



H. Con. Res. 134 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 134 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Albert Wynn (D-MD) on May 4, 2007. The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce but was not considered.

H.Con.Res. 134 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 19, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 134 resolves that it is the sense of Congress that:

- Open access to mental health treatment and services and public awareness of mental illness is of paramount importance;
- There is an important need for improved access to care, treatment and services for those diagnosed with severe and persistent mental health disorders, and improved public awareness of mental illness; and
- An appropriate month should be recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness and mental illness among minorities.

BACKGROUND

Bebe Moore Campbell (co-founder of National Alliance for the Mentally III Urban Los Angeles, University of Pittsburgh Trustee and educator, and recipient of numerous awards and honors) was recognized for her advocacy and fight to bring awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities with the release of her New York Times best selling novel, "72 Hour Hold", and her children's book "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry", which both bring awareness to the plight of those with brain disorders.

According to the National Alliance for Mentally III (NAMI), the direct and indirect costs to the workplace resulting from mental illness total over \$34,000,000 annually.

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