

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Rob White/Drew Crockett
(202) 225-5074

Government Reform Committee to Consider
D.C. College Access Reauthorization, Key Civil Service Bills

What: Government Reform Committee Business Meeting

When: THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004, 10:00 A.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

The Government Reform Committee will hold a business meeting to mark up the following legislation:

H.R. 4012, The District of Columbia College Access Reauthorization Act of 2004.

On March 23, 2004, Chairman Tom Davis and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced H.R. 4012, to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize the D.C. Tuition Assistance Program. A hearing was held last Thursday, March 25, to consider the reauthorization legislation. The original legislation was signed into law in November 1999 and the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program has been in operation since 2000. The original authorization expires after FY2005. Given the tremendous success of the Program – freshman enrollment of D.C. high school graduates in college increased 28% from 1998 to 2002, compared the national average of 5% – this legislation would reauthorize the Program in future years, subject to appropriations.

H.R. 3737, The Pay Compression Relief Act of 2004.

H.R. 3737, as approved by the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization on March 17, 2004, seeks to address the problem of pay compression among administrative law judges (ALJs), members of contract appeals boards, and certain senior level employees outside the Senior Executive Service. The legislation would raise the

cap on rates of pay for these employees, thus allowing the establishment of salaries that reflect differences in position responsibility.

H.R. 3751, as approved by the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization on March 17, 2004, seeks to begin a collaborative process by which Congress and OPM can develop a solution to the meager dental and vision (including glaucoma) benefits currently available through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, while also looking into options for providing hearing benefits. H.R. 3751 requires OPM to study and evaluate options under which dental, vision, and hearing benefits could be made available to federal employees – either as part of the existing FEHBP plans, as a stand-alone option, or as a hybrid of the two. The legislation allows OPM to assess whether the benefits should be contracted for on a regional or national basis and whether any regular Government contributions or allocation for start-up costs might be necessary or appropriate. The legislation gives OPM six months following enactment of the legislation to report their findings and analysis to Congress.

H.R.1822, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3751 West 6th Street in Los Angeles, California, as the “Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office”. Dosan Ahn Chang Ho was an influential Korean American leader who established schools and social organizations for Korean Americans in California at the beginning of the 20th Century.

H.R. 3939, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14-24 Abbott Road in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the “Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building”. Officer Collura, an 18-year veteran of the Fair Lawn Police Department in New Jersey, was fatally shot by a suspect she was trying to arrest on April 17, 2003.

H.R. 3942, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the “Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building”. This legislation honors Rhode Island’s military servicemen and women who have lost their lives in the defense of the United States.

H.R. 4037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 475 Kell Farm Drive in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the “Richard G. Wilson Processing and Distribution Facility.” Private Richard Wilson was posthumously awarded the nation’s highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor, in 1951 for his distinguished service in the Korean War.

H. Res. 399, honoring the life and legacy of Melvin Jones and recognizing the contributions of Lions Clubs International. Chicago businessman Melvin Jones formed the International Association of Lions Clubs—now the world’s largest service club organization—in 1917.

H. Res. 578, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. The National Council on Economic Education and several partner organizations have designated April as “Financial Literacy Month” to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy in the United States.

S. Con. Res. 97, recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Garden Club of America. The Garden Club of America has become a recognized leader in the fields of horticulture, civic improvement, and environmental protection. The Garden Club of America is holding its 91st annual meeting in Washington, DC from April 24-27, 2004.

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