct. 4 ...

1997 - Hundreds of thousands of men attended a Promise Keepers rally on the Mall in Washington, DC.

2001 - NATO granted the United States open access to their airfields and seaports and agreed to deploy ships and early-warning radar planes in the war on terrorism.

2001 - In Washington, DC, Reagan National Airport re-opened. The airport had been closed since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

On Oct. 5 ...

1937 - U.S. President Roosevelt called for a "quarantine" of aggressor nations.

On Oct. 6 ...

1949 - U.S. president Harry Truman signed the Mutual Defense Assistance Act. The act provided \$1.3 billion in the form of military aid to NATO countries.

1961 - U.S. president John F. Kennedy advised American families to build or buy bomb shelters to protect them in the event of a nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union.

On Oct. 7 ...

1765 - Nine American colonies send a total of 28 delegates to New York City for the Stamp Act Congress. The delegates adopt the "Declaration of Rights and Grievances."

1956 - A U.S. House subcommittee began investigations of allegedly rigged TV quiz shows.

1963 - U.S. President Kennedy signed a nuclear test ban treaty with Britain and the Soviet Union.

1993 - U.S. President Clinton sent more troops, heavy armor, and naval firepower to Somalia.

1998 - The U.S. government filed an antitrust suit that alleged Visa and MasterCard inhibit competition by preventing banks from offering other cards.

On Oct. 8 ...

1945 - U.S. President Truman announced that only Britain and Canada would be given the secret to the atomic bomb.

1966 - The U.S. Government declares that LSD is dangerous and an illegal substance.

1993 - The U.S. government issued a report absolving the FBI of any wrongdoing in its final assault in Waco, Texas, on the Branch Davidian compound. The fire that ended the siege killed as many as 85 people.

2003 - Vietnam and the United States reached a tentative agreement that would allow the first commercial flights between the two countries since the end of the Vietnam War.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)