

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1090

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to encourage consensus and increase accountability and transparency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. BERA, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. FASO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TROTT, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SOTO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to encourage consensus and increase accountability and transparency, and for other purposes.

Whereas, for nearly two years, the Members of the Problem Solvers Caucus have worked together finding bipartisan agreement on the toughest issues facing Congress;

Whereas the Problems Solvers Caucus proposed a health care compromise to stabilize the individual marketplace, an agreement on our Nation's DREAMERS and border se-

curity, support for gun and school safety legislation, and recommendations for a bipartisan infrastructure package;

Whereas the Problem Solvers Caucus' progress and bipartisan cooperation as a whole has been hampered because of House Rules that enable a few Members to hold most of the power; and

Whereas, to make the House work again for the American people, the Problem Solvers Caucus is offering the "Break the Gridlock" draft proposal: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that to encourage and reward consensus driv-
 3 en governing, foster the passage of member initiatives
 4 solving constituent priorities, increase accountability and
 5 transparency, and elect a Speaker that is representative
 6 of the entire body, the House should adopt the following
 7 proposals:

8 (1) To prevent the Speaker from being held
 9 hostage by a small fraction of his/her party, replace
 10 the rule allowing a "Motion to Vacate the Chair"
 11 with a public petition process that must be signed by
 12 $\frac{1}{3}$ of the House Members to earn privileged consid-
 13 eration on the floor and a majority (218 votes) of
 14 the whole House to successfully remove the Speaker
 15 from the position.

16 (2) Ensure that the party ratios on all commit-
 17 tees (excluding Ethics which shall remain equally di-

1 vided, but including Rules, Intelligence, and all other
2 Joint and Select Committees) reflect the party ratio
3 of the entire House.

4 (3) Require a $\frac{3}{5}$ supermajority, of those
5 present and voting, for passage and consideration of
6 legislation under closed rules. The remaining legisla-
7 tion should be open or structured.

8 (4) Require any structured rule to have at least
9 one germane amendment from each party, if offered,
10 which means that at least one amendment offered by
11 a representative from each party shall not contain in
12 advance any waiver of germane points of order
13 against its consideration.

14 (5) To encourage Committee and floor consider-
15 ation of member initiatives, establish a fast-track
16 procedure to enable bipartisan legislation and
17 amendments to receive priority consideration as fol-
18 lows:

19 (A) Any legislative bill (not resolution)
20 that gains at least $\frac{2}{3}$ cosponsors (290 Mem-
21 bers) or a majority of Members of each party,
22 must be marked up by its relevant committees
23 and reported to the Rules Committee within 30
24 legislative days of receiving its 290th cosponsor.
25 The Rules Committee shall report a rule unless

1 the majority +1 of the entire Committee rejects
2 the rule. This will ensure that legislation with
3 broad support gets appropriate committee and
4 floor consideration.

5 (B) Any germane amendment offered to a
6 bill with a structured rule that has at least 20
7 Republican and 20 Democrat cosponsors must
8 be allowed floor consideration by the Rules
9 Committee. This will ensure that amendments
10 with wide bipartisan appeal get due consider-
11 ation on the floor.

12 (C) Ensure Committee-passed bills get to
13 the floor by providing for privileged consider-
14 ation of bills passed out of committee after a
15 gestation period. The Rules Committee shall re-
16 port a rule unless the majority +1 of the entire
17 Committee rejects the rule.

18 (6) Once per session, all Members of Congress
19 shall be granted a markup on at least one piece of
20 legislation, as designated by the Member, that has at
21 least one cosponsor from the opposite party and is
22 referred to a Committee on which they serve.

23 (7) Establish a bipartisan annual joint meeting
24 at the U.S. Capitol at the beginning of each Con-

1 gress to discuss the terms legislative agenda and
2 help encourage bipartisan cooperation.

3 (8) Require a minimum of a 3-business-day no-
4 tice of a committee markup, unless the committee
5 chairman and ranking minority member agree to a
6 different schedule. (This is meant to keep the minor-
7 ity from being unduly surprised with short notice to
8 prepare, and is in reference to House Rule XI,
9 Clause 2(g)(4)).

10 (9) Require a majority vote on all Committees
11 to enable the Chair to waive jurisdiction over legisla-
12 tion that has been assigned to the committee by the
13 Parliamentarian.

14 (10) The election of the Speaker of the House
15 requires an absolute majority of all Members of the
16 House, regardless of whether they are present.

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