



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	???

**** AN IMPORTANT VOTE ON THE REPUBLICAN RECONCILIATION BILL WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY. MEMBER ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE CALL THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF A MEMBER ANTICIPATES NOT BEING IN ATTENDANCE.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Long delays on the floor are possible as the Republican Leadership struggles to pass its bill.

H.Res.542 – Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4241 – GOP Reconciliation Bill. The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides two hours of general debate, provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions, and allows for the Chair to postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. The Republican rule self-executes a Manager's Amendment that drops the section on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) oil drilling, the section on offshore drilling, and provides two limited exceptions to the cuts in the bill for legal immigrants receiving food stamps. However, all these provisions are likely to be added back in a final conference report.

H.R. 4241 – GOP Reconciliation Bill (Rep. Nussle - Budget Committee). As reported out of committee, this bill cuts more than \$53 billion over five years from vital services for disadvantaged Americans and hurricane victims, in order to partially offset the cost of over \$106 billion in tax cuts (if the Republican rule is adopted, the bill would still cut more than \$50 billion dollars from important programs). These additional Republican cuts are even worse than those prescribed under their irresponsible FY06 Budget Resolution, which increases the deficit and all Democrats opposed.

Republicans add to the deficit while cutting Medicaid and squeezing middle-class working families. Although no part of the Bush tax cut expires this year, the GOP budget included reconciliation instructions that protect nearly \$70 billion out of \$106 billion in total planned tax cuts. Republicans are now trying to use the response to natural disasters (like Hurricane Katrina) as a guise to cut \$53 billion in mandatory spending, \$19 billion more from programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, Student Loans and Child Support than the \$35 billion cut target in the FY06 Budget Resolution. When combined with the tax cuts, the Republican budget policies will increase the deficit by over \$100 billion over five years (while the national debt exceeds \$8 trillion and the annual cost of interest on the debt has increased to over \$300 billion a year). After years of neglecting fiscal responsibility and borrowing to pay for tax cuts and to reconstruct Baghdad, Republicans are now cutting programs that primarily serve disadvantaged Americans in order to pay for reconstructing Biloxi and New Orleans.

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Eight Authorizing Committees cut a combined \$53.9 billion in mandatory spending reductions that harm American families:

- **Education and the Workforce: \$20 billion** – Includes over \$14 billion in cuts to student aid programs, including raising the cost of college for students and their families through increased interest rates and loan fees. The committee included \$6 billion in increased pension premiums from companies to the PBGC. Chairman Boehner also recommended for inclusion a \$2.5 billion voucher program even though it was defeated in committee with bipartisan opposition.
- **Energy and Commerce: \$17 billion** – Including nearly \$10 billion in Medicaid cuts to health services for poor children and long-term care patients, and increasing the cost of prescription drugs for beneficiaries. The committee also auctions more spectrum as a result of the transition to digital television, forcing millions of Americans to buy converter boxes to keep their televisions working.
- **Ways and Means: \$8 billion** – Including nearly \$5 billion in reductions for child support enforcement, \$1.3 billion in reductions to Foster Care and SSI disability payments, reductions in child care services under TANF welfare to work programs, and ending over \$3 billion in anti-dumping trade duties that are currently paid to industries affected by unfair trade practices.
- **Agriculture: \$3.7 billion** – Including \$844 million in Food Stamp cuts, eliminating nutrition and school lunch and breakfast benefits for hundreds of thousands of families and children, \$1 billion in farm commodity programs and over a \$1 billion in rural development, conservation and energy program cuts and eliminations.
- **Resources: \$3.7 billion** – Including revenues assumed from the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas drilling (these two provisions would be dropped from the bill if the self-executing Republican rule is adopted). The Committee recommendation also prohibits the federal government from increasing the royalties that could be charged to the oil and gas companies making record profits.
- **Financial Services: \$470 million** – Includes savings derived from the elimination of federal housing rehab grants used to make rental units available to low income families, which could include families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Judiciary: \$428 million** - mostly from increasing fees for certain visas.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure: \$156 million** – from increased vessel tonnage duties

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Republican Reconciliation Bill.

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bill):

- 1) **H.R. 3665** - Veterans Housing and Employment Improvement Act of 2005 (*Rep. Boozman - Veterans` Affairs*)
- 2) **H.R. 1953** - San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act (*Rep. Pelosi - Financial Services*)

Daily Quote...

"I do not know how anyone can say with a straight face that when we voted to cut spending last week to help achieve deficit reductions, we can now then turn around two weeks later to provide tax cuts that exceed the reduction in spending. That is beyond me, and I am sure the American people."

- Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), this morning in *The Washington Post*