



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 2123 – School Readiness Act of 2005 (*Rep. Castle – Education and the Workforce*) (*Subject to a Rule*). Unlike the bill that passed the House in the 108th Congress, this bill abandons a partisan Republican proposal pushed in 2003 to block-grant the Head Start program. HR 2123 authorizes \$6.899 billion for fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2007 through 2011. The Education and the Workforce Committee reported this bill on a bipartisan basis on June 16th. However, Republicans will attempt to disrupt bipartisan support for this bill by offering a controversial and partisan amendment – the Boustany Amendment -- to repeal longstanding civil rights protections in the Head Start program.

The Rules Committee has recommended a restrictive rule that provides one hour of general debate, provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions, and makes in order 12 amendments. All but one of the amendments are debatable for 10 minutes:

- **Castle Manager's Amendment.** Among other provisions, to revise the financial audit language in Section 17 to ensure that financial audit requirements for Head Start programs are consistent with those required under the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1986. In addition, the amendment builds on parental consent requirements included in HR 2123 as reported, to further clarify that any health service available to children in Head Start may not be performed without the prior written consent of the parent.
- **Souder Amendment.** To restore the current joint governance structure of the Head Start program by allowing the policy councils (which are composed of 51 percent current Head Start parents and 49 percent community representatives) to approve or disapprove most program planning and operation activities along with the board of directors. In the event of an impasse, the board and policy council would enter into a mediation process with a third party – as under current regulations. This amendment also gives the board the discretionary authority to act unilaterally without policy council approval in all cases involving serious fiscal management, fraud or criminal activity.
- **DeLauro Amendment.** To allow Head Start centers to develop or maintain partnerships with institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations that recruit, train, place and support college students to serve as mentors and reading coaches to preschool children in Head Start programs.
- **Stearns Amendment.** To include in section 18 "Children with Disabilities" in the list of areas for training to be provided by the Secretary of Education.
- **Davis (IL) Amendment.** To direct the Secretary to implement an outreach program to train and recruit African-American and Latino-American men to become Head Start teachers in order to increase the provision of quality services and instruction to children with diverse backgrounds.
- **Kind Amendment.** To suspend further implementation of the National Reporting System while the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) conducts a review and provides guidance on appropriate child outcomes and assessments for young children, as authorized in HR 2123.

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- **Mica Amendment.** To direct the Secretary of HHS to undergo a management reform initiative; and require HHS to utilize an outside management consulting firm to recommend and support the implementation of internal reforms to improve the Head Start Bureau's operational effectiveness.
- **Filner Amendment.** To require a study to assess the impact of new Head Start teacher qualification and development regulations on teacher retention.
- **Millender-McDonald Amendment.** To direct Head Start grantees to increase their outreach to homeless and foster children; encourage coordination between Head Start grantees and community service providers for homeless and foster children; and allow homeless children and foster children to be automatically eligible for Head Start.
- **Musgrave Amendment.** To allow for-profit providers of Head Start services to take profits from the 15% administrative account.
- **Thompson (MS) Amendment.** To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to assist Head Start programs in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. It requires the Secretary to provide additional technical assistance, guidance, and resources to Head Start agencies in affected areas, waives documentation requirements for six months, and provides the Secretary with waiver authority to exempt programs from providing their local match.
- **Boustany Amendment (30 minutes).** To allow faith based-sponsored Head Start programs to use federal taxpayer dollars to discriminate against qualified teachers and other employees solely because of their religion or personal religious views. This would be the first time in Head Start's 30-year history that this is allowed. Faith-based organizations have long participated in the Head Start program and have successfully received federal funding without discriminating with those funds. Current law fully permits religious organizations to exercise a preference in religion in making hiring decisions when they are using private funds. **The National Head Start Association, along with major civil rights and religious organizations, opposes this amendment and would oppose final passage of HR 2123 if this amendment is added to the bill. Democrats are urged to VOTE NO.**

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"The widening investigation of lobbyist Jack Abramoff is moving beyond the confines of tawdry influence-peddling to threaten leading figures in the Republican hierarchy that dominates Washington.

This week's arrest of David Safavian, the former head of procurement at the Office of Management and Budget, in connection with a land deal involving Abramoff brings the probe to the White House for the first time.

Safavian once worked with Abramoff at one lobbying firm and was a partner of Grover Norquist, a national Republican strategist with close ties to the White House, at another."

- A story by *Bloomberg* today