



HouseWatch Alert for the week of Feb. 27, 2017

With the flurry of news out of Washington, D.C., it can be hard to follow what legislation is being voted on and how it affects you. To help you cut through the noise and inform you directly about what is happening in the U.S. House each week, I have started "HouseWatch" as suggested by a Tampa constituent. This week in the U.S. House, Republicans have scheduled votes on bills aimed at rolling back consumer protections and attacking rules intended to protect workers. Share your views on any of these bills:

H.R. 998 – SCRUB Act - Establishes an unelected \$30 million commission, increase bureaucracy and wastes money when Congress already has the authority to review agency rules.

H.J. Res. 83 – Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness" - Disapproves Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule requiring employers to keep a record of a workplace injury or illness for a five year period. Record-keeping would be a six-month period instead.

H.R. 1009 – OIRA Insight, Reform, and Accountability Act - Would require agencies to submit proposed rules to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for approval and newly allow the White House to improperly influence the rule-making process and undermine the independence of independent agencies.

H.R. 1004 – Regulatory Integrity Act - Would prohibit agencies from informing the public about regulatory actions even on social media. This bill's requirements are overly stringent and will have a chilling effect on public statements by an agency.

Not Scheduled - Republicans have delayed any legislation on the Affordable Care Act repeal and harmful changes to Medicare & Medicaid.

My Energy & Commerce Committee - A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 at 10:15 AM where Olympian Michael Phelps and others will testify on ways to improve and strengthen the international anti-doping system. Another hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM examining the Food and Drug Administration's generic drug and biosimilar user fee programs.

Joint Session of Congress - Tampa Neighbor Kathy Palmer is my guest to Pres. Trump's first address to a Joint Session of Congress. Ms. Palmer says the Affordable Care Act is the only way she can afford health insurance and saved her from economic ruin after a trip to the emergency room. Read more [here](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy