

single day. And I would encourage the American people, when they turn on the 6 o'clock news or any 24-hour news channel and they do not hear about what is going on in Afghanistan, that means it is one more day of success.

So I yield back, and again thank the gentleman for all of his efforts.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I do want to express my profound gratitude to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) for being willing to leave family and his constituents behind and travel, as we described tonight, through Islamabad, Pakistan; through Parachinar, where we met with tribal leaders; into Kabul, where we went to Camp Phoenix; through the mountains of Jalalabad to Bagram Air Base, and then out of the country.

It was a great, great privilege to travel with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), all of whom I think exemplified the very best of a servant's attitude about public service.

I told many soldiers as we traveled that there was not hardly a person that I served in all of eastern Indiana who would not rather be standing right there in front of them thanking them for their service, assuring them of their prayers, and expressing the gratitude that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) just described, that the American people feel for the success that the American soldier has wrought and is continuing to provide to the good people of Afghanistan.

I close by just reminding, Mr. Speaker, anyone that might be looking in, what the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) heard from President Karzai. As I have said again and again tonight, Afghanistan is a place where American power and American generosity of work are working. But when the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) asked President Karzai at the presidential palace, "What would you have us tell our constituents if you were there," and he said, "Tell the American people our success is their success, and that the President of Afghanistan said congratulations, America, on being a part of freedom and stability and opportunity coming to the good people of this historic land."

So, Mr. Speaker, with a grateful heart for the opportunity to have led CODEL Pence through Pakistan and Afghanistan, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WYNN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. REICHERT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. CARDOZA, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. COOPER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. CASE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. COSTA, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. BEAN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 (The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COX, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, February 17.
 Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, February 17.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 17, 2005, at 10 a.m.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

U.S. CONGRESS,
 OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,

Washington, DC, February 15, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
 Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
 Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Section 304(b)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(1), requires that, with regard to the initial proposal of substantive regulations under the CAA, the Board "shall publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking" and "shall transmit such notice to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

The Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance is transmitting herewith the enclosed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which

accompanies this transmittal letter. The Board requests that the accompanying Notice be published in both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal.

Any inquiries regarding the accompanying Notice should be addressed to William W. Thompson II, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, 110 2nd Street, SE., Room LA-200, Washington, DC 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
 Chair of the Board of Directors.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Request for Comments From Interested Parties

NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS, AS REQUIRED BY 2 U.S.C. 1316a, THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED (CAA).

Background

The purpose of this Notice is to issue proposed substantive regulations which will implement the 1998 amendment to the CAA which applies certain veterans' employment rights and protections to employing offices and employees covered by the CAA.

What is the authority under the CAA for these proposed substantive regulations? In 1998, the CAA was amended through addition of 2 U.S.C. 1316a, a provision of the Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 (VEOA), which states in relevant part: "The rights and protections established under section 2108, sections 3309 through 3312, and subchapter I of chapter 35 of Title 5, shall apply to covered employees." As will be described in greater detail below, these sections of Title 5 accord certain hiring and retention rights to veterans of the uniformed services. Section 1316a(4)(B) states that "The regulations issued . . . shall be the same as the most relevant substantive regulations (applicable with respect to the Executive Branch) promulgated to implement the statutory provisions . . . except insofar as the Board may determine for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section."

Will these regulations, if approved, apply to all employees otherwise covered by the CAA? No. Subsection (5) of 2 U.S.C. 1316a, states that, for the purpose of application of these veterans' employment rights, the term "covered employee" shall not apply to any employee of an employing office: (A) whose appointment is made by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate; (B) whose appointment is made by a Member of Congress or by a committee or subcommittee of either House of Congress; or (C) who is appointed to a position, the duties of which are equivalent to those of a Senior Executive Service position. . . . These regulations would apply to all other covered employees.

Do other veterans' employment rights apply via the CAA to Legislative Branch employing offices and covered employees? Yes. Another statutory scheme regarding veterans' and armed forces members' employment rights is incorporated in part through section 206 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA). Section 206 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1316, applies certain provisions of Title 38 of the U.S. Code regarding "Employment and Re-employment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services." Section 206 of the CAA also requires the Board of Directors to issue substantive regulations patterned upon the regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor to implement the Title 38 rights of