



H.Con.Res. 318 – Supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 318 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 Donald Payne (D-NJ) on March 14, 2008. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to the resolution, as amended, by unanimous consent on April 30, 2008.

H.Con.Res. 318 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 10, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 318 resolves that the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring:

- Supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation;
- Recognizes the importance of sanitation in terms of public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development and the environment; and
- Encourages the people of the United States to observe the International Year of Sanitation with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of sanitation and hygiene in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target on basic sanitation among populations at greatest need.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation. The goal of the Year is to raise awareness about sanitation and to accelerate progress towards the UN's Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.

Approximately 2.6 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation facilities, including almost one billion children. Poor sanitation is known to lead to cholera, pneumonia, dysentery and skin infections, among other ailments. The lowest rates of adequate sanitation in the world are found in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.