

ROLL CALL REPORT

Knollenberg, Carr vote against family leave bill

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Feb. 5

HOUSE

Yes to approve family leave: By a vote of 247 for and 152 against, the House sent to President Clinton a bill (HR 1) requiring employers of at least 50 workers to provide unpaid annual leave of up to 12 weeks for childbirth or other medical circumstances involving an employee or close family member.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Ford, D-Ypsilanti. Voting no were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac and Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.

No to apply family leave to Congress: By a vote of 175 for and 253 against, the House refused to fully apply the family leave measure (above) to members of Congress.

A yes vote was to subject members of Congress to full reach of the new family leave law. Area representatives voting yes were: Knollenberg. Voting no were: Carr, Kildee, Levin and Ford.

No to exempt key employees: The House rejected, 185 for and 238 against, a GOP-drafted amendment giving employers more flexibility under the family and medical leave measure (above). The amendment allowed employers to deny leave to workers at any pay level whose absence would cause substantial economic harm to the company or pose a safety risk to co-workers.

Sponsor William Goodling.

R-Pa., said "Clearly an employer could use this exception only in cases of true circumstances which are true, die emergencies."

Opponent William Ford, D-Mich., said the amendment would "totally destroy the availability of the basic right of the bill," which is to help workers cope with emergencies at home.

A yes vote supported the amendment. Area representatives voting yes were: Carr, Knollenberg. Voting no: Kildee, Levin and Ford.

Yes to ease voter registration: By a vote of 259 for and 160 against, the House sent the Senate a "motor voter" bill (HR 2) requiring states to make voter registration a voluntary part of applying for a driver's license and certain other public certificates, and to allow registration by mail.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Carr, Kildee, Levin, Ford. Voting no was: Knollenberg.

SENATE

Gays in the military amendment defeated: By a vote of 62 for and 37 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment giving force of law to the military services' policy of excluding homosexuals because of their sexual orientation. The GOP-drafted amendment was in response to President Clinton's efforts to phase-out the policy.

A yes vote opposed writing into law the Pentagon ban on homosexuals. Carl Levin and Don Riegle voted yes.

Yes on family and medical leave: The Senate passed, 71 for and 27 against, a bill (S 1) mandating that employers of at least 50 workers provide employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave annually to deal with childbirth and other medical conditions involving themselves or a close family member.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin and Donald Riegle both voted yes.

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7 - 9 p.m. Thursday, February 18 Holiday Inn/Ann Arbor 3750 Washtenaw Avenue Ann Arbor

Speaker: Alexander Dlugi, M.D., division head of reproductive endocrinology, gynecology and obstetrics department, Henry Ford Medical Group, and medical director of the Henry Ford IVF America Program.

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