

ROLL CALL REPORT

# Levin, Riegle lose on Medicaid abortion funding

Here's how *Observer & Eccentric*-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Oct. 1

**HOUSE**

**Defense Budget:** By a vote of 268 for and 162 against, the administration's first military budget (HR 2401). The \$262.8 billion, post-Cold War measure spends four percent less than the comparable bill of a year ago. It cuts missile funds by 25 percent to \$3 billion, shifting from a space-based "Star Wars" priority to the development of interceptor missiles such as the Patriot, which can be deployed in war theaters around the globe. It lowers active-duty strength by 108,000 troops to 1.62 million, provides \$979 million for the former Soviet Union, awards a 2.2 percent military pay hike in January and provides \$6 billion to help defense-dependent communities, workers and companies convert to a civilian economy.

Supporter Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., said, "We have turned a magnificent corner" but have more to do to adapt military spending to a post-Soviet world.

Opponent Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., said defense spending should cut even deeper given the

demise of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries. A yes vote was to pass the bill.

**Area representatives voting yes were:** Bob Carr, D-Pontiac; Dale Kildee, D-Flint; Sander Levin, D-Southfield; William Ford, D-Ypsilanti. **Voting no:** Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.

**Somalia:** By a vote of 406 for and 26 against, the House called upon President Clinton to obtain congressional approval if he wants to keep U.S. troops in Somalia after Nov. 15 in United Nations peacekeeping force. The amendment was added to HR 2401 (above). Several thousand U.S. troops remain in Somalia under U.N. command, down from last year's peak deployment of 25,000 on a mission to ease mass starvation.

Supporter Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., said, "Our goal should be to reduce and to eliminate the United States military presence in Somalia as soon as possible."

Opponent Dan Burton, R-Ind., said the measure was weak in that it lacked a deadline for bringing U.S. troops home.

A yes vote was to require congressional approval of any U.S. troop deployment in Somalia after Nov. 15. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Carr, Kildee, Knollenberg, Levin, Ford.

**Gays in the Military:** The House voted 301 for and 134 against to write restrictive language on gays in the military into HR 2401 (above). The language goes beyond the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy sought by President Clinton. But it stops short of requiring recruits to be asked about their sexual preference. It permits discharging gays who engage in an attempt to engage in homosexual acts.

Sponsor Ike Skelton, D-Mo., said, "There is no constitutional right to serve in the armed forces. The primary purpose of our armed forces is to prepare for and prevail in combat."

Opponent John Lewis, D-Ga., said, "Gays and lesbians are citizens like all other Americans and deserve the same rights as all other Americans. That includes the right to serve their country."

A yes vote was to write into law traditional Pentagon restrictions on gays in the military. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Carr, Kildee, Knollenberg, Levin, Ford. **Voting no:** Ford.

that any such future deployments are in the national interest.

Supporter Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said, "The whining sound you hear are American military dead turning over in their graves at the prospect of command of their forces being turned over to the U.N. in whose Security Council now sits the Cape Verde Islands, for example. The president has an obligation to certify . . . It safeguards the command and control of our troops."

Opponent Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., said, "In the post-Cold War World we must move forward and understand the need to work in these (UN) coalition efforts. To proclaim as national policy we will not do so, we send an extraordinarily negative message to the world at a time when we ought to be moving in coalition efforts to bring sanity and peace to the world."

A yes vote supported the certification requirements. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Kildee, Knollenberg. **Voting no:** Carr, Levin, Ford.

**Command and Control:** By a vote of 192 for and 238 against, the House rejected a motion limiting the deployment of American forces under United Nations command. The Republican motion to HR 2401 (above) sought to require the president to certify to Congress

**Discharge Petitions:** By a vote of 384 for and 40 against, the House adopted a measure (H Res 134) to make public the names of members signing a discharge petition. The petition is a device by which a majority of members — 218 — can force a reluctant committee to send a bill to the floor.

The vote ends the traditional practice of keeping petitioners' names secret until the majority threshold is crossed. The new openness will expose those members who claim to support a bill at the same time they condone its demise in committee. But critics say it will weaken the legislative process by making lawmakers more vulnerable to interest groups.

Supporter Dick Amey, D-Tex., said a petitioner "who has not enough backbone to say no to a lobbyist does not belong in Congress . . . A politician who fears sunlight is a walking argument for term limits."

Opponent Joe Moakley, D-Mass., said the resolution "will contribute to the decline of the deliberative process and will allow narrow special interest pressure groups to exert enormous leverage" on lawmakers.

A yes vote was to remove secrecy from discharge petitions. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Carr, Kildee, Knollenberg, Levin, Ford. **Voting no:** Ford.

program that spends \$2.5 million annually to help the National Rifle Association and private gun clubs teach shooting skills to young people. The Civilian Marksmanship Program, set up after the Spanish-American War, donates ammunition to participating clubs. The vote occurred during debate on the 1994 defense appropriations bill (HR 3116).

Amendment supporter Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said the program "is an indictment of our national priorities. This Congress has been unable to provide funding for children who are eligible for Head Start. Children go to school each day and there are not hot lunches, but we find \$2.5 million to give them free ammunition."

Opponent Harold Walker, D-Mo., said "people who have spoken in favor of this amendment really come from a different world than those of us who have learned to use guns and use them rationally . . . I for one believe we need gun safety in the United States, and this program helps with gun safety."

A yes vote was to terminate the program. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Kildee, Knollenberg.

See ROLL CALL, 17A

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