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Floor Briefing

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2001

The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business.
The last vote is expected between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Bill Subject to a Rule (1 bill):

H.R. 503 – Unborn Victims of Violence Act

Floor Situation

On Tuesday, the Rules Committee reported a modified closed rule for the consideration of H.R. 503, which: (1) provides two hours of general debate; (2) makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the *Congressional Record* numbered 1, if offered by Rep. Lofgren or a designee, which is debatable for one hour; and (3) provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instruction.

For additional information on the rule, please contact the Rules Committee at 5-9191 or visit

http://www.house.gov/rules/special_rules.htm.

Summary

H.R. 503 amends current federal law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, making it a federal crime to harm an unborn child—defined as "a member of the species *homo sapien*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb"—during the commission of a violent criminal act. Federal judges may levy the same punishment as if the injury or death occurred to the unborn child's mother, excluding the death penalty. The measure exempts abortions performed with the mother's consent.

H.R. 503 was introduced by Mr. Graham on February 7, 2001. It was reported from the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 15-9. An identical bill, H.R. 2436, passed the House on September 30, 1999 by a vote of [254 – 172](#). The Senate did not act on the measure. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 503 will not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Because enactment of H.R. 503 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts will not be significant.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Judiciary Committee at 5-3951.

Amendment

Ms. Lofgren will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that enhances the sentence for any violent federal crime against a pregnant woman that "interrupts" or "terminates" her pregnancy. The substitute provides that an "interruption" of a pregnancy is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment of up to 20 years. For "termination" of a pregnancy, the substitute authorizes additional punishment of a fine and/or up to life imprisonment. The substitute amendment includes no reference to unborn children. **60 Minutes**

For additional information or questions, please contact John Flannery in Rep. Lofgren's office at 5-3072.

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