



## **H.RES. 1420 – EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Res. 1420 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 Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) on September 9, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1420 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 11, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Res. 1420 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration;
- Extends its deepest condolences again to the friends, families, and loved ones of the innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;
- Honors the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims and, in so doing, bravely risked and often sacrificed their own lives;
- Expresses gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted and continue to stand in solidarity with the United States against terrorism in the aftermath of the attacks;
- Asserts in the strongest possible terms that the war on terrorists and terrorism is not a war on any nation, any people, or any faith;
- Recognizes the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, the United States diplomatic service, and their families, who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, in defense of their country against terrorists and their supporters;
- Vows that it will continue to take whatever actions are appropriate to identify, intercept, and defeat terrorists, including providing the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service with the resources and support to effectively and safely accomplish this mission; and
- Reaffirms that the American people will never forget the sacrifices made on and since September 11, 2001, and will defeat those who attacked our Nation through our shared determination, spirit, and embrace of democratic values.

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### BACKGROUND

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On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four private carrier airplanes. Two of these airplanes were crashed into the World Trade Center towers in New York City's lower Manhattan, and a third airplane was crashed into the Pentagon building just outside Washington, D.C. The hijackers intended to similarly use the fourth plane, United Flight 93, as a weapon against the U.S. The actions of the flight passengers and



crew prevented such lethal use of the plane by the terrorists, and caused the plane to crash in a rural field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center buildings, the Pentagon, and the crash of United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives on September 11. Of the World Trade Center victims, ninety eight percent were at work, with the youngest victim being 2 and one-half years old. This estimated figure includes people from over 90 countries as well as over 340 New York firefighters and 23 New York police officers who lost their lives in rescue efforts.

The terrorist organization of al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the attacks of September 11, and the United States has worked in cooperation with other nations to confront and destroy terrorist organizations at work in the U.S. and around the world.

The Pentagon Memorial, dedicated to those who lost their lives in the attack on the Pentagon, will open to the public at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 11, 2008. The Memorial is located on the Pentagon grounds, just outside of Washington, D.C. [Pentagon Memorial](#)

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#### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

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[H.Res. 643](#) passed the House on September 10, 2007 by a vote of 334 to 1.

[H.Res. 994](#) passed the House on September 13, 2006 by a vote of 395 to 22.

[H.Res. 427](#) passed the House on September 8, 2005 by a vote of 402 to 6.

[H.Res. 757](#) passed the House on September 9, 2004 by a vote of 406 to 16.

[H.Con.Res. 464](#) passed the House on September 11, 2002 by a vote of 370 to 0.

[H.J.Res 61](#) passed the House on September 13, 2001 by a vote of 408 to 0.

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#### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6532 – To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6532 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 Charles Rangel (D-NY) on July 17, 2008. The House passed H.R. 6532 on July 23, 2008, by a vote of 387 to 37, and the Senate passed the bill on September 10, 2008, by voice vote.

H.R. 6532, as passed by the Senate, is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 11, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6532 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to transfer \$8.017 billion from the U.S. Treasury General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund on the date of enactment.

*\*Note: H.R. 6532 as passed by the House on July 23, 2008, would have transferred the funds on September 30, 2008.*

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### BACKGROUND

The Highway Trust Fund (HTF) was created by the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 (P.L. 84-627). This fund is used to finance the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. The Highway Trust Fund is funded by tax revenues from taxes on fuels and truck-related taxes on truck tires, sales of trucks and trailers, and heavy vehicle use.

According to early estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the HTF was expected to have a \$1.4 billion budgetary shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2009. However, because of dramatically increased gas prices, Americans are purchasing less fuel and therefore are depositing less gas taxes into the Highway Trust Fund. The decrease in revenues to the Highway Trust Fund accelerated the timeline for reaching the projected shortfall, and on September 5, 2008, Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, announced that immediate Congressional action was needed to delay the Highway Trust Fund shortfall.

[Shortfall Announcement by Secretary Peters](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6532 as of September 11, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.