



United States
of America

Congressional Record

CORRECTION

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

No. 150

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, sovereign Lord of the universe, limitless, timeless, in whom resides all wisdom and power, remind our Senators today that they have nothing to fear about the future when they remember how You have led us in the past. Energize their memories to remember the dangers, toils, and snares over which You have brought our Nation and world so that Your peace will guard their hearts. Lord, may they never forget that the galaxies belong to You and the fullness thereof, the world, and they who dwell therein. Teach them the wisdom of seeking You so that they will fulfill Your purposes for their lives.

We pray in the Name of Him who is the author and finisher of our faith. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following, and the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc: PN2053, Senator BILL NELSON, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and PN2054, Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no other motion be in order; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NELSON, of Florida, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

BOB CORKER, of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today.

Last week, we were able to reach an agreement to consider H.R. 6049, the tax extenders legislation. Following morning business tomorrow, the Senate will consider three amendments to the bill, with limited debate and votes in relation to the amendments. Senators should expect the first amendment vote to occur prior to the caucus lunches and the remaining votes in the afternoon. One of the things to consider now is maybe not having morning business tomorrow to move this along more rapidly.

The Republican leader is seeking recognition, and when he finishes, I will give a few remarks.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9169

MAIN STREET RESCUE PLAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when there is a fire in your kitchen threatening to burn down your home, you don't want someone stopping the firefighters on the way and demanding they hand out smoke detectors first or lecturing you about the hazards of keeping paint in the basement. You want them to put out the fire before it burns down your home and everything you have saved for your whole life.

The same is true of our current economic situation. We know there is a serious threat to our economy. We know we must take action to try to head off a serious blow to Main Street.

Over the weekend, Congress received a straightforward four-page Main Street rescue plan aimed at protecting millions of American families and small businesses from the potentially devastating effects of a credit meltdown. We are told that inaction could make it impossible for ordinary Americans to take out loans for college tuition, cars, new homes, and everything else, triggering a corresponding collapse in manufacturing and services that could wipe out savings and lead to massive job losses. The final cost of the plan is unclear, but the potential consequences of inaction are not.

This proposal was designed to contain a spreading crisis, and urgent action is needed. That is why Republicans have resisted the impulse to try to add permanent tax relief and other aid to families and businesses that we believe is critical to the long-term health of our Nation's economy. And we ask our colleagues across the aisle to show similar restraint so that whatever action we take can be done quickly and in time to make a real difference.

This stabilization plan gives us an opportunity to prevent long-term damage to Americans' savings, home values, and livelihoods—to contain the problem from spreading to Main Street. Surely we can all agree to work with each other and stand up for the American people instead of using the bill as fly paper for partisan add-ons.

Republicans have many serious questions about this plan, but this is the only concrete plan we have seen so far that aims to protect Americans on Main Street—to protect their homes, their savings, their retirement plans, protect endangered jobs and small businesses—and we shouldn't jeopardize that effort by delaying urgent action or playing partisan politics.

Americans want to know their savings and retirement accounts are safe. They want the security of knowing the problems on Wall Street are not going to spread to Main Street. The only way we can give them that security and that assurance is by putting partisan interests aside.

There will be many more questions about this plan. I have many myself. But we owe it to the American people to do our due diligence quickly and act swiftly, Democrats and Republicans

alike, to contain this crisis before it is too late.

I am confident that we can work together. The American people are counting on us. Let's not disappoint them.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS L. BRUNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Kentucky's great heroes in uniform. MSG Thomas L. Bruner of Owensboro, KY, was tragically lost while serving his country in Afghanistan on October 28, 2007. A proud member of the Army Reserves for many years, he was 50 years old.

For his valor in uniform, Master Sergeant Bruner received several medals, decorations, and awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and two Armed Forces Reserve Medals with "M" device.

Those who knew him will remember Master Sergeant Bruner—or, as friends called him, "Tommy"—as a family man. "Family was first to him," says his brother, Robert Bruner. "It was all the time family, family, family, everywhere he went."

He was devoted to his wife Jane Bruner, to whom he was married for 27 years. They met in a club where she served bar. Night after night, he would walk in and notice her. Jane was skeptical at first, but eventually Tommy convinced one of her friends to trick Jane into going out with him after the club closed. "He spoiled me rotten," Jane recalls. "He would do everything for me. He was my everything . . . my life."

Jane's two sons, Tom-Tom and Brian Sanefur, became Tommy's stepsons, and he loved them like his own. "He was always there," Brian remembers. "He was a good father, husband, and friend."

Perhaps even better than fatherhood was grandfatherhood. Tommy had three grandkids—T.J., Jacob, and "Baby" Grace—and loved playing with them. "He lived for those grandkids," Jane says. She remembers how it was not uncommon for Tommy to crawl down on the floor with them and watch cartoon after cartoon.

The most exciting holiday in the Bruner household was Christmas because Tommy outdid everyone on decorations. He was able to spend each Christmas at home. "He had reindeer, he had lights, a snowman, a sled," Jane recalls. "We've always had big Christmases." While serving in Afghanistan, Tommy even told Jane that he had gone to a bazaar there and done some Christmas shopping for her and the children.

Soon before his passing, Tommy and Jane built a new house together in Owensboro, and Tommy helped pick

out the colors. The couple saved up their money until they could build a home of their dreams. Jane has planted a white dogwood tree now at the house in Tommy's memory.

In that house, Tommy turned the garage into what Jane calls his "war room," where he put up pictures of battles from the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom. It was his little getaway, and Jane has left it just as it was.

Tommy was a veteran soldier, having served on Active Duty from 1975 to 1979 and then joined the Army Reserves in 1981. He volunteered to serve in Afghanistan because he wanted to help train the younger soldiers and was deployed with Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 100th Division, U.S. Army Reserve, based out of Owensboro, KY. "He wanted to go, and I said, 'There's no way I'm going to stop you from doing what you want to do,'" Jane says. "He was just a soldier doing his job, and he loved it."

Jane also recalls that Tommy said he loved it in Afghanistan. He thought the country was beautiful, and he was trying to learn the language. He told Jane the mission in Afghanistan was the highlight of his career.

Patrick Rowe, the training coordinator at the Owensboro Army Reserve Center, recalls Tommy's bond with his fellow soldiers. "He knew his guys," Patrick said. "You could ask him anything about anybody."

At home, Tommy attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and worked as manager at the Don Moore Auto Mall. They appreciated him there because he was "so picky," Jane says. He paid attention to every detail. He had been planning to retire after his latest tour, but Jane thinks he still would have worked there to give himself something to do.

Tommy died of a heart attack while serving his country in Afghanistan. Jane knew something was wrong because Tommy called her every day, until one day he did not call.

Our thoughts are with his many loved ones after such a loss. We are thinking of his wife Jane; his stepsons, Tom and Brian Sanefur; his mother Martha; his grandmother Virginia; his grandchildren, T.J., Jacob, and Grace Sanefur; his brother Robert; and many other beloved friends and family members.

Jane received an insurance settlement after Tommy died. She decided she already had everything she wanted, so she gave the money to the grandchildren. "It is what he would have wanted," Jane said.

I express my deepest sympathies to Jane Bruner and to all of her and Tommy's family. I would like them to know this Senate honors MSG Thomas L. Bruner's great devotion and his sacrifice, and we offer our deepest gratitude to him and his family for all they have given our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to make my statement before morning business starts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this weekend the Bush administration sent to Congress its plan to address our country's growing economic crisis. All my Democratic colleagues in the Senate understand the need to take action to steady our economy, and we are prepared to act swiftly and responsibly to pass legislation that puts interest in the security of the American people first. We know, for example, that last year 2½ million Americans secured mortgages, and nearly half of all college students secured loans so they could go to school. The consequences of a broken banking system, devoid of loans for homes, college tuition, automobiles, and business investment would be devastating. We are prepared to do what is necessary to avoid these unacceptable consequences, but we will not let haste abandon good judgment in the process.

The Bush administration has called on Congress to rubberstamp its bill without serious debate or efforts to improve it. We can't let that happen. The legislation sent to the Congress by the Treasury Department recognizes the scope of the crisis the Bush administration created, a view that we share with Secretary Paulson. The Bush administration's bill is a starting point but by no means the final product.

Democrats believe there should be protection for the taxpayers who are footing the bill for this legislation. That begins with more oversight, more transparency, more accountability, and more controls to prevent conflicts of interest. Democrats believe there should be limits on compensation for company executives who benefit from this legislation so the American people don't see their tax dollars spent on exorbitant corporate pay and even golden parachutes. The American people earn their pay through honest hard work and so should CEOs.

What is a golden parachute? It is a method of compensating executives when they leave their companies. It would be wrong for these employees—these managers who are leaving their companies—to get huge amounts of money for simply leaving. This legislation should prevent that.

We believe that in exchange for shouldering the enormous burden of the Bush plan, taxpayers should reap any future economic rewards. That is what happened when we bailed out the

savings and loans. It should happen here. That means this plan should not permit taxpayer money to purchase an asset at an inflated price exclusively for the benefit of private shareholders.

Democrats believe this legislation affects not just the American economy but the global economy, and we will call upon other nations to do their part. But one of the provisions suggested in this bill is that we would spend money to bail out foreign banks. I think we have to be very careful with that.

We believe this legislation should provide aid for Americans at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. As the law currently stands, the wealthiest Americans can seek mortgage assistance from a bankruptcy judge to help keep their second, their third, their fourth, their fifth, their sixth, even their seventh home, but working families can't seek mortgage relief from a bankruptcy judge for their first and only home—their primary residence. That makes no sense, and we should change it. Bankruptcy court should have the authority to reach mutually beneficial arrangements to allow families to keep their homes and prevent more foreclosures.

We believe it is not enough to fund a Wall Street bailout. We need an economic recovery plan to create jobs, provide better unemployment insurance, and invest in our country's infrastructure. Now, such a plan has to be voted upon before we adjourn, either as part of this legislation or separately. These steps will help catalyze long-term economic growth once the dust on Wall Street settles.

Democrats in Congress fully understand the severity of the situation and the need to pass legislation, but we are not willing to give President Bush a blank check. We are now seeing 8 years of reckless Bush economic policies come crashing down with unimaginable speed and severity. This crisis puts our economy and the well-being of the American people in serious jeopardy.

President Bush said on Friday we should assign blame later. What else is he going to say? Of course, he would say exactly that because he is the culprit of the crisis. What else would the culprit say?

The American people have a right to know what brought us to this grave economic danger. The answer is the President and a Republican Congress determined to repeal all reasonable oversight and accountability and ignore what they couldn't repeal and allow corporate greed and recklessness to saturate our economy. Democratic and Republican Presidents who served before President Bush all understood that demanding accountability from the financial sector is not somehow anticapitalist but the opposite: It maintains balance, protects taxpayers, and keeps our economy running smoothly.

The greed-fueled Bush-Cheney economy thought they knew better. They

put cronies and ideologues in charge of our most critical regulatory agencies, people who disdain Government oversight of any kind and systematically put Wall Street ahead of Main Street. One example of this irresponsibility: The Bush administration refused to provide oversight of the mortgage industry to ensure the rules were followed. The result was massive fraud, predatory lending, and a practice of preying on American families with deceptive, dishonest loans.

Now, we all know the banking industry has been deregulated, and the few regulations left were not in force. But now we find an article written by Senator McCain in one of the health journals saying he thinks the health care industry should be deregulated just like the bank industry. How about that. It is in writing. President "Wannabe" McCain has written an article saying we should treat the health industry just like the banking industry. Now, that is enough said about how Senator McCain is going the take care of the problems of this country economically.

This hands-off, business-first, Bush-Cheney economic philosophy infiltrated nearly all aspects of the economy—from mortgages to consumer safety to the airline industry—and the people of America are now left to suffer the consequences. This morning, Monday, the first day of autumn, President Bush released a statement preemptively criticizing Democrats for working to improve his plan. If the President is serious about reaching an effective, bipartisan solution to the economic crisis he and his people created, he should join us in solving the crisis he created.

We Democrats in the Senate are not going to drag our feet. We will respond with the urgency of action this situation demands. But after 8 years of a fiscal dereliction of duty, it is time for accountability. It has taken 8 years of this dereliction of duty. Should we resolve the issue in 1 day? I think not.

Democrats understand the two primary responsibilities of Government are to protect the physical and fiscal well-being of the people. Whatever the ultimate cost of this legislation, we always remember these funds don't come from some nameless Government account. Every dollar comes directly out of the pocket of every American taxpayer; every dollar that should have been saved for someone's secure retirement, every dollar that could have been invested in health care for the uninsured or education for students or to fund a small business startup. We Democrats understand the value of each and every dollar spent on this plan because we know each and every dollar comes from the American people. We will work unending hours in a bipartisan manner to ensure this legislation doesn't just get done but that we get it done right. s

ADVANCING AMERICA'S
PRIORITIES ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent to take up, if we have someone here on the other side. We have been working for this entire Congress, especially hard the last 6 months, to complete legislation that one Senator has held up—34 different bills dealing with very important issues: stroke victims, people who are paralyzed, postpartum depression.

We have situations dealing with very serious issues. In fact, the “Oprah” show has dealt with one issue that this one Senator has held up dealing with sexual predators, pornography. But one Senator has held up 34 different bills. Now, remember, these are authorizations. There isn't a single penny spent in any of these bills.

We have legislation being help up which deals with Emmett Till, giving some recognition to what has gone on in years past about people of color and how they were treated.

So I am going to take a few minutes to make a series of unanimous-consent requests to try to get some important bills passed. I will start with S. 3297, the Advancing America's Priorities Act. And then if Republicans block that, I am going to break it into various parts and seek unanimous consent to pass these.

The Senator from Oklahoma has said he has no problem with eight or so bills. We will see. It is hard for me to comprehend how, each day that goes by, these very important pieces of legislation are held up. We have tried to get these passed. I have filed cloture on two separate occasions, and it has been blocked by Republicans. This is regrettable obstructionism, but it has plagued this Congress. We have had approximately 95 filibusters used this Congress.

We all know the Senate was not built for speed. That is the way the Founding Fathers set this up. But what has happened is ridiculous. The Senate rules give rights to the minority, as they should, and even individual Senators. The Senate rules sometimes make things move slowly and don't allow the majority to run roughshod over the minority, and I agree with that. The rules promote bipartisanship. They promote a deliberative process and policies with broad support throughout the country.

At the same time, however, these rights come with some responsibilities. Traditionally, the rules of the Senate have not been abused by the minority or by individual Senators. When a policy has brought bipartisan support and the Senate committees have acted, individual Senators would not hold up important pieces of legislation in years past because, otherwise, one Senator is saying: I know best. That is what has happened here. I know better than the committee. I know better than the Congress, better than the Senate, better than the broad bipartisan majority. The Senate rules were meant to promote centrism, not egocentrism.

It used to be that if one Senator was trying to abuse the Senate rules, then his or her caucus would set them straight—they would vote for cloture, to end the filibuster of the one who was halting progress on broad bipartisan legislation. Unfortunately, we have a minority now that is not interested in keeping the trains running in America. In fact, they are interested primarily in obstructing the process on important legislation. There is no better example than what has happened on these bills.

Remember, these bills have passed the House of Representatives, they have been reported out of the committees of jurisdiction. We have seen an unprecedented number of filibusters by the Republicans. It is not a few more than previous Congresses. The Republicans have shattered the record for obstructionism. At each step of the legislative process, we have seen delay, obstruction, delay, obstruction. We have had to waste weeks and weeks of Senate floor time before we could vote on legislation which ends up passing by a huge margin.

We are told by the Secretary of the Treasury, we are told by the head of the Federal Reserve System that the No. 1 problem that caused the start of the financial meltdown was the housing crisis. Let's go back and look at that: Seven filibusters were initiated to pass the housing legislation that we ultimately passed. Seven filibusters. In that process, more than 100,000 people went into foreclosure.

We have seen delay, delay, delay. It is regrettable. It is an abuse of the process, and it is shameful. The height of the ridiculousness came on the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3297, these 47 bills, this package of legislation made up exclusively of bills with broad bipartisan support. These bills all passed the House with huge bipartisan votes—an average of about 380 votes in the House. Almost a third of the package has been introduced by Republican Senators. All the bills had bipartisan lists of cosponsors—every one of them. The bills had seen extensive legislative action. All had been marked up by the House committee, voted on by the House, marked up by the Senate committee, and reported to the floor. The vast majority had seen all three processes. Scores of amendments had been considered and disposed of during the legislative process.

In Congresses past, these bills would have passed with unanimous consent with minimal floor time or at least gotten the support of the minority to stop this abuse of process. But here, no. In fact, some version of the six bills had passed by unanimous consent in previous Congresses. Those six bills, plus scores of others, with over \$1.3 trillion of new authorizations, passed under Republican rule last Congress with no offsets. How foolish it is to have offsets for authorizations—and that is just counting the bills that passed by unanimous consent or with

the “yes” vote of Senator COBURN. But not this Congress. This Congress, the Republicans allowed each of these bills to be held up by the whimsy of one Senator of their caucus, and then, to show the height of how the Republican minority doesn't help, now I am being asked to wait until 6:30 or 7 o'clock today, until he shows up, holding up the entire Senate, holding up the passage of these bills. These bills are not just naming of courthouses. These are bills dealing with the Christopher Reeve paralysis bill, helping people who are paralyzed, stroke victims; setting up a registry for Lou Gehrig's disease.

What were the bills the Republican Congress allowed Senator COBURN to hold up? I will talk about each one at greater length later, perhaps, but here is a quick rundown of each of these bills: a bill to stop exploitation of children by Internet predators, which has been held up for months and months; bills to promote research and education about strokes, paralysis—including helping paralyzed veterans. We have seen it on their license plates—“paralyzed veterans.” That is what they have in Nevada. I don't know if they have it other places. Paralyzed veterans—held up; Lou Gehrig's disease; postpartum depression; a bill to promote Internet broadband access throughout the country; bills to improve research into knowledge about oceans; a bill to improve the health and safety of America's beaches; a bill to improve treatment options for mentally ill criminals; a bill to help keep America's kids off the streets and extend a helping hand to children who have already run away from home; a bill to reauthorize an agency that operates at a net profit to the U.S. Government, that has helped promote U.S. exports for years; bills to promote important U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy programs.

Each of these bills has broad bipartisan support and has seen extensive legislative action. Yet Republicans are allowing one person to hold up these bills. They vote with him. They vote with him. They are just as responsible as he is because they let him get away with it.

One of the worst things about this obstructionism is that it was based on false and disingenuous arguments. The primary argument made by Senator COBURN was the package of bills would spend over \$10 billion; it costs too much. There is not one penny spent. To show how absolutely foolish this is, he wrote me a letter and said what he would like me to do is for me to pick \$10 billion out of this, delete it from the bill, and then offer an amendment to put it back in—that I would do that. The argument that it would cost \$10 billion is simply false. It is not true. It is erroneous. The package of bills included only authorizations. There was not a dime of appropriations to the package.

Everyone in the institution knows an authorizing bill does not spend a

penny. Just to hammer the point home, we had the independent CBO confirm that the package did not result in any new spending—which didn't take a Ph.D. at CBO to figure that out. Authorizations allow programs to be created and funded. When we pass an authorizing bill, we hope the authorized level will be looked at it in appropriations committee—as I did as a longtime member. But we realize there are competing priorities, and full funding doesn't come very often.

There is an entirely separate process that determines actual spending levels; that is, the budget and appropriations process. The budget and appropriations process determines total spending and sifts through competing priorities to determine how much money each program should get.

Further, even when a new program is funded, that money does not just appear out of thin air. The appropriators make tough choices. Sometimes they will cut one program to the bone to accommodate a new program. Other times they will take a little bit here or there to accomplish what they want. But in all cases the spending decisions are made through budget and appropriations, not through the authorizing process.

Unfortunately, pesky little things like facts and the truth have not been much of an obstacle to obstructionism this year, especially on these 34 bills. It is an old playbook. If you repeat a lie enough, then gullible people, I guess, believe it. But facts are facts and truth is truth. The main argument against this package is false.

I am going to try again. Due to Republican obstructionism, we simply do not have time to spend a full week of Senate floor time on these bills. I filed cloture on a motion to proceed once before. The Republicans voted against it, so we would have to do that. It takes 2 years—2 days, I am sorry; it seems like 2 years—2 days to get to that first vote, and then there is 30 hours, and then on the bill I have to file cloture again; 2 more days, 30 more hours. That has happened almost 95 times this year, but on these bills, that is what they did. We do not have time to do that. If we have a lameduck session, perhaps so.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3297

I am going to seek unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 894, all 34 bills, that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object on behalf of Senator COBURN, the majority leader is correct, he will be here a little later this afternoon and will speak to each of these issues. In the meantime, he has asked that I respond to the majority leader's unanimous-consent request. The only other thing I would say is that his primary objec-

tion, as the majority leader is aware, is that there have been 35 bills combined into one. Instead of having different votes on different bills, you get one vote on 35 bills, and Senator COBURN has already indicated his willingness to allow votes on several of these bills: the Drug Endangered Children Act; child pornography prosecutions—Enhancing the Effective Prosecution of Child Pornography Act; the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008; the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act; the Christopher and Dana Reeve paralysis bill that the majority leader mentioned; the Vision Care for Kids Act; the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act; and with some changes the ALS Registry Act; the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act; and the PROTECT Our Children Act.

As I said, the majority leader is aware of Senator COBURN's objections to considering these bills as one, and therefore I would be required to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, with all the many days, weeks, and months they have been held up, you cannot blame Senator COBURN alone because there has been the complicity of these people on this side of the aisle allowing him to do this. It is shameful. There is no other way to say it. Everyone knows this doesn't cost a single penny. To say they are objecting because we lump them together—did they want us to file cloture on every one of these 34 bills? Every one of them? Remember what it takes; I have gone over it: 2 days to get to cloture, 30 hours after that, get on the bill, 2 more days, 30 more hours—it is outrageous what has happened to this country with this Republican status quo. And look what the status quo has gotten us. We are now in a financial meltdown.

The objection is unfortunate. These are broadly bipartisan bills, these are good bills, these are important bills, but we are not going to let obstruction go that easy. I am going to enter a series of unanimous-consent requests here to try to move pieces of this package.

I repeat, the outrageousness of all of this—do you think I might have something else to do tonight at 7 o'clock while we are waiting for him to jet in from Oklahoma or wherever he comes from? Do you think other people have other things to do than to meet his schedule, so he can be here to do a few things?

The first unanimous-consent request is the entire health care portion of this package. This portion consists of very important bills covering a range of diseases and conditions. I venture to say that every American, every family in America is touched by some portion of the health care provisions of this package.

I see in this body the Senator from Maryland. With her help—we were new in this body. I had three women come to visit me in Nevada. They were all very sick. They had a disease called interstitial cystitis. I had never heard the words in my life. Those women did not want to see me. They were sick. More than 90 percent of the people who get this disease are women. Because we are a male-dominated legislature—not as much as we used to be—she was here alone, the only woman. I said we have to do something about this because people say this was a psychosomatic disease. Fortunately, one of the women who got this disease was an orthopedic surgeon. She said: It is not psychosomatic. It is like slivers of glass being shoved up and down in my bladder. It is not psychosomatic.

I got the Senator from Maryland to help me. First of all, we established a registry for this disease. Now 40 percent of the people who get this disease are symptom free. There is a medicine that has come about that helps these people.

In addition to that, because of the advocacy of the Senator from Maryland, the National Institutes of Health now have a protocol, so that everything that is done to study disease, women have to be included. She knows they studied 10,000 people to find out what effect aspirin would have on heart disease. We looked at the study and not a single woman was tested. They were all men. We have been a male-dominated legislature, so we ignored them. But because of Senator MIKULSKI, we have not done that.

What we are trying to do with this registry is the same thing, with interstitial cystitis; that is, start having someplace where a doctor in Las Vegas or a doctor in Baltimore or a doctor in Chicago or in Phoenix can send to a place: Here is what happened with ALS. We were able to diagnose it; she got it; he got it; here is how long they lived; here are the symptoms—put something together so the great minds of America can work to deal with this disease. It doesn't cost any money. But Dr. COBURN has held it up, and he is going to continue to hold it up. He said this is one he will not agree to.

As I mentioned, every one of these deals with some problem that people within the sound of my voice—either their families, friends, or neighbors have a situation that encompasses this. The Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act has been held up for 2 years by this guy—2 years. I mentioned that also includes paralyzed veterans and the STOP Stroke Act. We have the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act—that is postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is serious. People are hospitalized as a result of that.

We need to do some work on it. Dr. COBURN said this would not accomplish a thing, doctors know what to do now. All it would do is create a lot of bureaucracy. We do not need to worry about these people. Doctors know what to do.

Vision care for kids, and the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. Three of the six bills on here, on the health care title package, were introduced by Republicans. All of these bills passed the House with strong bipartisan support and have strong bipartisan support in the Senate. But they will not let us go forward, the Republicans, even though there are an equal number of bills basically on both sides of the aisle. The Republicans are supporting Dr. COBURN in helping us get nothing done.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
TITLE I OF S. 3297

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a bill at the desk which is word for word identical to title I of our bill, which is the health care provisions. I ask unanimous-consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the bills at the desk, which consists of title I of S. 3297, the health care title of that bill, the bill be read three times and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object on behalf of Senator COBURN, I would note two things: First, that we do not have to wait until 7 o'clock tonight. I came over to the Chamber so the majority leader could posit his unanimous-consent requests and there would be somebody here to speak on behalf of my colleague Senator COBURN. That is why I am here.

Secondly, as I said, some of these bills, there are eight of them, that Senator COBURN has said, let's pass them right now. We do not have to go through the whole rigmarole of filing cloture and 30 hours of debate and all of the things the majority leader talked about.

One or two of those are on the list he spoke about. There are eight in total here. So I would note that it boils down to "take it or leave it," either all 35 or none, whereas Senator COBURN's view is that some of these bills could be passed without the necessity of filing cloture; let's just do it. But he and the majority leader have not been able to agree on which ones they are. Therefore, the objection must be made.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, through the Chair, then are you saying that if I offer unanimous-consent on the Stop Stroke Act, the Mothers Act, ALS Registry, Downs Syndrome Support, Christopher Reeves, do these individually, that you will allow those to pass?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, it is my understanding that there are eight bills on the list Senator COBURN has developed that do not need modification. There are three, at least, one of which was mentioned, the ALS Registry, that he believe need changes. I assume he and the majority leader have discussed that.

Mr. REID. So you say there are eight we can pass right now?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I think it is important, since I am speaking on behalf of another Senator, that staffs make sure what I have said is accurate. But my understanding is there are eight bills Senator COBURN has no objection to proceeding with. Obviously, he and the majority leader, you and he have been discussing how to put these together and get them done, but there may be changes necessary in the ALS Registry and Emmett Till Unresolved Civil Rights Crime Act, and the Protect Our Children.

Mr. REID. So what I say, if there are eight of them that we can pass, let's do it right now.

Mr. KYL. Well, I am speaking on behalf of someone else. I want to make sure what I have represented here is accurate. I am perfectly willing at this time to get the two staffs together to see if that can be done.

Mr. REID. I say respectfully, our staffs have spent, with his staff, unending hours. And I will be anxious to see, whenever he shows up, because it is always, when you get right down to it, you cannot do it. If there are eight we can do right now, let's do them right now; do them one at a time.

I will ask unanimous-consent. We will do them right now. The ones we cannot do, we will wait until next year when we get a new Congress and a new President. And the people who are sick and need this help will have to wait until we have a Congress that is willing to pass those.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, in further clarifying with staff, we know there are some that could be cleared right now, at least three. There are others where someone else has posed an objection, and I do not know who that might be, or which side it is on.

But our staff indicates if the two staffs can get together, they think at least on some of these it can be resolved very quickly.

Mr. REID. We have gone in the last minutes—this is what I have dealt with—from eight to three. I will take the three. What are the three?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, with all due respect, that is not fair to what I said. I am not in the middle of this. There are staff on both sides who have been working on these. My understanding is that Senator COBURN is not the sole objector with respect to some. There are three where he was the sole objector. He is willing to let them go.

I cannot speak to anyone else, to whatever objections might exist. But staff informs me they believe if we were to sit down and have the two staffs of the majority and minority work together, that perhaps up to eight of these bills could be cleared today.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say with all due respect to my friend, the junior Senator from Arizona, he is in the middle of this. Every Republican Senator is in the middle of this, because we could not move forward on these bills

previously. So you cannot—because someone is objecting, it does not mean that is grounds for your not being a part of it. People on the Republican side of the aisle voted overwhelmingly not to move forward. So I tell you what, Mr. President. I will be happy to take the suggestion of my friend from Arizona. In the next hour or so we will sit down, my staff—I do not know about Senator COBURN's staff, maybe they are in Oklahoma also. But we will be happy to sit down and work to get some of these bills passed, so I will return at a later time.

Mr. KYL. Would the majority leader indulge me one moment here? My staff has indicated there are four ready to go right now. I will read the title and then your staff will have those. One is the Prenatal Conditions Bill; another is the Child Pornography bill, that is S. 4136; another relates to Child Pornography, S. 4120; and then there is a House message accompanying S. 496. Apparently all four of those are ready to go. That is the Appalachian Development bill.

Mr. REID. We will take the first three. Let me think about this for a moment. Are these all Republican bills?

We will do them all, except for the Appalachian whatever it is.

Mr. KYL. If the majority leader wishes, I will ask unanimous-consent—

Mr. REID. And the language has not been changed in any way?

Mr. KYL. Let me combine the three then to make it simpler.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous-consent, since these are different committees—

Mr. REID. If I can interrupt my friend, there are a couple different versions of the bills floating around. On these three, which I am very happy to get done, we will make sure that the minority and majority staff agree it is the right piece of legislation so we do not make another mistake.

Mr. KYL. What we will do is have your staff confirm that this is, in fact, the version, and then either you or I or someone else can ask unanimous-consent to clear these three bills?

Mr. REID. We will wait for Senator COBURN's arrival.

Mr. KYL. That is certainly fine.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, you can now announce morning business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

ECONOMIC BAILOUT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to speak about this bailout we have been asked to do. Starting last week, we were told by the powers that be in the Bush administration we needed to do a \$700 billion bailout to stabilize our economy.

When we heard that, Americans became scared. People who save for their retirement, those who have been faithful in paying their mortgage, those who have worked hard to pay for college, are wondering what is going on. People who have worked hard and played by the rules are wondering, are they being asked to bail out those who did not? Americans are mad as hell and they want to know what about them. They watched Wall Street executives pay themselves lavish salaries. They watched them do irresponsible lending practices. They watched them do casino gambling on risky investment mechanisms. And now those very same Americans who worked hard and played by the rules, were prudent investors, prudent savers, prudent citizens, are asked to pay the bill for those who did not.

Now, it is for those people that I know the Government must do something. We must protect our economy and we must protect our way of life and we must protect our middle class. Sure, the economy is in a crisis. And, yes, we do have a credit crisis. Wall Street did make very bad decisions. But now they are asking Main Street to pay the bill. We must act to restore our confidence in our economy. I agree, we must act promptly. But this Senator will not be stampeded into voting for this Bush administration bill.

So far during the last 7 years, every time there is a crisis, they generate fear and they generate bad ideas. Do you remember after the horrific days of 9/11 when we all came to the floor and pledged our patriotism? I said, we needed to put politics aside because we needed to be the red, white, and blue party. Well, they took advantage of that. And in that process we passed something like the PATRIOT Act, allowing our Government to act with undue secrecy with no parameters. We created the dysfunctional Department of Homeland Security.

Now we are being asked to deal with the fiscal crisis and the financial crisis. I am concerned we are going to create a fiscal FEMA. We must act with resolve, but we cannot be a rubberstamp for the administration's proposal. This proposal gives sweeping authority to those who were asleep at the switch in the first place.

Remember the Fed? Remember the maestro at the Fed who plunged down interest rates, and now helped create the housing bubble? Then there is the Treasury. There is the Secretary of the Treasury. A couple of months ago he said, no problem—like our President “fundamentally sound.”

Then a couple of months later they said, oh, there is a problem. And we

have lurched from one bailout to another: Bear Stearns, the insurance company, oh, no, not to Lehman, then after that failed, so we have gone from “no problem” to lurching around, to now \$700 billion and a blank check.

We have seen those George Bush plans before. Now this one is a three-page bill. It gives the Secretary of the Treasury unlimited power to intervene in our financial markets without any review by Congress, agencies, or courts. They make the Secretary of the Treasury a financial czar, a financial potentate, because it says: Give us a blank check with no balances.

Well, I say: No checks without balances. Even the President of the United States of America has to come to us to declare war. I believe the Secretary of the Treasury should be accountable to the Congress and to whether mechanisms—if he is going to intervene with \$700 billion in his pocket. I say no regulations without any safeguards. No way. No blank check. There must be regulations. There best be safeguards. If they do not want regulation, no way. If they do not want safeguards, no way.

We are in uncharted waters, so we need to ask tough questions. First, how do we know it will work? What guarantees are there it will work? Could this bankrupt our Treasury because it has no parameters? Could it cause runaway inflation, further eroding our economy? What are the safeguards?

Also, who is going to benefit? Is it going to be the same Wall Street go-go guy, the same Wall Street casino types who are going to benefit now? Whatever we do, we have to insist that those who created this scandal do not benefit from the bailout: no golden parachutes.

Let them feel the hard landing that my constituents faced when they were laid off at Bethlehem Steel. Let them feel the hard landing of what it is like to have your mortgage foreclosed upon. Let them feel the hard landing my constituents are facing right now. We do not need to subsidize bad behavior.

Now George Bush said he was the first MBA President. Well, hello, I do not have confidence in this administration. Remember, this was the same crowd that brought us Katrina, FEMA, and “hey, you are doing a good job, Brownie.”

Well, is this what we are now supposed to say to those who are managing our finances? I don't think so.

We also have to prudently ask ourselves, are there better alternatives? Let me be clear: I do believe we need to act promptly but with safeguards. We need to act with resolve, but we need to have regulation and even retribution. If we have stabilization, which I believe we must do, we must also have reform. We are all looking at the administration's plan, but I want everyone to know where I stand. At a minimum, the plan must, first, be limited and temporary. It cannot be open-ended. There also must be a plan for those who have had those hard landings on Main Street. We need to put

people first, to keep people in their homes, those who have had some of the most significant mortgage payment challenges, no golden parachutes that reward top executives for their excesses, their recklessness, and their sheer stupidity and greed, no blank checks. There must be accountability and oversight. Rescue does require reform, regulation, and a strong possibility of retribution. It must be transparent. I am for prompt action, but I will not be stampeded the way I have been stampeded in this institution by this administration in the past.

We need to make sure we do it right. That means not handing over a blank check or getting rid of the balances. We have to ask tough questions and be sure we have the right principles. If not, then the taxpayers will be on the hook. If we make the wrong decisions, taxpayers will be on the hook not only for Wall Street's bad decisions, but I don't want to set this up for Government's bad decisions. We need to get Government back on the side of the people who need it. We need to put the public good over private profits. This means we need to take a look at a 21st century regulatory system. I am tired of seeing this laxity where what emerges when we deregulate is the emergence of sharks and whales. Either way, the minnows get swallowed up. We don't want our economy to sink, and I think it is time to swim. But when we do, we need to make sure we are asking the right questions. We need to fight for the middle class. We need to fight for the people who go by the rules. We need to have a legislative framework that rewards those who did their very best and might be having a temporary spill.

I look forward to hearing more about this plan, but right now I need to know more. I need to be reassured more, and I need to be absolutely sure that those who created the crisis don't benefit from it and we don't leave the middle class with all of the responsibility.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I begin by complimenting the senior Senator from Maryland on her statement. I know many of us on this side of the aisle are going to be asking a lot of the same questions. We have the same sense of urgency about helping the country while at the same time we protect the people who have had no voice and no power, as this proposal was put together. I was with our colleagues on this side of the aisle during the conference call on Friday when this situation was explained. I have a number of the same types of questions as those raised by the senior Senator from Maryland. This is why I rise today.

This is a very complicated issue, and we are being asked to resolve it on a tight time-line. The American people want some reassurance. They do want us to represent them and do something about the systemic flaws that allowed

this debacle to occur, not simply to vote on a mechanical fix, but to address the issues and policies that allowed this massive financial crisis to emerge.

Americans are also interested, as the senior Senator from Maryland pointed out, in preventing those who benefitted and contributed to the problem, from unjustly enriching themselves.

We are seeing in this proposal the possibility of a huge transfer of power to the executive branch—not simply to the executive branch, to one official in the executive branch—with very few strings attached. This individual, whose career I respect, spent that career in the markets. Now, we are going to empower this individual and the Department of the Treasury to get directly involved in the stock market in a discretionary way that has very little precedent in our history. At the same time, there are potential conflicts of interest that are unavoidable and will need to be examined.

However we sort out this problem over the next several days or longer, there are a couple of areas where I believe that without the right type of guarantees, it will be very difficult for me personally to vote in favor of the proposal that came from the administration.

First, we must put regulation and accountability back into the system. It is inarguable that the regulatory structure now in place has not protected either our financial system or the American taxpayer. The administration is asking for unprecedented rescue, and that rescue cannot come without fixing the system.

Second and equally important, there should be guarantees in any legislation that address the issue of executive compensation. I have been speaking about this issue for many years. I mentioned this in every single meeting I had when I was campaigning for the Senate. It is not inaccurate to say that executive compensation in American business today is wildly out of sync with our history, and with other countries in the world. When I graduated from college, the average corporate CEO made 20 times what the average worker made. Today the average CEO makes 400 times what the average worker makes. This is not a global phenomenon; this is an American phenomenon. If you go to Japan, whose economic system works quite well in terms of the health of its economy and its balance of trade, the average corporate CEO makes 10 times what the average worker makes. Again, ours make 400 times. If you look at Germany, which has one of the highest balances of trade in the world, totaling \$280 billion last year, the average corporate CEO makes 11 times what the average worker makes. Yet presently, our corporate CEOs make 400 times.

The principles should be clear. If, in solving the problem, we are going to take tax money from Americans, many of whom do not own stock, then the ex-

ecutives involved should get a Federal salary. This issue was raised with Mr. Paulson over the weekend.

I have an article that came from today's Financial Times, in which he said the Treasury Department fears that if we reduced executive compensation, it would "undermine banks' willingness to take part" in the program because it would be punitive in nature. I must say, I have a hard time figuring that out. We were told on Friday that we are in a crisis that, and that if we do not resolve it within the next week or so, it is going to undermine the entire banking system around the world, the entire global financial system. Yet we are told that if we ask these corporate CEOs to take a salary in line with what Federal officials receive, they won't participate. What are they saying? We have a crisis that is going to affect us all; we are all going to have to take some sort of a hit. It is certainly punitive to the American taxpayers, who did not participate in these decisions, and who did not receive any of the profits. How is it punitive to an individual to say: All right, if we are bailing you out, you reduce your pay. We are giving you Federal tax dollars. You take Federal pay until this is solved. You make the American taxpayer whole. We will make you whole. If you increase the profitability, as you say you will be able to do, then you can increase your compensation commensurately.

The legislation we are considering must have a provision in it that creates fairness for the people who are going to foot the bill. We are sent here, those of us who believe in the traditional precepts of the Democratic Party, to make sure that the health of society is measured not at the top, not at the apex, but at the base, by the well-being of the people who are doing the hard work of our society. It is our mission, it is our duty, to look after their needs.

If we can't get to the bottom of this by the end of this week, as some seem to be worrying about, maybe we need to take another week. Maybe we need to stay with this until we can get it done. When you are betting \$700 billion to a trillion dollars, we need to figure out a formula we are all comfortable with.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Virginia for his comments. I know when he spoke in response to the State of the Union a little over a year ago, he raised the issue of executive compensation. If I am not mistaken, he made the point that the average worker, in the course of a year's work, made what the average executive makes in a day. Maybe it was even more of a contrast. But it is a clear indication of how things have gotten completely out of line. I ask the Senator from Virginia if he could recount what that comparison was between pay for CEOs and the pay for workers?

Mr. WEBB. The Senator from Illinois is correct. I mentioned earlier that executive compensation in our country is wildly out of control, in terms of our own history and in terms of what is going on in the rest of the world. I do not believe it is punitive or unreasonable to ask for a fair measure when tax dollars are being used to help bail these companies out. When the Senator from Illinois and I were finishing college, the average corporate CEO made 20 times what the average worker makes. Today it is 400 times. If we take that multiple and apply it to what I was saying in response to the State of the Union address a year and a half ago, in one year the average worker in this country makes what his boss makes in one day. There is plenty of room to be fair to the system and fair to the individuals who are asking for the bailout, but ultimately we must be fair to the taxpayers who are asked to dig down in their pockets and help us straighten out this problem.

Mr. DURBIN. I have been in on these meetings, and some were historic and ominous. Secretary Paulson, Chairman Bernanke of the Federal Reserve, and Chairman Cox of the SEC came to us last Thursday night to discuss what we faced. They were using words such as "meltdown" and "collapse," talking about the very severe economic crisis which we are facing. Certainly, the events of the last few weeks and months back up the concern.

When we raised the question of executive compensation, though, the push back from the administration was: Listen, don't mess with the salaries of these CEOs, even if their banks are failing because they may not do business with the Government. They may not let the taxpayers bail them out if we restrict their annual bonuses and restrict their golden parachutes.

I struggle with this concept, I say to the Senator from Virginia. Is the administration suggesting they would rather see their banks fail, would rather see their hedge funds fail, their mortgage operations fail than not receive their annual bonus? Is that the argument that is being made to us?

I do not know if the Senator from Virginia can recall any other aspects of public or private life where we pay such rich rewards for incompetency. Where the businesses fail, it seems these executives take away the most money. In the Financial Times or in the Wall Street Journal this morning—one of these publications—they talked about Barclays riding to the rescue of part of Lehman Brothers. They said, incidentally, just before Lehman Brothers went belly up, they brought in \$2.5 billion for executive compensation and bonuses, momentarily before they were about to go out of business. That is unconscionable.

Now we are asking the taxpayers to come in with hard-earned tax dollars to rescue these companies and subsidize the compensation of executives so they do not have any interruption in their

annual bonuses or any interruption in their parachutes and rewards? There has been an interruption in the lives of most taxpayers.

I say to the Senator from Virginia, is there a parallel here of a similar example that I am missing?

Mr. WEBB. I say to the Senator from Illinois, I also heard Secretary Paulson say something similar in the conference call in which we were participating on Friday, and I find his comments very puzzling—I am not violating confidentiality because Secretary Paulson said it at least three times over the weekend on different television shows. When he was asked, on the one hand, whether this is a crisis that threatens to undermine all of the financial markets within a few days, and on the other, if it would be punitive to ask the executives to take a pay hit. And, in fact, Secretary Paulson indicated that some of these banks might not participate if they are asked to do that.

I would suggest there are plenty of competent officials who may have lost their jobs over the past few weeks who could step in if these particular individuals do not think this is a good formula. What I was saying in concept is, if you take in a Federal dollar to bail yourself out, you ought to get a Federal salary until the taxpayer is made whole.

If you show managerial skills to pull us out of this, such that the assets you are requiring us to purchase improve in value, then, you could get some commensurate compensation because this is compensation for actual performance.

Mr. DURBIN. So you are saying pay for performance, in other words, instead of pay for title or pay for past performance. That is a radical concept, but most workers in America would be able to identify with that. That is kind of what they face when they go to work.

Mr. WEBB. I would say to the Senator from Illinois, very quickly, when we use the word “punitive,” we should keep in mind that there are many people in this country who are teaching school or out driving a truck who are going to have to pay more taxes for this, but who have not had the benefit, in many cases, of even owning stock. They are going to have to pay a penalty for the malfeasance that has brought us to this situation.

If the administration and Secretary Paulson and others truly want to solve this problem—and I think they do—then they ought to be able to yield on this point simply because of the logic of it.

Mr. DURBIN. I might say to the Senator from Virginia, the \$700 billion represents roughly about \$2,000 of indebtedness for every man, woman, and child in America to make up for the mistakes of these banks.

There is another thing that troubles me. There is great potential for conflicts of interest because decisions have

to be made by the Secretary of the Treasury under his proposal about where the Federal taxpayers will step in with their money and buy illiquid assets; in other words, buy the mistakes, the mortgage securities, for example. Those decisions will have a direct impact on the survival of institutions and on the jobs of the people who are affected by those.

We want to make sure there is no conflict of interest, that the decisions are made by those who have no skin in the game, no investment in the decision, and it has to be at least subject to some review. There is no one in this country, thank goodness, above the law, and yet in the proposal given to us by the Treasury Department, there is no judicial or administrative review of decisions being made about where the \$700 billion is going to be invested. We are being asked—in a hurry—to get this done in a hurry, to give more authority to this administration, specifically to this Secretary of the Treasury, a man whom I respect, but to give more authority to him than anyone has ever had in the history of the United States, and to say that his actions are not subject to review by any court, any administrative body, when there is such a great potential for conflict of interest. That concerns me.

Mr. WEBB. I say to the Senator from Illinois, first, I wholly agree with you on that point. I mentioned in my comments a little while ago about the potential for conflict of interest. This is the continuation of a trend that disturbs me greatly, that is the movement of power toward the executive branch.

I was a committee counsel in the U.S. Congress 30 years ago. If you examine the balance between the executive branch and the legislative branch over those 30 years, it has steadily, particularly since 9/11, moved toward the executive branch. This is another example of that movement.

I would make one other point. I and a number of other people, Senator BAYH among them, have been very worried about sovereign wealth funds. I have talked about them and have been able to participate in some hearings on other committees about a foreign government directly investing in our economy. One of the points I made several times is that the U.S. Government has never directly invested in a discretionary manner in our markets.

So we are seeing two different trends that are disturbing and that we should be thinking about. One is, if we do transfer this amount of authority to the Secretary of Treasury, the Federal Government, on a discretionary basis—one individual, on a discretionary basis—is going to invest in parts of the economy. All this in their own discretion, decided without review, as the Senator from Illinois mentioned. That is a kind of a sovereign wealth fund in our own country, but with the bad assets.

The second trend we are now seeing is the movement, particularly from the

Government of China over the last 10 days, of massive investments from a country that on one level is potentially a great strategic adversary, and certainly an economic competitor, directly into our economy. There is a 49-percent purchase proposal for Morgan Stanley from the sovereign wealth fund of the Chinese Government.

So there are many pieces in motion. We have the gravest duty to sort them out. I congratulate the Senator from Illinois for his comments.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Virginia.

There are so many questions that have been raised by this proposal from the administration. I have to say at the outset, for those of us who have been here a number of years, this has an eerie resemblance to something I have seen before. It was on the floor of this Senate 6 years ago when we were told by this administration in October, before an election, that we had to give to the President of the United States the authority to invade Iraq. Oh, he did not say he was going to do it. He just needed the authority to invade Iraq because of weapons of mass destruction.

Of course, the pressure was building on Members of Congress: Do something. Saddam Hussein may have nuclear weapons. Condoleezza Rice talked about mushroom-shaped clouds. It was in that environment and atmosphere that the President said: Give me the authority; I will make the decision about whether we should invade Iraq.

The pressure was on. Some of us were up for reelection at the time. I can recall going to editorial boards in Chicago, and I can tell you, I lost their endorsements because I said there is something that concerns me about this. We are delegating so much power to this President. It is far easier to get in a war than it is to get out of one.

Here we are 6 years later. We are still in it. Mr. President, 4,183-plus American lives have been given in this conflict, 20,000, 30,000 have returned with serious wounds and injuries—amputations, paralysis, traumatic brain injury. I cannot tell you how much money we have spent there. It is almost as much as the President is asking now for the banks, maybe more.

We are being told again, as we approach another election: Give the authority to the administration, to the President, and step aside; in their wisdom, they will handle it. I worry about that. As I said, I respect Henry Paulson. I really do. I do not think he is a politician at heart. I think he is a patriot, a citizen who wants to do the best for his country. But his actions have to be put in a constitutional context. We have the balance of powers in this country because that is what America is. It is not because of what this current crop of politicians dreamed up. It is what the Founding Fathers said we are all about. We do not want to give too much power to any branch of Government. We want other branches to be involved.

A proposal is coming from this administration now, a few weeks before the election, with ominous clouds gathering over the financial institutions of America, and we are being told: Trust us. Trust us to give to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to take \$700 billion and to buy assets in banks without the review of any court or any administrative body.

I do not see in here the protections against conflict of interest. Why should I worry about conflicts of interest? Have we had any conflicts of interest with the war in Iraq? Let me think for a moment. Does the word "Halliburton" spring to mind, these no-bid contracts for billions of dollars that shortchanged our troops and our taxpayers? Excuse me if I am cynical and skeptical, but I have seen this movie, and I don't like the ending. The taxpayers pay too much money. The troops do not get protection. Halliburton gets billions of dollars in contracts.

So should I be concerned that there is going to be one person in the administration or a handful allocating \$700 billion without anybody looking over their shoulder? Yes, I am concerned.

Then there is a question about the banks we are going to help. This started out about the American economy and American financial institutions, and now it has become something larger. At the last minute, the Treasury Department said: Oh, we are going to help foreign banks too. Really? Foreign banks? I want to know more about that. I want to know how much we are going to get into this in terms of these foreign banks. A lot of these questions have to be asked and answered before any of us in good conscience can vote for this.

But that is the reality of what we face. Just in case people are keeping score, things have changed in the United States of America in the last several weeks. Some of it was lost on the business pages, and some of it most people did not focus on. But I have tried to study it a little more closely with this \$700 billion request.

To put this into perspective, the debt of the U.S. Government is \$5.4 trillion. In the combined history of the United States of America, all of the money we have had to borrow to keep this Government moving over and above what we raised in taxes comes to \$5.4 trillion. That debt, incidentally, has gone up dramatically, a record-breaking pace under the Bush administration. We are now facing, this year, a \$480 billion deficit—I am sorry, I think it is \$407 billion, but it will be \$480 billion next year, a record-breaking deficit.

So to put that in perspective, this is our mortgage, America, \$5.4 trillion and growing. It is a mortgage we will pay as long as we are alive, and so will our kids and so will their kids. That is the starting point. What has happened recently?

Almost 2 weeks ago, the decision was made that we would assume liability—

the Federal Government would assume the liability, a second mortgage, if you will—for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Now, this is a government-sponsored entity which basically guarantees 50 percent of all the mortgages in America. So now our second mortgage is, we are stepping in—not the shareholders of the companies, the taxpayers are stepping in to guarantee the solvency of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. There was not much else we could do, I will be honest with you. We reached a terrible point where there were not many alternatives.

How much liability is involved in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac? Well, it will be easy to remember. It is exactly the same liability as America's national debt: \$5.4 trillion. The second mortgage on America is the same as the first mortgage. Now, don't get me wrong. Behind Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is a lot of property—homes, businesses, real estate. So it isn't as if there isn't collateral involved, but we are on the hook for \$5.4 trillion. That is not the end of the story. The story goes on.

We decided that people who have mutual funds—my family has done that too—and have taken cash and put it into money market mutual funds—everybody knows what I am talking about; it is not the CD at the bank at the corner where Uncle Sam stands and says: We are going to protect you via the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but it is the money market mutual fund where you move money out of your stocks, out of your mutual funds, put it into your money market mutual funds because it makes a little bit better than what they are paying at the bank. It turns out they are in trouble. They are in such trouble now that we are going to have to step in for the mutual funds and provide a money market guarantee on the mutual funds. OK, we have our national debt and we have our secondary mortgage—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—\$5.4 trillion more, and now we are stepping in to guarantee money market mutual funds. How much could that be? Well, it is much smaller than the other two. It is \$3.4 trillion. Stay tuned, sharpen your pencil, there is more to follow because we are being asked now to come up with \$700 billion to buy illiquid assets. What is that? Something nobody wants to buy. We are going to buy them.

Do we have to do this and try to stop the seizure of the credit institutions of America? We may have no choice, but I think it is reasonable to ask a few questions. Just as we should have asked more questions about weapons of mass destruction 6 years ago before we found ourselves in this war, we need to ask questions today about where this is leading, and we need some protection for the taxpayers of this country.

I walked down LaSalle Street on Friday. It is a great street in Chicago, lined with banks and big office buildings. A lot of people came and said hi,

but a lot of them came to me and said: Are you going to do this, \$700 billion for bailing out these banks? I said: I don't know. At the end of the day, I don't know. I want to see what the administration comes back with. Right now we have a concept. I want to see a proposal.

I thought to myself as I walked along there and had a little press conference with a bunch of folks who walked by on the sidewalk listening: These are the folks who are going to pay for this idea. These are the taxpayers who are going to have to come up with the money for this—for all of this. None of these taxpayers got a notice about the annual bonus checks at these major companies that are going under. They didn't receive any of that. They didn't get a parachute either. They are the taxpayers. Unfortunately, it will be a bigger tax bill because of this.

What has happened is a fundamental failure of a philosophy that has been tested and tried for the last 10 years or so that says the Government ought to get out of the way, no questions asked, and don't diminish the dynamic aspect of this economy with overregulation. That, to me, is something we need to take a second look at.

Incidentally, my staff has told me the national debt is over \$10 trillion. I misspoke on the primary mortgage. I got the wrong figures out of the paper today, and I want the record to reflect it: The primary mortgage is over \$10 trillion, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is an additional \$5.3 trillion in liabilities, as I said earlier. That shows you the amount of debt that is involved.

So the fundamental failure of the philosophy is this belief that somehow we, as taxpayers, have a responsibility to rescue but not a responsibility to regulate. That is not right. If the full faith and credit of the United States of America is going to come to the rescue of these private institutions, we have an obligation in Government to the taxpayers of this country to ask the hard questions in advance, before the disaster arrives. We should have been asking these questions a long time ago. We should have asked them about the predatory lending practices of major credit institutions. We have had several votes on the floor of the Senate on that issue. We should have been asking about how this money was being loaned—the circumstances.

I guess there is not much sympathy for people facing foreclosure in America today. A lot of us might be inclined to think: These poor souls, they should have been a little more careful, until you take the time to meet some of them. Some of them got carried away. Don't get me wrong. I can't have a lot of sympathy for them. They made big mistakes trying to make big money, but some of these folks were conned. They signed up for mortgages full of tricks and traps that ended up exploding in their faces and now they are going to lose their homes.

At the end of the day, this crisis started with a housing catastrophe and disaster and continues because of it. It is up to us now to decide what we are going to do about it. We can rescue the folks at the top—that is what is being proposed—but we need to do a lot more than that. I think we need to set up a mechanism for those who are about to lose their homes to be protected.

Here is an interesting thing. If you face bankruptcy today and you have seven or eight homes and go into the bankruptcy court, they can renegotiate the terms of all your mortgages, except one. They cannot renegotiate the terms of the mortgage on your home. Why? If they can renegotiate the terms on my vacation home, my farm, my ranch, my property in some other place, why not my home? There is no good explanation. The fact that the bankruptcy court cannot renegotiate leads us, sadly, to the point where banking institutions and credit lenders and the others are not renegotiating terms. They would rather see people fail and face foreclosure. I think we have to do something to make sure the bankruptcy courts have that option. I think there should be incentives for those lending institutions to try hard to keep people in their homes.

Mr. President, 340,000 Americans were foreclosed on in the month of August. It is a record-breaking number. Not since the Great Depression have we seen that percentage of homeowners facing that kind of liability. So we have to keep the taxpayers in mind when we read this proposal of the Treasury. We have to keep homeowners in mind, and we ought to keep accountability in mind. At the end of the day, there is no branch of this Government above the law. When it comes to \$700 billion in taxpayers' dollars and money—and hard-earned money, I might add—they are not above the law.

One last point I wish to make. Senator McCain has made a name for himself in the Senate, calling himself a leading deregulator. He has been opposed to regulation. In fact, he teamed up with Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, who was his inspiration for years, and they voted together on many issues: to deregulate, get the Government out of the economy. Let a thousand flowers bloom. Let's let these forces of capitalism go to work. I am not going to diminish the power of the entrepreneurial spirit and the forces of capitalism, but they can get carried away. We saw it happen with the savings and loan crisis and we have seen it happen with the subprime mortgage crisis. We have seen it before. It might happen again if we don't learn a lesson.

I am disappointed that Senator McCain in the past took that position. I am troubled that, in a recent article in *Contingencies* magazine, he said about our health care market:

Opening up the health insurance market to more vigorous nationwide competition, as we have done over the last decade in banking, would provide more choices of innovative

products less burdened by the worst excesses of State-based regulation.

I don't know when Senator McCain wrote that. It couldn't have been recently because I have to tell my colleagues that if he is promising for the health insurance market what we now face in the banking market after deregulation, God help American families. I couldn't disagree more with Senator McCain's position on deregulation when it came to banking, and now his position on deregulation when it comes to health insurance companies.

If the Government doesn't set the rules, the insurance companies will. How would you like to throw yourself on the mercy of that insurance company adjuster, when it is your health or the health of one of your kids on the line? Insurers compete with one another, trying to avoid costly patients and avoid paying for procedures. We hear about it almost every day. According to Senator McCain, let a thousand flowers bloom. Let the market work. The market works pretty well if you are young and healthy or wealthy. It doesn't work very well if you are older, have a history of illness, and don't have much of an income. That is why we need sensible regulation.

This idea that we are going to move away from employer-based health insurance, as Senator McCain has said—well, I am sure there are some people who buy into that. Put each one of the customers in America out on their own buying health insurance instead of buying through pools where they work, and we know what will happen. The sickest people will have the toughest time finding insurance and paying for it. That isn't how it should work. We learned that, I am afraid, the hard way, and Senator McCain is stuck on that. I think he is wrong. I think we need a health insurance program in America which gives us all a fighting chance. Unfortunately, Senator McCain's approach does not. So we have to make sure that when it comes to banking or health insurance, Senator McCain's approach is not going to be our approach. This idea of deregulation may at one time have had wide subscription, but today it does not. We have to move forward with the concept that there is an appropriate role for Government—not to go too far but to provide enough protection, disclosure, transparency, and accountability to make sure we don't find ourselves in the crisis we find today with our banking institutions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, first of all, I wish to thank the Senator from Illinois for his leadership. He has been an advocate for a long time for changing the way this administration has allowed these agencies to decay and to not be regulated—not just our financial market but our consumer market and the market for oil and other things. I thank the Senator from Illinois for his leadership and his far-sightedness during these last few years.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—RESOLUTIONS EN BLOC

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the relevant committees of jurisdiction be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Con. Res. 96, S. Res. 614, S. Res. 653, S. Res. 644, S. Res. 646, S. Res. 652, S. Res. 651, H. Con. Res. 163, S. Res. 648, S. Res. 502, S. Con. Res. 93, H. Con. Res. 296, S. Res. 634, and S. Res. 657.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then proceed to a number of resolutions submitted earlier today:

S. Res. 670, S. Res. 671, S. Res. 672, S. Res. 673, S. Res. 674, S. Res. 675, and S. Res. 676, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 96

Whereas on May 12, 2008, Irena Sendler, a living example of social justice, died at the age of 98;

Whereas Irena Sendler repeatedly risked her life during the Holocaust to rescue over 2,500 Jewish children who lived in the Warsaw ghetto in Poland from Nazi extermination;

Whereas Irena Sendler was inspired by her father, a physician who treated poor Jewish patients, to dedicate her life to others;

Whereas Irena Sendler became an activist at the start of World War II, heading the clandestine group *Zegota* and driving an underground movement that provided safe passage for Jews from the Warsaw ghetto who faced disease, execution, or deportation to concentration camps;

Whereas Irena Sendler became 1 of the most successful workers within *Zegota*, taking charge of the children's division and using her senior position with the welfare department in Warsaw to gain access to and from the ghetto to build a network of allies to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto;

Whereas Irena Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo on October 20, 1943, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad;

Whereas Irena Sendler never revealed details of her contacts, escaped from Pawiak prison, and continued her invaluable work with *Zegota*;

Whereas in 1965, Irena Sendler was recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel;

Whereas in 2006, Irena Sendler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Irena Sendler was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest civilian decoration in Poland;

Whereas "Tzedek: The Righteous", a documentary film, and "Life in a Jar", a play about the rescue efforts made by Irena Sendler, chronicle the life of Irena Sendler;

Whereas Irena Sendler, a woman who risked everything for the lives of others and

whose bravery is unimaginable to many, expressed guilt for not being able to do more for the Jewish people; and

Whereas the story of Irena Sendler reminds citizens of the United States and the world community not only of the horrible cruelty at the time of the Holocaust, but also the incredible difference 1 person can make: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust;

(2) pays respect and extends condolences to the Sendler family;

(3) honors the legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope that Irena Sendler exhibited; and

(4) remembers the life and unwavering dedication to justice and human rights of Irena Sendler.

S. RES. 614

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas in a recently sampled month, 7,000,000 individuals aged 12 or older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for nonmedical purposes;

Whereas abuse of prescription medicines, including pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the number 1 illegal drug of abuse in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,400,000 children, or 1 in 10 children aged 12 through 17, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,500,000, or 1 in 5, young adults have used prescription medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than ⅓ of teens mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using more traditional street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teens and parents of the potential harms of these powerful prescription drugs makes raising public awareness about the dangers of the misuse of such drugs more critical than ever;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are most often obtained through friends and relatives;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are also obtained through rogue Internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teens access to websites that promote medicine abuse;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the messages that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that taking over-the-counter and prescription medicines for recreational uses or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to become educated about prescription drug abuse and talk to teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the misuse of medicines;

Whereas some groups, including the Consumer Healthcare Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, have taken important steps by creating educational toolkits, including “A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before it Starts”, which provides guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential dangers of abusing over-the-counter cough and cold medicines;

Whereas the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and community alliance and affiliate partners have undertaken a nationwide prevention campaign utilizing research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines so that parents are empowered to effectively communicate the facts about this dangerous trend with teens and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines at home; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb the disturbing rise in medicine misuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of August 2008 as “National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month”; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

S. RES. 653

Whereas, on September 6, 2008, The Ohio State University football team, known as the “Buckeyes,” achieved its 800th win, becoming the 5th major college football program to reach this mark;

Whereas the Buckeyes have an all-time record of 800 wins, 304 losses, and 53 ties in their 119 seasons;

Whereas, in 1890, the Buckeyes played their first game, and since have become a symbol of pride and tradition for the past and present members of The Ohio State University community;

Whereas The Ohio State University has the largest self-supporting athletics program in the country;

Whereas The Ohio State University continues to strive for academic excellence in sports, ranking first in the Big Ten Academic All-Conference Team for the 2007–08 academic year;

Whereas, there are 1,877 Buckeye All-Americans in the history of the program;

Whereas the Ohio State athletic program strives to improve the academic quality of The Ohio State University by donating key funding to renovate Ohio State’s academic facilities, including the recent donation to the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library;

Whereas Ohio State strives for diversity at all levels and was commended nationally in 2007–08 for its National Collegiate Athletic Association academic progress rate, Overall Excellence in Diversity, and for ranking 2nd in the Degree Completion Program;

Whereas each year Ohio State student-athletes and coaches are involved in thousands of hours of community service;

Whereas each player, coach, and contributor to the team remained committed to ensuring that the Buckeyes achieved this historic accomplishment; and

Whereas all supporters of The Ohio State University are to be praised for their dedication to, and pride in, The Ohio State University football program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates The Ohio State University football team for achieving 800 victories in its 119-year-history;

(2) recognizes The Ohio State University athletic program for its accomplishments in both sports and academics; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) The Ohio State University for appropriate display;

(B) the President of The Ohio State University, Dr. E. Gordon Gee; and

(C) the head coach of The Ohio State University football team, Mr. Jim Tressel.

S. RES. 644

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of children and youth;

Whereas the President issued a proclamation on May 30, 2008, proclaiming June 1, 2008 as “National Child’s Day” to demonstrate a commitment to the youth of the United States;

Whereas September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase their focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September 2008 as “National Child Awareness Month” would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2008 as “National Child Awareness Month”—

(1) to promote awareness of charities benefitting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States; and

(2) to recognize efforts made by such charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment in the future of the United States.

S. RES. 646

Whereas the prevalence of running away from home and homelessness among youths is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youths live on the streets of the United States each year;

Whereas running away from home is widespread, and youths aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of becoming homeless than adults;

Whereas youths who run away from home most often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused at home, have been discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition

plans, or have been separated from their parents by death and divorce, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and are ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs that support runaway youths and assist youths and their families in preventing youths from running away succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youths from running away from home and supporting youths in high-risk situations are priorities for families, communities, and the Nation;

Whereas the future well-being of the United States is dependent on the opportunities provided for youths and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youths to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youths and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youths with their families and to link youths to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2008 to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youths in high-risk situations, the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives to running away, and the resources and support available for youths, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

S. RES. 652

Whereas the number of elderly and disabled citizens of the United States is increasing dramatically;

Whereas assisted living is a long-term care service that fosters choice, dignity, independence, and autonomy in the elderly and disabled across the United States;

Whereas the National Center for Assisted Living created National Assisted Living Week;

Whereas the theme of National Assisted Living Week 2008 is "Filling Life with Love"; and

Whereas this theme highlights the privilege, value, and responsibility of passing the legacies of the lives of the elderly and disabled of the United States down through the generations that care for and love them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 8, 2008, as "National Assisted Living Week"; and

(2) urges all people of the United States—

(A) to visit friends and loved ones who reside at assisted living facilities; and

(B) to learn more about assisted living services, including how assisted living services benefit communities in the United States.

S. RES. 651

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established on July 29, 1958;

Whereas on May 5, 1961, NASA successfully launched America's first manned spacecraft, Freedom 7, piloted by Alan B. Shepard, Jr.;

Whereas on February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth;

Whereas in July of 1969 President John Kennedy's vision of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth was realized with the Apollo 11 mission, commanded by Neil A. Armstrong, Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., and Command Module Pilot Michael Collins;

Whereas on April 12, 1981, NASA began a new era of human space flight and exploration with the launch of the first Space Shuttle Columbia, commanded by John W. Young and piloted by Robert L. "Bob" Crippen;

Whereas on June 18, 1983, Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space as a crewmember of Space Shuttle Challenger for STS-7;

Whereas NASA has greatly expanded our knowledge and understanding of our planet and solar system through various unmanned vehicles utilized on numerous missions;

Whereas, during the Cold War, NASA's achievements served as a source of national pride and captured the imagination of the world by demonstrating a peaceful use of our technological capabilities;

Whereas NASA now serves as a model for international cooperation and American leadership through the International Space Station and other scientific endeavors;

Whereas thanks to NASA and the far-reaching gaze of the Hubble Space Telescope, we have seen further into our universe than ever before;

Whereas NASA space probes have landed on or flown by eight of the planets in our solar system;

Whereas the aeronautics research by NASA has led to great discoveries and advances in aircraft design and aviation;

Whereas the work done by NASA has expanded the scope of human knowledge, created new technologies, and inspired young men and women to enter scientific and engineering careers;

Whereas in the last fifty years, NASA has positively impacted almost every facet of our lives; and

Whereas, thanks to the heroism, courage, and supreme sacrifice of our astronaut corps over the last five decades, we are now able to live and work in space for the benefit of all humankind: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate That the Senate—

(1) honors the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary;

(2) acknowledges the value of NASA's discoveries and accomplishments; and

(3) pledges to maintain America's position as the world leader in earth and space science, aeronautics and space exploration and technology.

H. CON. RES. 163

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is the most common congenital malformation of the cerebellum and its causes are largely unknown;

Whereas between 10,000 and 40,000 people have Dandy-Walker syndrome in the United States;

Whereas the incidence of Dandy-Walker syndrome is at least 1 case per every 25,000 to 35,000 live births, however this is likely a significant underestimate because of difficulties diagnosing the syndrome;

Whereas the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Dandy-Walker syndrome may affect as many as 1 in 5,000 live born infants;

Whereas approximately 70 to 90 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome have hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome accounts for approximately 1 to 4 percent of hydrocephalus cases;

Whereas patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome present with developmental delay, enlarged head circumference, or signs and symptoms of hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome affects males and females approximately equally;

Whereas seizures occur in 15 to 30 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas subnormal intelligence is manifested in 41 to 71 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas failure to diagnose Dandy-Walker syndrome with hydrocephalus in a Neonate or a child can cause serious neurologic complications;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is named after former University of New Mexico neurosurgeon and professor Arthur E. Walker (1907-1995) and Walter E. Dandy (1883-1941), who first described the disorder in 1914; and

Whereas there are 2 known researchers dedicated to Dandy-Walker Syndrome in the United States and additional investigators are needed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress commends the Director of the National Institutes of Health for working with leading scientists and researchers to organize the first National Institutes of Health conference on hydrocephalus in September 2005 and the Inaugural "Cerebellar Development: Bench to Bedside International Conference" in November 2006; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Director of the National Institutes of Health should continue the current collaboration, with respect to Dandy-Walker syndrome, among the National Human Genome Research Institute, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Office of Rare Diseases;

(B) further research into the epidemiology, diagnosis, pathophysiology, disease burden, and improved treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus should be conducted and supported; and

(C) public awareness and professional education regarding Dandy-Walker research should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Dandy-Walker Alliance and the Hydrocephalus Association.

S. RES. 648

Whereas the USS Nautilus (SSN 571), built and launched at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, on January 21, 1954, was the first vessel in the world to be powered by nuclear power;

Whereas the USS Nautilus overcame extreme difficulties of navigation and maneuverability while submerged under the polar ice, and became the first vessel to cross the geographic North Pole on August 3, 1958;

Whereas the USS Nautilus continued on her voyage and became the first vessel to successfully navigate a course across the top of the world;

Whereas the USS Nautilus, having claimed this historic milestone and returned home to Naval Submarine Base New London, continued to establish a series of naval records in her distinguished 25-year career, including being the first submarine to journey "20,000 leagues under the sea";

Whereas the USS Nautilus completed these significant and laudable achievements during a critical phase of the Cold War, providing a source of inspiration for Americans and raising the hopes of the Free World;

Whereas the USS Nautilus was the first naval vessel in peacetime to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its meritorious efforts in crossing the North Pole;

Whereas Commander William R. Anderson of the United States Navy was awarded the Legion of Merit for his role in commanding the USS Nautilus during its historic voyage;

Whereas the USS Nautilus and its contribution to world history was praised by a range of American Presidents, including President Harry Truman, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, President Jimmy Carter, and President Bill Clinton; and

Whereas President Eisenhower described the voyage to the North Pole as a "magnificent achievement" from which "the entire free world would benefit": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the journey to the North Pole undertaken by the USS Nautilus;

(2) commends the officers and crew of the USS Nautilus on the 50th anniversary of their magnificent achievement;

(3) recognizes the importance of the USS Nautilus' journey to the North Pole as not only a military and scientific accomplishment, but also in confirming America's longstanding interest in this vital region of the world;

(4) commends the role of the USS Nautilus and the United States Submarine Force in protecting the interests of the free world during the Cold War; and

(5) supports the continuing role of the United States Submarine Force in defending our Nation in the 21st century.

S. RES. 502

Whereas, on March 21, 1983, the United States Space Foundation was founded by a small group of pioneering individuals in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas 2008 marks the 25th year of excellence and service of the Space Foundation;

Whereas the mission of the Space Foundation is to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable, and propel humanity;

Whereas the Space Foundation has become the leading nonprofit organization advancing the exploration, development, and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind;

Whereas the Space Foundation embraces all aspects of space including commercial, civil, and national security;

Whereas the current national security environment requires extensive use and advancement of space-based assets;

Whereas the Space Foundation has contributed to space education programs in all 50 States and also in Europe and Asia;

Whereas the Space Foundation is regarded internationally as a leading space advocacy organization, and is a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and

Whereas the Space Foundation hosts the National Space Symposium and Strategic Space and Defense, 2 of the top conferences for space professionals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(a) recognizes the contributions made by the Space Foundation; and

(b) commemorates the Space Foundation's 25 years of excellence and support to the Nation.

S. CON. RES. 93

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year, according to the Heart Rhythm Society;

Whereas anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest, including infants, high school athletes, and people in their 30s and 40s who have no sign of heart disease;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute giving the disease a mortality rate of approximately 95 percent;

Whereas to have a chance of surviving an attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack;

Whereas for every minute that passes without a shock from an automated external defibrillator, the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10 percent;

Whereas lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are effective if administered in time;

Whereas according to joint research by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, implantable cardioverter defibrillators are 98 percent effective at protecting people at risk for sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas according to the American Heart Association, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator more than double the chances that a victim will survive;

Whereas the Yale-New Haven Hospital and the New England Journal of Medicine state that women and African-Americans are at a higher risk than the general population for dying as a result of sudden cardiac arrest, yet this fact is not well known to people at risk;

Whereas there is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and related therapies among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and to improve quality of life; and

Whereas the Heart Rhythm Society and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition are preparing related public awareness and education campaigns on sudden cardiac arrest to be held each year during the month of October: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month";

(2) supports efforts to educate people about sudden cardiac arrest and to raise awareness about the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, identifying warning signs, and the need to seek medical attention in a timely manner;

(3) acknowledges the critical importance of sudden cardiac arrest awareness to improving national cardiovascular health; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

H. CON. RES. 296

Whereas heat stroke is a medical emergency that can be fatal if not properly and promptly treated, and 50 percent of those with heat stroke die from it;

Whereas children absorb more heat from a hot environment because they have greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than adults;

Whereas the smaller the child, the faster he or she can overheat;

Whereas children and adolescents may have a reduced ability to dissipate heat through sweating;

Whereas children and adolescents frequently do not have the physiological drive to drink enough fluids to replenish sweat losses during prolonged exercise;

Whereas youth athletes may be more easily distracted by teammates and spectators when given the opportunity to rest and rehydrate;

Whereas a recent study found that 70 percent of afterschool athletes arrive on the playing field already dehydrated;

Whereas heat-induced illness is one of the most preventable sports ailments and parents, young athletes, and coaches need to understand the physiological factors that increase the risk for heat-related illness and take steps to prevent it;

Whereas 13-year-old Kendrick Fincher from Rogers, Arkansas, collapsed during an August pre-season football practice, was rushed to the hospital, and for the next 18 days his family waited anxiously for him to regain consciousness, tragically never regained consciousness, and died on August 25, 1995, from multi-system organ failure as a result of heat stroke;

Whereas Kendrick's parents, Rhonda and Mike Fincher, founded the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation in honor of their son, with the aim to raise awareness of the potentially deadly consequences of dehydration for student athletes and to provide schools with the information and equipment needed to ensure other students do not suffer from heat stroke;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation has distributed more than 130,000 water bottles and heat illness prevention pamphlets to children and athletes throughout the United States;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation oversees consultation with school district athletic programs to ensure they have procedures in place to prevent heat illness and dehydration;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation provides heat stroke awareness and steps for prevention at local health fairs, community events, and the Annual Youth Run through "cool huts", misting stations, and free ice water;

Whereas Gatorade Company joined forces with the National Football League to lead a nationwide "Beat the Heat" campaign aimed at educating parents and football coaches about the importance of hydration in order to keep athletes safe in the hot summer months; and

Whereas Gatorade Company and the National Football League held Gatorade Donation Days at training camps to raise money to raise awareness of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Heat Stroke Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about heat stroke;

(B) the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation should be applauded for its efforts in promoting awareness about heat stroke; and

(C) policymakers, parents, coaches, student athletes, not-for-profit organizations, and other members of the community should work to increase awareness and prevention of heat stroke; and

(2) Congress urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media, through National Heat Stroke Awareness Month to promote the awareness of heat stroke.

S. RES. 634

Whereas, on April 26, 1968, after viewing the CBS Emmy-award winning documentary "Hunger in America," Senator George McGovern introduced a resolution to establish a Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

Whereas the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was enacted on July 30, 1968;

Whereas Senator George McGovern served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on

Nutrition and Human Needs from 1968 to 1977;

Whereas July 30, 2008, marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which later became the foundation of the current Subcommittee on Nutrition and Food Assistance, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, and General Legislation Jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

Whereas Senator George McGovern was committed to exposing the failure of Federal food assistance programs to reach citizens lacking in adequate quantities and quality of food;

Whereas Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole worked tirelessly in their respective roles on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs to develop a bipartisan Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs played a key role in educating Congress, the Federal Government, and the Nation at large about the magnitude of hunger in the United States;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was vital to reforming the Federal food stamp program, culminating in the passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), which made the program more efficient and more accessible to those most in need by finally eliminating the requirement that Americans pay for a portion of their food stamps;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was essential to expanding the school lunch program established under the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and permanently establishing the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the child and adult care food program under section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and the summer food service program for children under section 13 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761);

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was instrumental in the establishment of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) (WIC);

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry remains committed to continuing the important work begun by Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole of providing a Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry provided a record-level amount of nutrition funding in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651) to reform and strengthen Federal nutrition assistance programs;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry made key improvements to the food stamp program, including—

(1) increasing the food purchasing ability of low-income households by accounting for food cost inflation;

(2) increasing the minimum benefit;

(3) encouraging retirement and education savings; and

(4) allowing families to account for child care costs in calculating food assistance;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry helped to

strengthen the domestic food assistance safety net by providing significant funding to increase commodity purchases for local area food banks;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 28,000,000 people in the United States participate in the food stamp program;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 17,500,000 low-income children receive free or reduced-price meals through the national school lunch program;

Whereas despite Federal food assistance programs, 35,500,000 people in the United States, including 12,600,000 children, continue to live in households considered to be food insecure;

Whereas children who live in households lacking access to sufficient food are more likely to be in poorer physical health than children from food secure households; and

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of food insecurity because undernutrition can have adverse impacts on emotional health, behavior, school performance, and cognitive development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

(2) recognizes the substantial contributions the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs made in ensuring that effective and efficient Federal food assistance programs were accessible to those most in need;

(3) recognizes that hunger continues to be an issue plaguing the United States; and

(4) supports the continued efforts of Federal, State, and local governments and private non-profit organizations to eradicate hunger in the United States.

S. RES. 657

Whereas celiac disease affects approximately 1 in every 130 people in the United States, for a total of 3,000,000 people;

Whereas the majority of people with celiac disease have yet to be diagnosed;

Whereas celiac disease is a chronic inflammatory disorder that is classified as both an autoimmune condition and a genetic condition;

Whereas celiac disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine, which results in overall malnutrition;

Whereas, when a person with celiac disease consumes foods that contain certain protein fractions, that person suffers a cell-mediated immune response that damages the villi of the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients in food and the effectiveness of medications;

Whereas those problematic protein fractions are found in wheat, barley, rye, and oats, which are used to produce many foods, medications, and vitamins;

Whereas, because celiac disease is a genetic disease, there is an increased incidence of celiac disease in families with a known history of celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is underdiagnosed because the symptoms can be attributed to other conditions and are easily overlooked by doctors and patients;

Whereas, as recently as 2000, the average person with celiac disease waited 11 years for a correct diagnosis;

Whereas ½ of all people with celiac disease do not show symptoms of the disease;

Whereas celiac disease is diagnosed by tests that measure the blood for abnormally high levels of the antibodies of immunoglobulin A, anti-tissue transglutaminase, and IgA anti-endomysium antibodies;

Whereas celiac disease can be treated only by implementing a diet free of wheat, barley,

rye, and oats, often called a “gluten-free diet”;

Whereas a delay in the diagnosis of celiac disease can result in damage to the small intestine, which leads to an increased risk of malnutrition, anemia, lymphoma, adenocarcinoma, osteoporosis, miscarriage, congenital malformation, short stature, and disorders of the skin and other organs;

Whereas celiac disease is linked to many autoimmune disorders, including thyroid disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type 1 diabetes, liver disease, collagen vascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome;

Whereas the connection between celiac disease and diet was first established by Dr. Samuel Gee, who wrote, “if the patient can be cured at all, it must be by means of diet”;

Whereas Dr. Samuel Gee was born on September 13, 1839; and

Whereas, by designating September 13, 2008, as National Celiac Disease Awareness Day, the Senate can raise awareness of celiac disease in the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 13, 2008, as “National Celiac Disease Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of celiac disease;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Celiac Sprue Association, the American Celiac Society, the Celiac Disease Foundation, the Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, and the Oklahoma Celiac Support Group No. 5 of the Celiac Sprue Association.

S. RES. 670

Whereas millions of Americans have benefited from the courageous service of first responders across the United States;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as “first responders”) work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornados in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007, the flooding in the Midwest in June 2008, and the wildfires in the West in July 2008;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 900,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 900,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 "first responders" make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,671 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 167 per year, and 181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers in the United States were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others; and

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2008, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day" to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

S. RES. 671

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in 1807, making it the first public and the fifth oldest medical school in the United States;

Whereas, in 1823, the University of Maryland School of Medicine became the first teaching hospital in the Nation with the construction of the Baltimore Infirmary and became the first medical school in the United States to institute a residency training program;

Whereas the School of Medicine was the founding school of the University of Maryland and is an integral part of the 11-campus University System of Maryland;

Whereas, at the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care, and community service;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing

excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care, and service to improve the health of the people of Maryland and the United States;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is committed to the education and training of M.D. and Ph.D. students in fields including physical therapy, rehabilitation science, and medical research technology;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has played a crucial role in helping to meet the health care needs of the people of Maryland and continues to recruit and develop faculty to serve as exemplary role models for students; and

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has developed a legacy of academic excellence, outstanding patient care, and ground-breaking research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the School of Medicine in providing outstanding service to, and in training leaders for, the local community, the State of Maryland, and the world.

S. RES. 672

Whereas negative images, stories, and influences in the day-to-day lives of Americans can detrimentally affect their emotional well-being, interactions with others, and general demeanor;

Whereas a group of teenagers participating in a leadership forum at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, identified a lack of encouragement as one of the greatest problems facing young people today;

Whereas the youth of our Nation need guidance, inspiration, and reassurance to counteract this negativity and to develop the qualities of character essential for future leadership in our country;

Whereas a National Day of Encouragement would serve as a reminder to counterbalance and overcome negative influences, and would also provide much-needed encouragement and support to others;

Whereas, following the events of September 11, 2001, thousands of people of the United States made sacrifices in order to bring help and healing to the victims and their families, inspiring and encouraging the Nation; and

Whereas the renewed feelings of unity, hope, selflessness, and encouragement that began on September 12, 2001, are the same feelings that the National Day of Encouragement is meant to recapture and spread: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 12, 2008, as "National Day of Encouragement";

(2) acknowledges the importance of encouragement and positive influences in the lives of all people; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to encourage others, whether it be through an act of service, a thoughtful letter, or words of kindness and inspiration, and to thereby boost the morale of all.

S. RES. 673

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve the health of American workers;

Whereas employees who improve their health also reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, thus posing a serious and growing challenge to business in the United States;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care, as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driving force of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from \$3 to \$15 for each dollar invested, as well as a 28 percent average reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26 percent reduction in health care costs, and a 30 percent average reduction in workers' compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health-related goal that at least ¾ of United States employers, regardless of size, will voluntarily offer a comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—(1) health education and programming which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees' interests and needs; (2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization's expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease; (3) integration of the worksite wellness programs into the organization's structure; (4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and (5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow-up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas the employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 Americans have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas, for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, chief executive officers of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State governors should be encouraged to make worksite health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee health management to help our Nation achieve this goal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on private and public employers to support workplace wellness and implement voluntarily worksite health promotion programs to help

maximize employees' health and well being and lower health care costs.

S. RES. 674

Whereas older adults value their independence and a fall can significantly limit their ability to remain self-sufficient;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries among older adults in the United States;

Whereas older adults are by far the population at greatest risk for falling unintentionally, with more than 1/3 of all people 65 years or older falling each year;

Whereas older adults who fall once are 2 to 3 times more likely than adults who have not fallen to fall again;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bureau of the Census reported that more than 34,800,000 adults older than the age of 65 live in the United States, and that number is expected to grow to almost 55,000,000 by 2020;

Whereas 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, such as bruising, hip fractures, and head traumas;

Whereas, in 2005, falls resulted in nearly 1,800,000 older adults being treated in emergency departments and more than 433,000 older adults being hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2005, nearly 16,000 people aged 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

Whereas the total in direct costs associated with both fatal and non-fatal falls is more than \$19,000,000,000 annually for hospitalization, emergency department visits, and outpatient care;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not stemmed, annual direct treatment costs will reach \$43,800,000,000 by 2020, with an annual cost under the Medicare program of \$32,400,000,000;

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards;

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-202) was enacted, amending the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) to create a national education campaign aimed at older adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, its numerous supporting organizations and all other supportive organizations, should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote greater understanding, research, and pilot programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2008, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day";

(2) commends the National Falls Free Coalition and all other supportive organizations for their efforts to promote awareness about preventing and reducing falls among older people in the United States;

(3) encourages the private sector, the public health community, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses, individuals, and the

media to use National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote awareness of this important public health problem in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older people in the United States.

S. RES. 675

Whereas there are approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 129,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 61 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 3 years;

Whereas, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who "age out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 26,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas, while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 20,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas, in 2007, adoptions were finalized for over 4,200 children through more than 260 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 15, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption during the

month of November and all throughout the year.

S. RES. 676

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, an 11-year special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been sponsored by the National Family Partnership and nationally recognized since 1988 to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life, and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, committed throughout its 35 years to aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances, has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts, education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the Nation faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, including the abuse of methamphetamines, inhalants, and prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States;

Whereas, between 1996 and 2006, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of methamphetamines, prescription medications, and marijuana each significantly rose;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well known brand-name candies and foods; and

Whereas parents, youths, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to promote the creation of drug-free communities and to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 926, H.J. Res. 62; that the committee amendment be agreed to, the resolution be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) *Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of the United States;*

(2) *Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;*

(3) *Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;*

(4) *Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;*

(5) *nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;*

(6) *nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;*

(7) *designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and*

(8) *designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.*

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY.

Congress—

(1) *designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as "Native American Heritage Day"; and*

(2) *encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities relating to—*

(A) *the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;*

(B) *the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and*

(C) *the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.*

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the joint resolution to be read a third time.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of the resolution congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary. I am proud to introduce this resolution that recognizes the outstanding contributions the University of Maryland School of Medicine has made in the last 200 years to the medical community, Maryland community, and entire world.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is the first public medical school in the country and is the fifth oldest medical school. Since 1789, it has been a leader in medical education—the first medical school in the country to build a teaching hospital for clinical instruction, the first to establish a medical library, and the first school to offer courses in preventive medicine.

Today, the University of Maryland School of Medicine is home to 25 academic departments, 7 research centers, and treats over 1 million patients a year. I commend the contributions the school has made over the past 200 years. I know the University of Maryland School of Medicine will continue to blaze trails in the future as a leader in medical research, patient care, education, and community service.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution that commemorates the Annual Red Ribbon Campaign. I am honored to again seek the Senate's continuing support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week, which is October 23 through October 31.

In 1985, Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena of the Drug Enforcement Administration was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in the line of duty by drug traffickers. Shortly after Agent Camarena's death, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER and high school friend Henry Lozano launched "Camarena Clubs" in the Agent's hometown of Calexico, CA. In honor of Agent Camarena, hundreds of club members wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug-free lives. The campaign quickly gained statewide and then national prominence. In 1988, what is now the National Family Partnership organized the first National Red Ribbon Week, an 8-day event proclaimed by the Congress and chaired by then President and Mrs. Reagan.

This campaign is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of youth through Red Ribbon Week events. Red Ribbon Week memorializes Agent Camarena, and all those who have lost their lives in the war on drugs, by educating young people about the dangers of drug abuse, promoting drug-free ac-

tivities, and supporting everyone who has stood strong against illicit drugs. The Red Ribbon that we will wear during Red Ribbon Week is a symbol of zero tolerance for illegal drug use and our commitment to help people, especially children, make the right life-decisions.

In Alaska, Red Ribbon Week is a statewide celebration involving thousands of school children and other supporters. On October 27, the Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition, in conjunction with the municipality of Anchorage, will host a Red Ribbon Week kickoff. The Red Ribbon Coalition is comprised of the Anchorage School District, the Alaska State Troopers, the Anchorage Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Forty-three Boys & Girls Clubs across Alaska will help other Alaskan communities celebrate Red Ribbon Week throughout the State.

In addition, this year, the Red Ribbon Coalition, the Alaska National Guard, and the Iditarod Trail Committee are sponsoring the first ever Anchorage School District Idol whereby every junior high and high school in Anchorage will hold local talent competitions and select one act to move to a final competition. The acts will be judged based, among other things, on their drug-free themes, and the final competition will be held as part of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race festivities in March 2009. The plan is to broadcast the event to the students in all 50 States and across the globe who participate in the Iditarod Education Program, thus extending the reach of the 2008 Red Ribbon Week into 2009, and sharing Anchorage's Red Ribbon Week antidrug message and celebrations with the Nation and the world.

As we stand together against drugs, I thank my colleagues for joining me in what hopefully will be a continuation of the tradition of congressional support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I stand here today to highlight my grave concerns about our financial system and the American economy—a disaster that has been building for months and, in fact, years and last week quickly hit the breaking point.

The latest crisis seemed to come so suddenly, it moved so fast, it spread so far, and went straight to the heart of the global financial system. There is no doubt we are seeing now the biggest financial challenge since the Great Depression, and we are also witnessing the most remarkable degree of Government involvement into our financial system since the 1930s.

It is truly remarkable. Consider the list: Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch,

and AIG. These names used to be confined to the business pages. Now they are at the top of the front pages.

I have strong feelings about what happened here. During the past 8 years, the financial and economic policies of this administration have been off course. They have not managed or led the economy in a responsible manner.

We have gone from a large budget surplus, left by the Clinton administration, to an even larger budget deficit. This administration has been reckless in how it managed Government's finances, and it has been reckless in how it managed its responsibility to ensure a strong, stable financial system.

This administration acted as if the rules don't apply anymore. With loopholes here and there, they don't use the regulations. It permitted the large financial institutions to run amok, to turn the economy into a gambling hall, playing with funny money. Finally, in the 11th hour, the house managers, Bernanke and Paulson, have been asked to step in to shut down the game.

It is hard to exaggerate the magnitude of what has happened. As financial journalist Steven Pearlstein observed last week:

This is what a Category 4 financial crisis looks like. Giant blue-chip financial institutions swept away in a matter of days. Banks refusing to lend to other banks. Russia closing its stock market to stop the panicked selling. Gold soaring \$70 in a single trading session. Developing countries' currencies in a free fall. Money-market funds warning they might not be able to return every dollar invested. Daily swings of three, four, five hundred points in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

It's a painful reminder that, when you strip away all the complexity and trappings from the magnificent new global infrastructure, finance is still a confidence game—and once the confidence goes, there's no telling when the selling will stop.

In some respects, it may look as if all the action is in New York or Washington or London or Tokyo. But we know the consequences are being felt everywhere. This is a broad-based financial crisis. Everyone is affected. If you are trying to buy or sell a home, you are affected. If you are trying to refinance your home, you are affected. If you are trying to get a student loan for tuition, you are affected. If you are a small business owner trying to extend your credit line, you are affected. If you are a farmer trying to buy a new tractor, you are affected. Maybe the only people in America not affected are those who kept their money in mattresses, and we know that is not the answer.

Look at what has happened to the middle class in the last 8 years: wages down an average of \$2,000 a year. Expenses up \$4,400 a year. That is a net loss of \$6,400 a year. That doesn't include people with babies, and childcare, and afterschool care, and the added expenses for college—\$6,400 a year. We need solutions and we need them now.

Secretary Paulson has presented his proposal, and I believe we need to

change that proposal. I believe there is more we need to do.

First, I believe, in the long term, we need a comprehensive plan, including both a short-term rescue strategy and a long-term approach for economic recovery and rebuilding.

Secondly, we must minimize, as much as possible, the cost to American taxpayers. Private companies that get themselves into deep trouble should not get a free bailout on the backs of America's middle class.

Third, this plan can't be limited to helping Wall Street. We must help the middle class. We must save Main Street from the mistakes of Wall Street, and we must address head on the underlying issue of the housing market and foreclosure crisis. That means providing protection and support to struggling homeowners and restoring confidence in the residential real estate market.

Finally, if this plan proposes that the Federal Government come to the rescue of private financial institutions, then the Government must secure greater oversight of how these companies conduct their business going forward. For companies that receive assistance, there should be a limit placed on dividends. Key executives should have a look-back placed in their compensation package, and there should be a prohibiting of these golden parachutes. I cannot tell you how angry this makes me. Look at Lehman Brothers and their CEO, Richard Fuld. He earned about \$45 million. This amounts to roughly \$17,000 an hour—\$17,000 an hour that he earned. Basically, their firm has been obliterated.

Last year, CEOs of large public companies averaged 340 more times the pay of the average workers. As Warren Buffett once said—and this is from an article by Nicholas Christopher in the New York Times:

In judging whether corporate America is serious about reforming itself, CEO pay remains the acid test.

As he said in this article, it is a test that corporate America is failing.

People can make their money, I suppose, but once we start, as taxpayers in the U.S. Government, buying their assets and backing up their assets and bearing the risk, asking taxpayers to do that, then we have something to say about this executive compensation, and we must say it in any type of a rescue plan.

We also have to make sure going forward that the appropriate financial regulations are in place, that these loopholes are closed. There should be changes in corporate governments to improve the independence of corporate boards and reduce reckless behavior. There should be limits on speculative behavior.

I know everybody is focused a lot on Wall Street. But I have to tell you what is happening on Main Street. In my State of Minnesota, the unemployment rate is at its highest in 22 years. Minnesota's second quarter growth in

personal income is only 1 percent—the 49th lowest in the country. Even that 1-percent increase is more than wiped out by inflation.

Home values in the Twin Cities area dropped nearly 14 percent in the second quarter of this year compared to last year. Heating costs this winter are expected to increase by double digits. The latest forecast shows that the cost of natural gas is expected to be 17 percent higher than it was last winter. Prices for fuel oil are expected to be 23 percent higher.

The American people still have faith in our Nation. They know our country and our economy still have great potential. We have the talent, the resources, the know-how, the entrepreneurial spirit, and a passion for innovation. The public is still bullish on America, even though Merrill Lynch may not be.

Although our immediate and urgent goal must be to stabilize the financial system and restore confidence, we also must spend this week asking those tough questions and making sure we have some answers and making sure the proposals that go through the Congress include those limits I talked about on executive pay. If we are going to be asking taxpayers in this country to bear any of this risk, they must include a long-term plan for better financial regulation of these companies. They must include a focus not just on Wall Street but also on Main Street.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN SHAWN JOHNSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am going to address two things today. First, I wish to address an Iowan I am very proud of, a person whom, if you watched the Olympics, you saw on television recently. So I am here today as a proud Iowan and American to tell other Americans just how proud I am of this Iowan.

Millions of Americans tuned in to the Olympics this past August and witnessed phenomenal performances by American athletes. I am proud of all the athletes who competed in the Olympics but especially the 11-member Team USA with Iowa ties who represented our country in Beijing.

One of those exceptional athletes was a fellow Iowan named Shawn Johnson. Shawn was a member of the U.S. women's gymnastics team who brought home the silver in the team competition. She went on to win individual honors too. She won the Silver Medal

both in all-around competition in the floor exercise, and she also received the Gold Medal for the balance beam. And that was her favorite event. All Americans were proud to see Shawn's success, but Iowans are overwhelmingly proud of the self-described—and these are not my words, but other people described her as the daredevil with a big smile.

At this year's Iowa State Fair, the famous butter sculpture, which has been a part of the State fair for the last 45 years—a sculpture made out of butter, usually a cow—this year featured a cow but also a sculpture of Shawn Johnson.

Shawn is the reigning women's world gymnastics All-Around Champion, but she is also a teenager from West Des Moines who presently attends Valley High School when she is not competing around the world. She attends football games and school dances and tries to live the life of a typical teen. She goes to class 5 hours each day and then trains at Chow's Gymnastics in her hometown. With all of this on her plate, she still manages to get straight As.

Her talent is anything but typical. As a baby, Shawn skipped the crawling and went right to walking. She climbed out of her crib before she was a year old. As a toddler, she would build a ladder out of toys, scale the entertainment center, and jump onto the couch.

After seeing their daughter's abundant energy and fearlessness, Shawn's parents Terri and Doug enrolled her in a tumbling class at age 3, and she showed promise early on. Her coach at Chows Gymnastics in West Des Moines, Liang Chow, noticed her talents and honed those talents. He even submitted a tape of Shawn to the U.S. women's gymnastics team coach Marta Karolyi because it is tough for a gymnast training in Iowa to get noticed by a national team.

Training as an elite athlete did not come cheap, though. Shawn's parents eventually mortgaged the family home three times so that their daughter could achieve her Olympic dream, and they managed to travel with Shawn to her international competitions.

In June of this year, the disastrous floods hit much of Iowa. Shawn was training with the national team, but her heart was with her fellow Iowans who were suffering, especially her coach. You see, Chow's Gymnastics, which is Shawn's second home, is located near the Raccoon River in West Des Moines, and the facility suffered a great deal of damage from the flood. Shawn, knowing what this sort of damage could mean for her coach continuing to run her business, wrote a \$12,000 check from her endorsements to help get Chows Gymnastics back up and running.

Iowans have all known about Shawn and her extraordinary talent—and, of course, her big smile—for a few years now, and Iowa knew she would make them proud. But the world did not real-

ly get to know Shawn until these recent Olympics.

Despite losing the all-around competition to her U.S. teammate and close friend Nastia Liukin, Shawn handled herself with grace, poise, and genuine happiness. And when Shawn finally won the coveted Gold Medal on the incredibly difficult balance beam, her joy was written all over her face.

So I take this opportunity for my colleagues and everybody in this country to commend Shawn on her extraordinary performance in the Beijing Olympics, not only for medals that she won but for her hard work, her composure, and maturity. I compliment her. She did Iowa and America proud.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am going to now visit about an issue I often visit with my colleagues about, the issue of drugs, because I served with Senator BIDEN as cochairman of the drug caucus.

As a parent and now grandparent, I remain deeply concerned about the hazardous environment to which our children are exposed. Every day, we see more and more heartbreaking stories of a child being victimized in one way or another. Some of the most disturbing trends involve deadly drugs and our own kids. More specifically, there is an alarming number of kids who are being exposed to environments where illegal drugs are being manufactured and sold. Kids are also falling prey to unscrupulous drug dealers who are disguising highly addictive drugs to make them appear as if they were candy. I believe we have a moral obligation in this country to ensure our young people have every opportunity to grow up without being accosted by drug pushers at every turn, whether it is on TV in the home or on the way to school.

As a Senator representing a State that has been among the hardest hit by the scourge of methamphetamine abuse, I have witnessed firsthand how this horrible drug has devastated individual lives and families. I have seen the havoc wreaked on the environment as well as the child welfare system. I have listened to the horror stories of those caught in the grips of addiction. This is why I joined a number of my colleagues in passing the Combat Meth Act of 2005. This landmark legislation has shown dramatic results in decreasing the number of clandestine meth labs and increasing methamphetamine seizures.

While this is certainly welcome news, particularly for our first responders and local law enforcement community, meth labs in our communities are still a reality. For instance, in 2006, there were still over 6,400 clandestine meth lab incidents throughout the country. In my home State of Iowa, we have seen an 88-percent decrease in the number of meth lab incidents since 2004

when the Iowa Legislature passed a very important piece of legislation cutting down on the number of labs. Yet there were still 240 incidents of clandestine labs last year alone.

The Combat Meth Act has been particularly helpful in cutting down on mom-and-pop meth labs. However, our efforts have given rise to new and more disturbing instances of meth production, trafficking, and abuse that are becoming more prevalent throughout our country.

A case in point can be found in the State of Missouri, where police recently made seven meth-related arrests in just as many hours in the tiny quiet town of Ozark. The house where these arrests were made belonged to a 45-year-old grandmother, who was babysitting her infant grandson while his mother was away at school. Upon her arrest, she admitted using meth but denied that she was a dealer. However, while police searched the house, six more individuals were picked up on meth-related charges.

When it was all said and done, three children under the age of 3 watched as the police arrested their parent or grandparent for selling or possessing this terrible drug.

Sadly, this is not an unusual incident. We have here a picture of a baby. Scenes such as the one depicted on this chart are seen throughout the country. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration—DEA, as we call it around this town—more than 12,000 children throughout the country have been affected, injured, or killed at meth lab sites since 2002. Thousands more have been sent to foster homes or were victims of meth-related abuse in the home during the same period.

In my State of Iowa, the Department of Human Services reports that over 1,000 children over the past 4 years were classified as victims of abuse and that nearly half of child abuse cases have been meth-related. In 2006, there were 107 reported cases of child abuse where meth was manufactured in the presence of a minor.

Due to the shocking number of children who were being victimized by drugs in one form or another, I joined my colleagues in supporting a bill called the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2005.

This bipartisan legislation established a national grant program to support state Drug Endangered Children—DEC programs. These programs assist local law enforcement, medical services, and child welfare workers to ensure that victimized children receive proper attention and treatment after living in these terrible environments.

DEC programs greatly benefit local law enforcement by helping law enforcement coordinate in close cooperation with the Department of Human Services. This ensures a seamless coverage of child welfare and law enforcement joint operations. I am pleased to report that since this program was implemented a large number of communities throughout the Nation have

formed multi-disciplinary alliances for the benefit of drug-exposed children. There are 16 communities throughout Iowa that have set up DEC programs and more are in the process of setting up additional programs.

Unfortunately, the authorization for this grant program expired for fiscal year 2008. That is why Senator Feinstein and I introduced S. 1210, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007. This legislation would reauthorize this important grant program for an additional 2 years to assist States in coordinating law enforcement, medical services, and child welfare efforts to ensure children found in such environments receive appropriate attention and care. The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously reported this bipartisan legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation and pass the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007.

As cochairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I can tell you that the most at-risk population for drug abuse is our young people. Research has shown time and again that if you keep children drug-free until they turn 20, chances are very slim that they will ever try or become addicted to drugs. Unfortunately, unscrupulous drug dealers are all too aware of statistics like these. They have developed new techniques and marketing gimmicks to lure in younger users. The DEA and the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy have recently issued warnings about highly addictive and dangerous drugs being colored, packaged, and flavored in ways that appear to attract use by children.

These drug dealers are flavoring drugs with additives to make them taste like candy. For instance, some drugs that have been recovered by the DEA and local law enforcement have been flavored to taste like strawberry. I have two charts just to show you the seriousness of this problem. One of these charts is of the popular novelty candy "Pop Rocks." The other is of some strawberry-flavored methamphetamine, which is known on the street as "Strawberry Quick," that was seized by police during a traffic stop in Missouri. You can see how similar these two products appear. It would be very difficult for a child to distinguish between these two.

Other flavors, such as lemon, coconut, cinnamon and chocolate are clearly being used to make highly addictive and dangerous drugs seem less harmful and more appealing. These flavored drugs are also being marketed in smaller amounts, making it cheaper and more accessible to children. According to an article in *USA Today*, at least eight States have reported instances involving candy-flavored drugs, and many law enforcement officials are expecting these deadly substances to infiltrate their communities in the near future.

Meth is not the only drug that is being flavored or disguised by drug

dealers. The DEA recently arrested three men in an undercover operation in California where candy flavored cocaine was being distributed. The DEA seized at least four different flavors of cocaine along with other dangerous substances. The estimated street value of the flavored cocaine seized in this operation was over \$272,000.

The DEA also arrested 12 people in connection to a marijuana-laced candy operation in 2006. The marijuana-laced candy that was seized in this operation was packaged to look like well-known brand name candy bars. You can see in this chart, all the varieties of marijuana-laced candy that this operation produced. Once again, you can see how it would be difficult for a child to distinguish between these marijuana candies and the real product. These drug busts further illustrate the fact that drug dealers will stop at nothing to hook a new generation on these deadly drugs.

Due to the growing trend of these candy-flavored drugs, I joined Senator Feinstein in co-sponsoring S. 1211, the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008, a bill that ought to currently move forward. Currently, Federal law enhances the criminal penalties that apply when a person sells drugs to anyone under the age of 21. When this occurs, the Federal penalties are doubled—or tripled for a repeat offense—and a mandatory minimum of at least 1 year must also apply. However, this penalty applies only to someone who actually sells drugs to someone under 21.

The Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act, as amended in the Judiciary Committee, would expand the circumstances under which these enhanced penalties apply to cover the entire operation. Under our bill, the enhanced penalties that already exist would also apply to anyone over 18 years of age who knowingly or intentionally manufactures, creates, distributes, dispenses or possesses a schedule I or II controlled substance that has been combined with a candy product, is marketed or packaged as if it were similar to a candy product, or has been modified by flavoring or coloring with the intent to distribute, or sell that controlled substance to a person under 21 years of age. The DEA busts are prime examples of why we need this bipartisan bill to keep drug dealers from pedaling their poison to our children.

The fight against deadly drugs is an ongoing struggle. We must continue to do all we can to protect the most vulnerable among us. We must send a clear message to those wishing to prey on our youth that you risk serious prison time when you target our future. The National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalition is strongly supporting this measure. This organization represents 69,000 law enforcement officers who encounter these terrible substances on a daily basis and work endlessly to keep our children and communities safe. I am pleased that

my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly voted in favor of reporting this important legislation to the floor. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in passing the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008.

I urge all my colleagues to join us—meaning myself and Senator FEINSTEIN, the main sponsors of the bill—in passing the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words on the crisis about which everyone in America is talking. My phones, both in Vermont and here in Washington, have been bouncing off the hook with people who are outraged about the prospect of the middle class bailing out Wall Street. They are telling me: No way; we should not be doing that.

The current financial crisis facing our country should, in fact, put an end to almost any support for the extreme rightwing economic policies President Bush has been pursuing for the last 8 years and that, in fact, were pursued even before that.

These policies include, of course, huge tax breaks for the very rich under the guise that that money will trickle on down to ordinary people and create a prosperous nation. That certainly has not been the case.

Those policies include unfettered free trade, which says it is a good thing for corporate America to be able to throw American workers out on the street, move to China, and bring those products back into this country and run up what is now over a \$600 billion-a-year trade deficit.

Last but not least, and pertinent to the great financial crisis we are facing right now—a crisis which many people believe is the most serious financial problem this country has had since the Great Depression of 1929—is the whole of deregulation, not only of financial services but of energy and many other sectors in our economy, under the guise that we should have great faith in large financial institutions, that they will do the right thing and that they will benefit the people of our country and, in fact, the world.

We have learned tax breaks for the rich do not filter down but make the rich richer. We have learned unfettered free trade costs us millions of good-paying jobs. We have learned that massive deregulation, allowing large financial institutions to do whatever they want to do under the radar screen, will only hurt our economy and maybe drive it to ruin.

In the midst of all this, it is important to understand what has been going on for ordinary people in this country. Since President Bush has been in office, nearly 6 million Americans have

slipped out of the middle class and into poverty all over this country. In Vermont, as I suspect in Rhode Island, working people are working two jobs; husbands and wives who were working are now reduced to going to emergency food shelves in order to buy groceries they need to take care of their families. Since George Bush has been President, the median family income for working Americans has declined by more than \$2,000, a huge decrease in the income for the middle class. Since President Bush has been in office, more than 6 million Americans have lost their health insurance, over 4 million have lost their pensions, foreclosures are at an alltime high, consumer debt has more than doubled, and today we have a national debt which is almost \$10 trillion, a debt we are going to be leaving to our kids and our grandchildren. That is what is happening to the middle class under these extreme rightwing economic policies.

But in terms of this debate about what we do with regard to the current financial crisis we are facing, it is also important to understand not only what is happening to the middle class and the decline of the middle class, it is also important to understand what is happening to the people on top, the wealthiest people in this country. The top one-tenth of 1 percent now earns more income than the bottom 50 percent of the American people: One-tenth of 1 percent, bottom 50 percent. The top 1 percent now owns more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. This country has the most unequal distribution of wealth and income than since just before the Great Depression in the 1920s.

Mr. President, the wealthiest 400 people in our country, since President Bush has been in office, have seen their wealth increase by \$670 billion. Let me repeat that in case people are kind of scratching their heads because this is such an extraordinary number. The wealthiest 400 people—that is not a whole lot of people—in our country have seen their wealth increase by \$670 billion since President Bush has been in office.

In the midst of all of that, while the rich become phenomenally richer, President Bush lowered taxes on the very wealthy so they are now paying lower income tax rates than teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen, than people in the middle class.

I raise that issue for a very simple reason. Secretary Paulson, representing the Bush administration, which year after year until a few months ago was telling us how robust and strong the economy was—I remember, as a member of the Budget Committee, having Secretary Paulson in front of us not very long ago telling us the economy was marvelous. Marvelous.

In late July of this year, President Bush himself said the foundations of the economy were strong. That was on July 31. So after having told us what

most middle-class Americans knew instinctively to be wrong, having told us over and over again how strong the economy was, how robust the economy was, last week the Secretary of the Treasury basically said in so many words: I guess we made a slight mistake. The fundamentals are really not very strong. In fact, if we do not act on the largest bailout in the history of our country, and you in Congress can take a few days to respond, but if you do not act, there will be a financial meltdown not only in America but all over the world.

So year after year, until very recently, either because of incompetence and not understanding what was going on in the economy or perhaps dishonesty and not wanting to let the American people know what was going on in the economy, we were told everything was going well. Then they say: Oops, we made a slight mistake. Actually, we are on the verge of a major financial meltdown and we want Congress to accept a \$700 billion bailout, and we do not want the Congress to discuss it very much. We do not want the Congress to change it very much. It has to act immediately because if it doesn't, terrible things will happen.

Well, when we talk about the reasons for the possible need of a bailout, we cannot minimize the incredible greed, the ugly greed we have seen among many of the wealthiest people in this country in the last few years, not least of all the people on Wall Street.

Let me give you some examples. In 2005, Henry Paulson, our now Secretary of the Treasury, was then the CEO of Goldman Sachs. He received, in 2005, a \$38 million bonus. At that time, that was the largest bonus ever given to a Wall Street CEO.

In December of 2006, John Mack, the CEO of Morgan Stanley, broke Mr. Paulson's record by receiving a \$40 million bonus—a bonus. This is on top of other forms of compensation.

Not to be outdone, Lloyd Blankfein, the new CEO of Goldman Sachs, received a \$53 million bonus later that month. In 2007, 1 year ago, Mr. Blankfein, the CEO of Goldman Sachs shattered his own record by receiving a \$68 million bonus.

In October of 2007, E. Stanley O'Neal, the former chief executive of Merrill Lynch—I think we all know what has happened to Merrill Lynch very recently—collected a severance package worth an estimated \$161 million.

Angelo Mozilo, the former CEO of Countrywide—we know what happened to Countrywide—received a severance package of about \$110 million. That was on top of \$140 million in Countrywide stock that he sold off during 2006 and 2007. Mozilo was also paid \$48 million in 2006.

In 2007, here is perhaps—when we talk about Wall Street greed and when we talk about Wall Street bonuses—the most outrageous fact out there, which is that in 2007 Wall Street's five biggest firms—Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs,

Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, and Morgan Stanley—paid out \$39 billion in bonuses to themselves.

Wall Street investment bank bonuses are larger, just their bonuses, than the gross domestic products of Sri Lanka, Lebanon, or Bulgaria, and the average bonus—average—of \$219,000 is more than four times higher than the median U.S. household income.

Why do I raise those issues and give those facts? I do that for a very simple reason; that is, I regard it as an outrage for anyone to suggest the middle class of this country, whose standard of living is going down, should be forced to bail out Wall Street when people on Wall Street have made huge amounts of money in recent years and, in general, as a result of Bush's reckless and irresponsible economic policies.

The wealthiest people have also done extraordinarily well. What President Bush would have us do is to say to the middle class that is sinking, you pay for the bailout caused by Wall Street's irresponsibility, and we do not have to ask them to do anything. They pay no price at all.

I regard that as an absolutely unacceptable outrage, something we must not allow to happen. I am open to other ideas on this issue, but for me, the bottom line on this bailout is that the middle class should not be paying. There are a number of ways we can go forward to protect the middle class. I have suggested a 5-year, 10-percent tax on incomes over \$1 million a year for couples, and \$500,000 for single taxpayers. That would raise more than \$300 billion in revenue.

That begins the process of saying to the wealthiest people who have benefited from Bush's reckless policies: You have to step to the plate, and this is not going to be on the middle class to provide the money for the bailout—this money, by the way, which is \$2,200 for every woman, man, and child in this country and, a family of four, close to \$9,000.

In addition, we have to ensure that assets purchased from banks are realistically discounted so companies are not rewarded for their risky behavior and taxpayers can recover the amount they pay for them.

Thirdly, we must require that the taxpayers receive equity stakes in the bailed-out companies so the assumption of risk is rewarded when a company's stock goes up. We are going to buy this stuff, and as stocks go up we should benefit from that. In addition, at a time when the middle class has so many serious problems; when people in my State and in the State of the Senator from Rhode Island are worried about how they are going to be able to heat their homes this winter; when millions of middle-class families are worried about how they are going to be able to send their kids to college; at a time when our infrastructure is collapsing, and we have the potential to create millions of jobs rebuilding our bridges, our roads, our rail systems; at

a time when we must move from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy and create large numbers of jobs in that area as well; we need a major economic recovery program which puts millions of Americans to work dealing with the many unmet needs facing our country.

In addition, to my mind, any serious piece of legislation dealing with this bailout must include language which undoes the damage caused by excessive deregulation. That means reinstalling regulatory firewalls that were ripped down in 1999. And, lastly—not lastly because I think many other people have other good ideas as well, but the last point that I want to make tonight is a very important point.

We are where we are today because of the doctrine of “too big to fail.” The assumption is that if we allow these huge institutions to fail, they take down the entire economy and virtually all of our people suffer.

I would respond to that in the future by saying that if an institution is too big to fail, that institution is too big to exist. I should tell you that I have serious concerns right now about the Bank of America swallowing up Countrywide, swallowing up Merrill Lynch. If they were to be teetering, does anyone have any doubt that there would have to be a massive bailout for that bank? But it is not only the Bank of America. I think we have to take a very hard look at these huge institutions, which, if they fail, could impact the entire economy. I think we need to start doing something that was talked about in the early part of the 20th century about breaking up these huge institutions.

There is a lot of work that has to be done in the near future. But for me, the bottom line is that at a time when the wealthiest people made out like bandits under Bush's reckless economic policies, while at the same time the middle class declined, it would be absolutely grotesque to ask the middle class of this country to pay for this bailout.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I know the country is focusing on and we are all concerned about the state of the economy and some of the proposals that are being raised to fix that, including the proposal from the Secretary of Treasury and the administration for a \$700 billion expenditure. That is almost one-third of the entire governmental expenditure this year. It is

more than the war in Iraq has cost, and it is an extraordinary thing.

I do not know the answer. I am not a master of the universe. I have used the phrase sometimes: Masters of the Universe. Understand that if this legislation, as was proposed, were to become law, we would have one single master of the universe, almost, the Secretary of Treasury.

I think this Congress has a responsibility here. I want to say that. I know now is not the time to go into a lot of detail, but I want to say this Congress has a responsibility, and we are not free to dust our hands and say: Mr. Secretary, you have all the power you want to buy and sell private corporations, to spend up to \$700 billion, and we are all going to be happy about it. We think you can fix it, and we will go home and do our campaigning. I think we have a bigger responsibility than that.

I wish to say—and I have great respect for Secretary Paulson, I do—I would want to know more about the nature of the crisis we are facing. I know we have a serious crisis. I wish to know why we cannot slow down a little bit and think this thing through. That is the tradition of the Senate, the saucer that cools. But we are hearing: It is a crisis, and you politicians will mess it up. Go on and get out of the way and vote this thing out and we will take care of it. But that implicates the separation of powers to an extraordinary degree and may well be adverse in the long run. The proposal certainly was not greeted by Wall Street today as an indication of a solid fix. The market dropped again, and people apparently thought it would weaken the dollar and that is the reason oil prices increased. So this is a matter we need to think about.

I urge my colleagues on the relevant committees and the leadership on the Republican side in the Senate and the Democratic side: Let's not be stampeded here. Let's ask good questions. I am one who is not adverse to taking action, appropriate action, but I think we need to not be stampeded. It is a bit hubris to think one person can fix it all and somehow that person can stand in the middle of all of the market forces and rebalance them. Do we believe in the market or not?

One socialist is reported to have said when asked: What is socialism? It is the ability to control the commanding heights of the economy. Well, financial institutions are one commanding height of the economy. Who are we not giving control of that over to?

I think in a fundamental sense, the goals I believe we should have would be first to protect the interests of the taxpayers before we spend in a manner of days an amount of money equal to and in excess of the war in Iraq—almost one-third of our annual expenditures. Let's protect the taxpayers. How do we do that? We need to find out more about the problems. We are told there are grave problems, problems, prob-

lems, and we have to act, act, act. Exactly what are those problems that require us to act so fast?

Secondly, I think our action should be respectful of the marketplace, and let's try to do what would restore integrity in the marketplace. I don't think it is necessary that we need more regulation as much as we need better, more appropriate regulation. I would note that my colleague, Senator SHELBY, the ranking Republican on the Banking Committee and former chairman, has fought for years to have more control over Freddie and Fannie and their activities, as the Wall Street Journal noted recently.

I urge my colleagues: Let's take some time. We got into this in large part by some bad government policies and actions. I think we can all admit that. The government is going to have to take action. I recognize that. But I think it is important that when we act on a matter of this size and this importance, we take enough time to understand what is in it and do the right thing, not the political thing in this political season.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to share those thoughts. I know there are some fine Members of this Senate worried right now who are wrestling with these issues. I, for one, believe that maybe a little slower action, a little more thought, may turn out to be better in the long run than a panicky response.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the decision has been made that we are going to try to work with Dr. COBURN tomorrow to see if we can get part of the 34 bills he has held up for long periods of time, to see if we can get some of those passed by unanimous consent. There is a possibility that we can get 8 or 10 of them done and if we could, that would be very nice. If we can't, we will wait until next year when we have more opportunity to do things such as this and less problems of people holding things up. So we are going to do the best we can.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MALDEF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of the Senate to the 40th anniversary of the leading Latino litigation, advocacy, community education, and outreach organization in the United States. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF, celebrates 40 years of

protecting and promoting the civil rights of Latinos in the United States.

MALDEF'S service to the Latino community is exemplary; they utilize multiple strategies to foster sound public policies, laws, and programs that secure the civil rights of Latinos. Their work on employment, education, immigration, political access, language, and public resource equity issues is pivotal to the advancement and progress of the Latino community in the United States.

Over its rich 40-year history, MALDEF has been led by some of the best and brightest Hispanic leaders who paved the way for excellence in nonprofit leadership. Thanks to the fine leadership of Mario Obledo, MALDEF's first president and general counsel; Antonia Hernandez, who served MALDEF for 23 years; and John Trasviña, MALDEF's current president and general counsel, we have much to celebrate. MALDEF's leadership is heard throughout the nation from their headquarters in Los Angeles, to San Antonio, Chicago, Washington, DC, Houston, and Sacramento.

During these especially hard times for our Latino brothers and sisters, when the anti-immigrant sentiment is at its highest, MALDEF has been fighting to challenge breaches in voting rights, workplace discrimination, access to justice, and educational access. In 2006, MALDEF went before the U.S. Supreme Court and successfully challenged a congressional redistricting plan that discriminated against Latino voters in Texas. Most recently, MALDEF won a case that will require the Texas Education Agency to fix the State's English Language Learner, ELL, programs in secondary schools and restore educational equity for our Latino students.

I commend the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for their 40-year commitment to the Hispanic community. Their record of legal representation, advocacy, and educational outreach has indisputably improved the quality of life and opportunities of all Latinos in the U.S. It is through the hard work of organizations like MALDEF that we will be able to overcome social and economic inequalities faced by Americans of different ethnic and racial backgrounds.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLES MICHAEL "MIKE" NANNINI, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend Charles Michael "Mike" Nannini, a dedicated public servant who retired last month after 16 years of service to Nevada as an Elko county commissioner.

Mr. Nannini was first elected in 1992 and has since completed four terms as county commissioner for District 1. When he retired in August, Mike was serving as the chair of the commission—a position he held numerous times throughout his tenure.

A long-time resident of Nevada and a graduate of the University of Nevada,

Reno, Mike is a devoted and active member of his community. In addition to his time on the Elko County Commission, he has also served on the Elko County Planning Commission and was mayor of Wells, NV. He has contributed to Elko County as a 35-year business owner, a realtor, and a horse and cattle owner.

With an unyielding commitment to public safety, Mike served as the Sheriff Department's liaison, fought to bring a juvenile justice facility to Elko County, and served on the Central Dispatch Administrative Authority board. He has also given his time as a U.S. Forest Service and BLM Liaison, on the Metropolis Dam Rehabilitation board, and as a board member for the Heart Project, a tire recycling project.

Mike has also worked hard to bring the citizens of Elko County together—no matter how far-flung they may be. Good communication is essential in rural Nevada, and Mike made an effort to bridge gaps between larger communities and the outlying towns. As a part of this plan, he helped organize rural commission meetings so that the concerns of the unincorporated communities could be heard. Mike also served on the Elko County Fair Board, and established the annual Elko County Employee Picnic to recognize and thank county employees for their hard work to support Elko County.

Elko County has prospered under Mike's leadership, and although he is retiring, the benefits of his service will be felt for years to come. One of his long-held goals has been to see a new administration building for the county, and ground was recently broken on this project, which should be completed by 2011. Additionally, Mike continues to work on a project to restore the Bishop Creek Dam so that it may be used for recreational and agricultural needs in the county.

After many years of service, Mike will enjoy retirement with his wife Lois and their children and grandchildren. I am grateful for his service and proud to honor him and his achievements.

COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly about a special group of Kentuckians who visited our Nation's capitol last month. In August, 39 World War II veterans from the Commonwealth visited the memorial which they inspired on the National Mall. These heroes were able to make this trip because of the Honor Flight Program, a nonprofit organization which transports surviving World War II veterans from around the country to see their memorial free of charge. Because Congress was out of session during their visit, I was back home in Kentucky. As a result, I was unable to participate in this Honor Flight event as I have in others before it. However, I hope to have the opportunity to meet more of these inspirational veterans on future Bluegrass Honor Flight trips.

The World War II Memorial was dedicated in 2004, nearly 60 years after our troops returned home. It sits, appropriately, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial—reflecting the same principles of courage and valor that were embodied by these two great Presidents. The legacy of the World War II veterans who defended those principles from enemies of freedom is not only preserved by this memorial, but it is honored each day in the sacrifices of American troops who continue to do the same for our Nation in the war on terror.

As Americans, we are forever indebted to the brave men and women of the United States military who defend this great Nation. The veterans of World War II made tremendous sacrifices so that we could continue to live in prosperity and freedom and for that they are more than deserving of their title as the "greatest generation."

I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these Kentucky veterans:

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Henry Alford; Salvator Amato; Fairrel Bailey; Harlan Barton; Woodrow Bryant; Wilbur Cannon; Charles Carveth; Clarence Cox; Richard Dolan; Luther Drury; Francis Fleck; John Frantz; William Glye; Sam Goldstein; Eugene Haag; James Harrison; James Hunt; Paul Jones; James Lenihan; William Lippy.

Beverly Miller; Bobby Morgan; Ernest Morgan; James Nicholson; Lewis Perciful; James Plummer; Carl Rapson; Shirrelle Render; Harold Senior; Evan Shelby; Donald Stevens; Wayne Tabor; Willard Thomas; Ernest Wagner; Phillip Wells; James West, Jr.; Elmer Whitaker; Cecil Williams; Gilbert Yunt.

INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND POLICIES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on Friday, September 19, 2008, the Committee on Rules and Administration approved amendments to the U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Policies. These regulations are effective immediately.

The regulations were amended to accommodate Senate offices interested in utilizing social networking sites. I wish to emphasize that all Senate Web sites must be located in the senate.gov host domain, except for the exceptions specified in A3 of the regulations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the amended regulations printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND POLICIES

A. SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Senate Internet Services ("World Wide Web and electronic mail, blogs, podcasting, streaming media, etc.") may only be used for official purposes. The use of Senate Internet Services for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

2. Members of the Senate, as well as Committee Chairmen and Officers of the Senate may post to the Internet Servers information files which contain matter relating to

their official business, activities, and duties. All other offices must request approval from the Committee on Rules and Administration before posting material on the Internet Information Servers.

3. Websites covered by this policy must be located in the Senate.gov host-domain.

a. Exceptions: A Member, Committee or Officer of the Senate ("Office") may separately maintain websites or channels or otherwise post material on third-party websites that are available to the general public subject to Senate Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Statutes governing Senate operations, including the prohibition on using Senate internet resources for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes.

To provide assistance and guidance to Offices, the Rules and Administration Committee may provide a non-exhaustive list of examples of third-party websites that, at the time they are reviewed by the Committee, agree:

a. to provide naming protocols or other methods that will enable the public to know when a site or channel is maintained by an office;

b. not to add personal, promotional, commercial or partisan political/campaign-related content or links to an Office-maintained website or channel; and

c. not to use data gathering tools on an Office-maintained website or channel that allow for collecting personal information on users and distributing it to outside parties.

b. If the use of a particular website is determined to pose a possible threat to the security of the Senate's computer network, the Committee on Rules and Administration reserves the right to direct offices to cease using these websites until the issue can be resolved.

c. The Rules Committee shall require the removal of a website or channel maintained by the Member on such third-party website or channel at the end of a Member's term.

4. It is the responsibility of each Senator, Committee Chairman (on behalf of the committee), Officer of the Senate, or office head to oversee the use of the Internet Services by his or her office and to ensure that the use of the services is consistent with the requirements established by this policy and applicable laws and regulations.

5. Official records may not be placed on the Internet Servers unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of the Senate and prepared in accordance with Section 501 of Title 44 of the United States Code. Such records include, but are not limited to: bills, public laws, committee reports, and other legislative materials.

B. POSTING OR LINKING TO THE FOLLOWING MATTER IS PROHIBITED

1. Political Matter

a. Matter which specifically solicits political support for the sender or any other person or political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any political office is prohibited.

b. Matter which mentions a Senator or an employee of a Senator as a candidate for political office, or which constitutes electioneering, or which advocates the election or defeat of any individuals, or a political party is prohibited.

2. Personal Matter

a. Matter which by its nature is purely personal and is unrelated to the official business activities and duties of the sender is prohibited.

b. Matter which constitutes or includes any article, account, sketch, narration, or other text laudatory and complimentary of any Senator on a purely personal or political basis rather than on the basis of performance of official duties as a Senator is prohibited.

c. Reports of how or when a Senator, the Senator's spouse, or any other member of the Senator's family spends time other than in the performance of, or in connection with, the legislative, representative, and other official functions of such Senator is prohibited.

d. Any transmission expressing holiday greetings from a Senator is prohibited. This prohibition does not preclude an expression of holiday greetings at the commencement or conclusion of an otherwise proper transmission.

3. Promotional Matter

a. The solicitation of funds for any purpose is prohibited.

b. The placement of logos or links used for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

C. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERNET SERVICES

1. During the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of any primary or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) for any national, state, or local office in which the Senator is a candidate, no Member may solicit constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls or issue alerts) using a Senate Internet Server ("World Wide Web and electronic mail, blogs, podcasting, streaming media, etc."), unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested.

2. Electronic mail may not be transmitted by a Member during the 60-day period before the date of the Member's primary or general election unless it is in response to a direct inquiry. Exceptions to this moratorium include the following: press release distribution to press organizations and email to perform administrative communication. Direct inquiries do not include a request to be added to a mailing list, subscription list, or other request to receive future mailings. During the 60-day period, electronic news letters may not be sent out.

3. During the 60-day period immediately before the date of a biennial general Federal election, no Member may solicit constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls, issue alerts or request to be added to newsletter mailing lists electronic or otherwise, on behalf of another Senator who is a candidate for election, unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested.

4. An uncontested candidacy is established when the Rules Committee receives written certification from the appropriate state official that the Senator's candidacy may not be contested under state law. Since the candidacy of a Senator who is running for reelection from a state which permits write-in votes on elections day without prior registration or other advance qualification by the candidate may be contested, such a Member is subject to the above restrictions.

5. If a Member is under the restrictions as defined in subtitle C, paragraph (1), above, the following statement must appear on the homepage: ("Pursuant to Senate policy, newsletters, petitions, opinion polls and issue alerts and other electronic communications cannot be initiated by this office for the 60-day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election."). The words "Senate Policy" must be hypertext linked to the Internet services policy on the Senate Home Page.

6. A Senator's homepage may not refer to be hypertext linked to another Member's site or electronic mail address without authorization from that Member.

7. Any Links to Information not located on a Senate Internet Server must be identified as a link to a non-Senate entity, subject to the exceptions noted in (A)(3).

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Domains and Names (URL)—Senate entities must reside exclusively on Senate.gov domains, subject to the exceptions noted in (A)(3). The URL name for an official Senate Website located in the Senate.gov domain must:

1. Member sites—contain the Senator's last name.

2. Committee sites—contain the name of the committee.

3. Officer sites—contain the name of the office.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to take some time to remind our colleagues, and indeed all Americans, that yesterday, September 21, 2008, was the International Day of Peace. The United Nations and its member states unanimously established an International Day of Peace in 1981. However it was not until 2001 that September 21 was agreed to as the permanent date. According to the U.N. resolution, the International Day of Peace should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. I applaud Governor Chet Culver for his proclamation affirming Iowa's observance of International Peace Day. And, at this time, I would like to do my own part to mark this day, especially on the behalf of the many Iowans who are committed to the ideals of peace.

Unfortunately, this may be International Peace Day, but sadly our leaders are faced with numerous challenges around the world that undermine the ideal of peace. The United States is in the sixth year of a devastating war in Iraq, a war of choice that was launched preemptively by the current U.S. administration. The Middle East is in turmoil. We have an ongoing genocide in Darfur. A dictator still clings to power in Zimbabwe by indefinitely postponing, without explanation, scheduled meetings to discuss the implementation of a power-sharing agreement, despite the fanfare surrounding its signing. Russia continues its illegal presence in Georgia. HIV/AIDS and malaria continue to ravage the continent of Africa. Millions of children are forced to work in abusive conditions—in many cases, as outright slaves—and are denied an education. Drought and rising food prices are causing even more hunger and famine in some of the world's poorest places.

But a true commitment to peace is not measured by a proclamation or by high-minded speeches on 1 day of the year. It takes more than good intentions and high ideals. What it takes is the hard work of diplomacy, people-to-people exchanges, and active, assertive peace movements in each country.

I agree whole-heartedly with recent remarks made by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. He said our institutions of diplomacy and development have

been chronically undermanned and underfunded relative to our military expenditure. I came across a sobering statistic along these lines just the other day. In this country we have more musicians in military bands than we do members of the Foreign Service.

What are our priorities? We spend nearly \$1 billion a year on military academies to train our best and brightest young people to make war. But we spend almost nothing to train our cadre of diplomats to use diplomacy to strengthen peace around the world.

Mr. President, I have long been committed to finding peaceful solutions to conflicts. That is why I was present at the creation of the U.S. Institute of Peace. Throughout our long history, America has been proud of its strong, well-led military. And this outstanding military leadership is no accident. It is possible because we maintain prestigious, world-class military academies that train some of the best and brightest minds in America in the art and science of war.

But Americans also have a long history as a peace-loving people. Time and again, we have brokered peace agreements between warring nations, and we have intervened to head off potential conflicts. The Institute of Peace draws on this proud tradition and today makes a vital intellectual investment in the art and science of peacemaking by engaging with the Iraqi people to build peace from the community level.

Addressing worldwide hunger is crucial for ensuring the health of people in developing countries and maintaining peace throughout the world. The U.S. is a major contributor to international food aid by providing, on average for the last 6 years, roughly 55 percent of annual total food aid provided to low-income and developing countries. I believe we can still do more. That is why I worked hard to strengthen food aid programs in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills and continue to support expansion of our food aid efforts.

During my tenure in the Senate, I have consistently championed food aid programs such as Public Law 480, title II, also known as the Food for Peace Program. Title II is extremely important in providing U.S. food developing countries meet humanitarian needs arising from emergencies or for use in development projects.

I am also a strong advocate and was a lead sponsor of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program established in the 2002 farm bill, which was reauthorized in the 2008 farm bill. The McGovern-Dole program encourages education and provides food to improve nutrition in developing countries for preschoolers and school-aged children and their families through the use of both in-school programs and take-home rations. I believe that it is essential to fully fund food aid programs which help to promote a safe and healthy diet for people in developing countries, and will ultimately make the world a safer place to live.

America is strongest when we lead not by force of arms but by our democratic and moral example. It takes a sustained effort to understand our adversaries and, if at all possible, to resolve our differences peacefully. The International Day of Peace allows people to think about redoubling our diplomatic efforts and reducing violence.

I look forward to a time, hopefully not too far in the future, that will truly be a day of peace. But let us remember that peace is not merely the cessation or absence of hostilities. The ideals of peace require us to practice understanding, tolerance, and honorable compromise. The ideals of peace require us to look upon our fellow human beings and to see them as our brothers and sisters. The ideals of peace require us to reject unprovoked aggression and violence as acceptable instruments of national policy.

So, Mr. President, on this day after the International Day of Peace, I salute the many good people in Iowa, across America, and around the world who devote themselves 365 days a year to the cause of peace and nonviolence. The world is a better place because of their activism and engagement.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask that today's letters be printed in the RECORD.

You asked for comments on how the fuel costs have affected me. It has been good for my health. The high fuel prices have gotten me back on my bicycle, and I am enjoying it very much. I put baskets on my bike to carry supplies and groceries, and it works very well. When I see people driving three or four blocks to get coffee or ice cream or beer or whatever, and then listen to them complain about how much fuel costs them, I have a hard time with that. I drive a lot less than I used to, and am hoping the rest of the country will follow suite. I turned my thermostat down this past winter, and my bills went down even with rising costs. Putting a sweater on is easy. As people comment when they see my baskets full of groceries, most of them say they should do that. I am wondering why they are not. Instead they go to the gym and burn gas getting there and back to get a workout. Why not walk or ride a bike? Hopefully, folks will start thinking about how far away their job is and try to live within a short commute or bike ride

away. There are lots of things people can do to consume less. More public transportation is a must and would be a lot cheaper in more ways than one, than more nuclear power plants. More bike-friendly places and bike paths would get people riding. The communities/cities of Idaho would be a much better place to live that have walk/bike friendly road/shoulders. So this is how high fuel prices have affected me in Idaho. We all need to get out of our cars and enjoy the scenery!

Thanks,

LYNN, Rathdrum.

I am an owner/operator truck driver. It is getting real hard to make a living out here on the road. The price of fuel is almost to the point of shutting this country down. I have just a few more payments left on my truck. At this point, I cannot make a full payment on my truck each month. So it is going to take even longer to get the job done. When I get the truck paid off, I am afraid, like many others, I will have to park my truck. I cannot haul freight for nothing. I do not enjoy it that much. I use to stay out 4-6 weeks at a time; now, I have to stay out 2 months or longer and still cannot keep the payments caught up. But I am so exhausted that I have to take a few days off. This only makes me farther behind. Thanks for the help!

DANNY.

Almost half our state of Idaho is rural, and much is in BLM Land. So, to get to Idaho cities requires driving long stretches of highway or two-lane roads. I have to drive to Garden Valley every weekend from Boise, and sometimes I have to go there two or three times per week. At 60 miles one way and 120 miles roundtrip, we have seen our gasoline bill nearly double. Next to our mortgage payment, gasoline expense has become our second highest cost in our household. I get raises very infrequently, so this has shot our budget. We do not shop as much and we have stopped going out to eat or go to any entertainment. This, in turn, has hurt our economy.

I listened to the Governor of Montana say he has enough coal and oil along with the major oil finds in the Dakotas to virtually replace the dependence we are placing on foreign energy, but our own red tape has hamstrung our domestic energy companies from developing these resources. Why? It is past time to drill in ANWR. Let us get that rolling now—we have better technology to minimize the environmental impact than any other nation on earth. The time is ripe to even consider re-introducing the 55 MPH speed limit again. I am ready to vote for nationalizing oil, natural gas, and electricity. These three resources have got to be stabilized for our nation to stay in good economic health. By not stabilizing these three resources, we are headed for economic ruin.

Right now, corn is up so high for the ethanol that farmers are producing that they are not selling corn for food. Cattle are not getting enough feed to eat, so ranchers are planning to mass sell off their herds, which will temporarily glut the marketplace then beef will soar in cost. Our airplane and automotive situation has nosedived, and the vacation industry is failing. Private truckers are parking their rigs and even selling them to Russia, so when gas and diesel prices come down, the trucking industry will not recover. Of course, the housing market is dying with the subprime mortgage mess, and banks do not have the necessary reserves on hand to even lend more money though the Fed has lowered the interest rates to 2%.

Frankly, unless some or all of the oil and natural gas industry is immediately nationalized, I fear we are economically doomed

and will lead the whole world into an economic recession/depression. Please kill any legislation regarding carbon capping. There is no way there is enough CO₂ in the world to cause global warming. With CO₂ only comprising .05% of the atmosphere, even doubling, tripling, its concentration will not cause global warming, but sunspot flare activity surely can and does cause global warming. Over 21,000 scientists now agree this is true versus 2,500 who disagree. We have got to wake up and take action together. Thanks for asking for our opinion.

HERMAN.

If the U.S. government reduced some of the huge amounts of oil held in reserve, the price of oil would immediately fall. I just cannot understand why such action has not been taken and can only conclude that [partisan or illegal actions may be behind the price fixing.]

Regards,

BILL.

As a single father and college student, I pay over \$500 per month in child support. I am barely making it and I depend on student loans to even survive. I cannot afford to be paying outrageous prices for gas. I have errands to run everyday. If this continues, I do not know what I can do to keep a roof over my head and feed my children when I have them. Please, we cannot ignore this price gouging.

DOUG.

Thanks, Senator Crapo, for this opportunity to share my opinions and stories about the high cost of fuels and how it is affecting my immediate family.

Two weeks ago, my husband finally broke down and called our fuel oil dealer to order 100 gallons of stove oil. It has been a cool spring. We have been wearing extra sweaters and jackets to be warm inside our home! The price for that was \$450, and that did not fill up our tank. This is the end of winter; what is stove oil going to cost in the fall, next winter? Not so long ago stove oil was pennies on the dollar. We used to burn wood, but it also takes gas for the chainsaw and truck to haul it home. You also have to buy a permit to gather the wood. It is no longer free! My Social Security check is \$515 a month. I live 16 miles to our nearest town, 42 miles to Couer d'Alene, our county seat where we conduct a lot of our business. There is no public transportation to anywhere I live.

People in the East have no concept of the distance to places in the West!!! Back there you can visit several states and we are still on our way to Boise when they have come and gone to their state capitol and perhaps 5 or six bordering states. Boise is 400 miles south on what is referred to as the "Goat Trail". It is about an eight-hour trip by car. Folks, it is no freeway. North Idaho's freeway is I-90 & it is 75 miles wide. That is the width of the panhandle there.

We have driven the most economical car possible since 1985 when Chevrolet came out with the Chevy Sprint that consistently gives about 45 miles to the gallon. It is a 3-cylinder car that is great for commuting, but it is no luxury car. Our second car is a 1996 Subaru Legacy Outback. It carries a month's worth of groceries and other supplies. It also brings us to the top of the hill we live on when there is lots of snow on the ground.

Chevrolet first came out with the Sprint, then the Geo and now the Aveno (?I believe it is called). Each model the gas mileage has decreased significantly. In our area, doctors and dentists are driving them for the gas mileage, not for their luxury. You see, it is affecting the professionals too!

I feel that the car companies and oil companies are in cahoots to keep the gas flowing when they can and have designed fuel effi-

cient vehicles for the modern day public. Take the time to view the DVD, "Who Killed the Electric Car?" It tells what happened to the electric car. It is available in the Kootenai/Shoshone public library system.

General Motors developed an electric car in the late '90's, 2000's that was leased to drivers in California. Each driver loved their car. Had fun with it and it was economical to drive with rechargeable batteries. Some models even recharged as they were driven. They did not even need to be parked to be recharged. They were economical, easy to maintain and sensible to drive. What happened to them? They were taken away from the drivers/leasee & destroyed/crushed!!!! And that under much protest!

Some of these things we've done to ourselves, but other things the American public does not have many choices when it comes to what we drive. I will tell you this all these SUV's on the highway are a disgrace to economy. And legislation was giving a tax break if you went out and purchased one a few years ago. Tell me, what kind of economic sense does that make??? They're just a pack of gas guzzlers!!!

Thanks again for the opportunity to sound off a bit!

TIFFANY, St. Maries.

I am 63-years-old and last year, right before the prices went out of control, already had purchased an electric bike to use to get to work. Fortunately, I only live a little over a mile away and can use this bike that goes 15 miles an hour. My determination to ride this bike increased as the hot days turned into colder ones and I was able to ride my bike through November so I would not have to fill the pick-up with gas too much. Government wants us to recycle to help the environment and I am all for it, but when we try to do our part, we do not get any help in return. If you do get an electric car which no one can afford but the wealthy.

I see my single parent daughter trying to commute and make ends meet and it gets increasingly difficult because with gas prices she goes with less food for family, etc.

I think it is outrageous for our country and politicians to allow these price increases when we have the means to take care of this country. Twenty years ago they spoke of getting alternatives and did not push this issue and had they done so much more could have been done. I am afraid that before long we will see violence in this country mainly because our jobs are gone, price increases in every area of products, but no one ever increases the wages to meet the demands of other increase. What is the matter with people in government and businesses?

I do not like to see government control but because our business people will not use common sense to see what happens when the jobs go there is not sufficient jobs to go and buy the products. What is wrong with this picture? We need to start taxing products from overseas that come here so businesses will come back to the states and put our people back to work. How sad our government has deserted their own people.

I am hoping with all my heart that someone will step up to the plate and really try to make a difference. We have to do something as everything is getting out of control and it is sad because of what our forefathers have tried to do before us to make it a great country. I am angry and I do not like politics, but when I see people trying to do well for their families and that means is taken away from them, someone needs to speak up.

DEVERA, Nampa.

I appreciate the help trying to keep energy prices at a manageable level. As a lifelong Idahoan, I have grown accustomed to the Idaho way of life. I travel to the same hunting and fishing grounds that my father and my grandfather have previously shown me,

teaching my kids to enjoy what our state has to offer. I am a married father of three kids, hoping for a couple more. I work as an accountant and, for the last two-and-a-half half years, my wife has stayed home to raise our kids. It was a giant leap of faith for us to go from two incomes down to one. We sacrificed a lot of the little luxuries but have been blessed by being able to teach our kids. As a result, my eldest daughter, who is in second grade, has excelled in school. She and her siblings love to learn. As the general costs of living have increased, I made the decision to pick up a paper route to help build our savings. I spent many years in college before finally graduating from BSU in 2005. Our savings was depleted. Just as we thought we were going to get ahead, the gas prices started going up. The speed at which they increased has not allowed wages to follow. I still throw papers, but the amount of money I can earn is much lower. My route requires me driving over 40 miles each day. This is on top of my 17-mile each way commute to work. There is little to no public transportation here, and my commute is a bit longer than a bike ride. Cost of living has risen dramatically requiring me to use the money earned from newspaper delivery to help supplement our budget to pay bills. Travel plans this spring and summer have been canceled due to the price of fuel. The number of trips I will be able to take to get in some fly fishing will be cut as well. What I would like to see is a short term help but long term solution. While an increase in domestic supply will begin to stabilize prices, it will not be a long term solution due to the volatile OPEC. We need alternative energy solutions and an increase in public transportation. I hope that our countries leaders can keep an open eye to all sources of power. INL has long been a great source for nuclear power but it seems that too many people are scared to work with. The Integral Fast Reactor was shut down during the Clinton era and years of technology was lost. We must find a better solution.

JOE, Boise.

I work in Hailey, which is a commute of 150 miles each work day. It now costs me in excess of one hour of my wages to make the drive. My gasoline costs are around \$800 per month. We heat our house with oil and it now costs us right at \$1,000 to fill our 250-gallon barrel. We cannot afford to take a vacation because of the fuel, motel, and food prices. My wife and I find this quite disheartening.

I would really like to see the United States become energy self-sufficient. I know the technology is available to help us get their let us offer entrepreneurs incentives to accomplish this. If Congress would make all cars sold in the U.S. flex fuel cars, this would drive the alternative fuel market into production. If Congress would require that all new cars meet the fuel economy requirements that are scheduled for 2020 become a requirement by 2010, this would also help. If Congress would take control over fuel and energy futures trading, this would also help. Thank Congress for taking away the incentives to the fuel producers.

We put a man on the moon in less than a decade, so I truly believe we can become self sufficient if we put our minds and hearts toward this goal.

Sincerely,

WALT, Kimberly.

I live ten miles from town. I moved to this location for solitude several years ago. Because of the greed of the petroleum industry, I am to the point that I cannot take my handicapped wife for a weekend drive. My

propane heating bill has doubled since last year. If this greed continues, I will have to make a choice of what I can buy with the income that I have. Do I buy fuel so I can take my wife to her doctors, some of which are located in Lewiston, 55 miles from our house, or drive the ten miles to town to get her much-needed medicine, get groceries, which we cannot buy like we used to, or pay the ever-increasing heating bill from this past winter?

There are reason why the cost of fuel are on a continuing on this outrageous rise. Refineries are not at capacity; there are no new refineries; the environmentalists, with the help of their liberal judges, stop any new drilling for oil; pure greed by the petroleum industry. Whenever there is a new development to increase fuel mileage, the petroleum industry buys up the patents and kills them.

WENDELL, *Orofino*.

I cannot understand why Congress cannot see the need to allow the United States to access more of our own energy sources. Yes, we need new alternative fuels, but we also need to become more realistic about our solutions to the energy crisis. We need to combine research AND start making use of our own current oil supplies. We need to start drilling in the locations where oil has already been discovered. Why has Congress ridiculed President Bush when he asked the Saudis to produce more oil when Congress refused to do the same right in our own country? He did ask Congress first. I would also like to see the Congressmen invite the scientists who do not agree with man-made global warming to testify and bring their facts forward. Forming an energy policy on an unproven crisis does not make much sense.

GLORIA.

I drive 80 miles a day round trip to work in the Sun Valley area from Fairfield. "Real" people cannot afford to live within 30 miles of the Hailey/Sun Valley area due to exorbitant house prices, so the local economy is dependent on those who will drive from outlying areas. The high gas prices are crippling my family's ability to stay in South Central Idaho.

RANDY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JAMES KETELSEN

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I commend James Ketelsen for his vision and commitment to transforming the hopes of tens of thousands of students and families across the country through Project GRAD, an education reform program that he started when he was chairman and CEO of Tenneco in Houston, TX. Project GRAD has helped these students realize their academic potential and many of them have completed their college education with the assistance of Project GRAD scholarships and mentoring support from Project GRAD staff.

Project GRAD evolved from a scholarship program that began under Mr. Ketelsen's leadership at Tenneco. In 1988, the company began to fund a 4-year scholarship program for eligible graduates of Davis High School, at the time Houston's lowest-performing high school. By 1992, the number of Davis graduates entering college had more

than quadrupled. Still, high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates continued to fall short of Mr. Ketelsen's expectations. He believed that Davis students—and all students from economically disadvantaged communities—were capable of much more if given the right investments and the right commitment. "It's not the kids!" he insisted. Armed with that belief, Mr. Ketelsen has dedicated the last two decades to making an enormous difference for America's highest needs students.

Today, Project GRAD has expanded to 13 communities and reaches more than 120,000 students and families from California to New York, Alaska to Georgia. In the longest-served group of schools, GRAD scholars are completing college at a rate 92 percent above the national average for students from similar demographic backgrounds. A statistically significant sample of GRAD scholarship recipients who have completed college shows that the proportion who graduated with majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—concentrations of dire need for the national economy and national security—exceeded the national average for minority students by 71 percent. In the coming academic year, more than 7,500 students will attend college, funded by a Project GRAD scholarship. GRAD has already sent high school graduates to more than 100 institutions of higher education, including many of the most highly selective colleges and universities in the Nation. At the beginning of high school, many Project GRAD students would never have dreamed of attending Rice, the University of Texas, Texas A & M, Harvard, Yale, MIT, Cornell, Emory, Georgetown, or the University of Virginia. Yet, Mr. Ketelsen's Texas-sized vision, determination, and remarkable leadership of Project GRAD have transformed those expectations.

I am grateful for the energy and enthusiasm with which Mr. Ketelsen has served America's children and families. Recently, Mr. Ketelsen announced his decision to step down from his post as chairman of the board of directors for Project GRAD USA. Although he is retiring from Project GRAD USA, he plans to remain active with the Houston chapter of Project GRAD. I join with my colleagues in saluting James Ketelsen for his efforts to improve education and career opportunities for children in inner-city schools. The return on his investment in education will continue for generations to come.●

A-H-S-T COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated

teachers, administrators, and school board members in the A-H-S-T Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair effort—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The A-H-S-T Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help build a new elementary school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the A-H-S-T Community School District, which serves the towns of Avoca, Hancock, Shelby and Tenant. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Greg Becker, Monte Reisgard, Allen Cordes, and Lauri Fell and former members John Pattee, Mark Schroder, Sondra Dea, Gene McCool and Darlene McMartin. I would also like to recognize superintendent Mike Alexander, former superintendent Chuck Scott and business manager Nancy Collins.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the A-

H-S-T Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in their communities. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

ALBIA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Albia Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Albia Community School District received four Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$435,000 to make improvements throughout the school district. The district was able to make repairs to the ceiling and walls in the practice gymnasium at the high school, replace windows at Kendall Elementary School, upgrade electrical systems in several buildings and make other safety improvements throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Albia Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Robin Haselhuhn, vice-president Dr. John Scieszinski, Mary Wynn, Jeff Liston, Mike Stocker, Donna Whisler and Denny Amoss and former board members Kim Sawatzky, Bob Beary, Darrell Radeuchel, Bob Fluegge and Mick Brock. I would also like to recognize superintendent Kevin Crall, former superintendent Dave Sextro, high school principal Linda

Hoskins, elementary school principal Nancy Foust, board secretary Nancy Foust and buildings and grounds supervisor Sam Kirby.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Albia Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

CENTRAL LYON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Central Lyon Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair—efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Central Lyon Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$623,711 which it used to help make improvements including disability access and to build a community room and fitness center. This facility is used not only to promote

wellness, but as a morning alternative school for the local community. The district also received three fire safety grants totaling \$31,765 which it used to install emergency lighting and stairs and to update smoke and heat detectors and alarms in the elementary school. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Central Lyon Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Steve Sieperda, Dr. Chet DeJong, Pat McCarty, Judy Gacke and Gail Van Berkum and former board members president Bruce Vogel, Marilyn Mammenga and Tom Wall. I would also like to recognize superintendent David Ackerman, former superintendent Bill Hutchinson, business manager Jackie Wells and former board business manager Robin Kilgore.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Central Lyon Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the College Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The College Community School District received a 2000 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help build a new elementary school—the first new school the district had built in 30 years. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the College Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Randy Bauer, vice president Greg Kelsey, Norm Zahradnik, Dawn Tucker, John Titler, Lauri Hughes, Dot Pospischil and board secretary Jim Rotter as well as former board President Sandy Flatgard and former secretary Jim Steffen. I would also like to recognize superintendent Richard Whitehead and former superintendent Mick Starceovich.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the College Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I sa-

lute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the George-Little Rock Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The George-Little Rock Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help renovate an old gymnasium into a fine arts center and two accessible special education classrooms. This addition is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling \$44,900 which it used to install smoke and heat detectors and update fire alarm notification systems throughout the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the George-Little Rock Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education president—Warren Tiedeman, Terrence Clark, Donell Nagel, Amy Jurrens, Doug Krull and board secretary Delinda Kruger as well as former board members Roger Jurrens and Kory Hayenga. I would also like to recognize superintendent David Ackerman; former superintendent Joanne Smith; elementary and middle school principal Janel Guse; the teaching and custodial staff of George-Little Rock; the team of ar-

chitects at Neumann, Monson and Victor; Hoogendoorn Construction; the membership of the project steering committee; and the staff of the Little Rock Freelance and the Lyon County News.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the George-Little Rock Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in their communities. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

LINN-MAR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Linn-Mar Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Linn-Mar Community School District received five Harkin grants totaling \$1,625,000. A 2000 construction grant for \$500,000 was used to help renovate Bowman Woods Elementary

School to provide space for a media center, a 2002 construction grant for \$200,000 was used to provide classrooms for the Little Lions preschool at a new K-8 school and a 2005 construction grant for \$500,000 was used to help build Linn Grove Elementary School. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling \$425,000 to install sprinkler systems at Excelsior Middle School and Linn-Mar High School.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Linn-Mar Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Robert Crawford, vice president Ann Stark, Barry Buchholz, Bob Gilchrist, David Nicholson, Jim Green, Erik Miles and Helen Romanowsky and former board members Swati Dandekar, Mark Klopfenstein, Tom Manor, David Meyer, Tom Miller, Lorna Richards and Steve Colton. I would also like to recognize superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mulholland, former superintendent Dr. Joe Pacha, business administrator Dave Nicholson, former business administrator Dave DeWall, and principals Dona Miller, Kent Stock, Dan Ludwig, Shannon Bisgard, Dr. Marc McCoy and Jerry VanDyke.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Linn-Mar Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

MAQUOKETA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new

school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Maquoketa Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Maquoketa Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$228,750 and a 2003 Harkin grant totaling \$240,000. The 2002 grant was used to help build four new classrooms and a restroom at Cardinal Elementary. These new classrooms allowed the district to expand their preschool program and dedicate part of the space for special needs students. The 2003 grant was used to relocate the middle school office from the second floor to the first floor main entryway, resulting in a safer and more secure environment. The district also received two fire life safety grants totaling \$35,000 for updating fire alarm systems, fire doors, and fire walls. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Maquoketa Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Anne Hawks, vice-president Brian Tabor, Marty Hudrik, Mark Pape, and Bill Schwenker, and former members, Mary Bartels, Leslie Lawson, Troy Thede. I would also like to recognize the leadership of curriculum director and school improvement coordinator Sherri Marceau, as well as school improvement coordinator Helen Snell, school board secretary Barb McKeon and superintendent Kim Huckstadt.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that

many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Maquoketa Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the tenth year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Nashua-Plainfield Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$104,200 which it used to help replace windows at the school in Plainfield. The Federal grant has made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire

staff, administration, and governance in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the current board of education, Brian Bierschenk, Lisa Franzen, Dawn Koob, Michael Mahoney and Gail Zwanziger. I would also like to recognize superintendent Paul Bisgard, former superintendent Linda Johanningmeier, middle school principal Ron Reusche, head custodian Dave Fordyce and custodian Richard Lindloff.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

OLIN CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Olin Consolidated School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Olin School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$575,000 which it used to help build an addition to the school. The project is a collaboration with the Olin library board and the addition houses the town's library, the district's Iowa Communications Network classroom and access for community activities. The additional space made it possible to convert the former school library into classrooms for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and music. The district also received a fire safety grant totaling \$20,325 to make safety improvements. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Olin Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mike Hansen, Randy Cress, Margo Ahrendsen, Marty Francksen and Rob Strawn and former board members Brian Bean and Ned Rohwedder as well as superintendent Charles Liston, former superintendent Juanita Suhr and board secretary/treasurer Carrie Fortin. I would also like to recognize the members of the Olin Public Library board—Carrie Fortin, Margaret Kistler, Deanna Butterworth, Dianne Tenley and Jan Dierks and former board members Jean Rickels, Sandy Hansen-Heggebo, and Sandy Weirather as well as librarian Dolores Wood and former librarian Sheri Ulrich

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Olin Consolidated School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 998. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2352. An act to enhance the safety of elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

H.R. 2535. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3036. An act to reauthorize and enhance the National Environmental Education Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3437. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 5293. An act to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5350. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5611. An act to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5736. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic.

H.R. 6229. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building".

H.R. 6338. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4233 West Hillsboro Boulevard in Coconut Creek, Florida, as the "Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building".

H.R. 6460. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6503. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

H.R. 6604. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to bring greater transparency and accountability to commodity markets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6625. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6681. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the "Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building".

H.R. 6772. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CecCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

H.R. 6855. An act to extend the authority for the United States Supreme Court Police

to protect court officials off the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States flag flown over the United States Capitol should be lowered to half-mast one day each month in honor of the brave men and women from the United States who have lost their lives in military conflicts.

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense and the Federal Voting Assistance Program should take certain additional and timely measures to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and citizens living overseas are provided with reasonable information on how to register to vote and vote in the 2008 general elections.

H. Con. Res. 408. Concurrent resolution recognizing North Platte, Nebraska, as "Rail Town USA".

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent resolution recognizing the FBI on their 100th anniversary.

H. Con. Res. 415. Concurrent resolution celebrating 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation and recognizing State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community and industry members for creating a workable, legal, and successful system of alcoholic beverage regulation, distribution, and sale.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 171. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Commerce Street in Commerce, Oklahoma, as the "Mickey Mantle Post Office Building".

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution to amend Public Law 108-331 to provide for the construction and related activities in support of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to be bill (H.R. 3986) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide, in fiscal years 2009 through 2011, extensions of supplemental security income for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to collect unemployment compensation debts resulting from fraud.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 996. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

S. 2339. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 3406. An act to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

At 3:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6890. An act to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 3507. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7672. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's decision to conduct a streamlined A-76 competition of information assurance functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7673. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7675. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7676. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7677. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2,4-D, Bensulide, Chlorpyrifos, DCPA, Desmedipham, Dimethoate, Fenamiphos, Metolachlor, Phorate, Sethoxydim, Terbufos, Tetrachlorvinphos, and Triallate; Tolerance Actions" (FRL No. 8375-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7678. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Construction or Modification" (FRL No. 8715-7) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7679. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ethoprop; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8382-6) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7680. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for amylopectin, acid-hydrolyzed, 1-octenylbutanedioate and for amylopectin, hydrogen 1-octadecenylbutanedioate" (FRL No. 8374-1) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7681. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Federal Antidegradation Policy for All Waters of the United States within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (FRL No. 8716-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7682. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Massachusetts" (FRL No. 8709-4) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7683. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for Hawaii" (FRL No.

8716-3) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7684. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "A Study on the Feasibility and Advisability of Providing for Contracting with Prescription Drug Program Sponsors and Medicare Advantage Organizations on a Multi-Year Basis"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7685. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unified Rule for Loss of Subsidiary Stock" ((RIN1545-BB61)(TD 9424)) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7686. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coordinated Issue: False Claims Act Settlements with Department of Justice (DOJ)" (LMSB-4-0908-045) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7687. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transition Guidance for New Funding Rules and Funding-Related Benefit Limitations under PPA '06" (Notice 2008-73) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7688. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 6707A and the Failure to Include on any Return or Statement any Information Required to be Disclosed under Section 6011 with Respect to a Reportable Transaction" ((RIN1545-BF62)(TD 9425)) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7689. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tier II Industry Director's Directive on the Planning and Examination of Gift Card/Certificate Issues in the Retail and Food & Beverage Industries #2" (LMSB-04-0808-042) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7690. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Applications Proposing Labeling Changes for Approved Drugs, Biologics, and Medical Devices" ((RIN0910-ZA32)(Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0032)) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7691. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food" (Docket No. FDA-1999-F-2405) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7692. A communication from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the commercial and inherently governmental activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7693. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia,

transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-497, "Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008" received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7694. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-473, "Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Amendment Act of 2008" received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7695. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-496, "Health-Care Decisions for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008" received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7696. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-501, "Income Tax Secured Bond Authorization Act of 2008" received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7697. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7698. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Inspector General, received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7699. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the U.S. Congress on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development"; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7700. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger air carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during the calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7701. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Maritime Administration for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7702. A communication from the Inspector General, Federal Trade Commission, informing Congress that they have begun the audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7703. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Diley and Cotulla, Texas" ((MB Docket No. 07-183)(DA 08-1714)) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7704. A communication from the Division Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commercial

Mobile Alert System, Third Report and Order" (FCC 08-184) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7705. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Arlington and Boardman, Oregon; Boise, Caldwell, Grangeville, Hazelton, Iona, Jerome, McCall, Melba, Salmon, and Sun Valley, Idaho; Elko and Owyhee, Nevada; Finley, Pasco, and Walla Walla, Washington; and West Yellowstone, Montana" (MB Docket No. 06-72) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7706. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; International Trade Permit Program; Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program" (RIN0648-AU88) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7707. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area to Scallop Vessels" (RIN0648-XJ51) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7708. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XJ58) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7709. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" (RIN0648-XJ37) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7710. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure" (RIN0648-XJ27) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7711. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #5 and #6" (RIN0648-XJ22) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7712. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2008 Winter II Quota" (RIN0648-XJ34) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7713. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 9; Correction" (RIN0648-AP60) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7714. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identity Theft Red Flags and Address Discrepancies Under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003" (RIN3084-AA94) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7715. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Huntsville, AR" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0004)(Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-2)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7716. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Bettles, AK" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-0342)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AAL-20)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7717. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Class E Airspace; Hawesville, KY" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0334)(Airspace Docket No. 08-ASO-11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7718. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Phillipsburg, KS" ((Docket No. FAA-2006-25943)(Airspace Docket No. 06-ACE-13)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7719. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Phillipsburg, KS; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((Docket No. FAA-2006-25943)(Airspace Docket No. 06-ACE-13)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7720. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Wilkes-Barre, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0130)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AEA-11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7721. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Wilkes-Barre, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date; Correction" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0130)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AEA-11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7722. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Staunton, VA" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0170)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AEA-16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7723. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; State College, PA" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-29375)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-06)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7724. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Scottsboro, AL" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-28591)(Airspace Docket No. 07-ASO-16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7725. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Waynesburg, PA" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-0022)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-07)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7726. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Danville, KY; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-0246)(Airspace Docket No. 07-ASO-26)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7727. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gettysburg, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-0309)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-20)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7728. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Black River Falls, WI; Withdrawal" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0024)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-4)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7729. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; New Stuyahok, AK" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-29008)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AAL-11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7730. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Deadhorse, AK" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0171)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-5)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7731. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Allakaket, AK" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0141)(Docket No. 08-AAL-4)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7732. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; St. Mary's, AK" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0134)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-3)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7733. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D Airspace; Brunswick, ME; Withdrawal" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0203)(Airspace Docket No. 08-ANE-99)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7734. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D Airspace; Georgetown, Texas" ((Docket No. FAA-2007-29373)(Airspace Docket No. 07-ASW-10)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7735. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Route (T-Route); Southwest Oregon" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0038)(Airspace Docket No. 07-ANM-16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1577. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers (Rept. No. 110-474).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1933. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water systems (Rept. No. 110-475).

S. 199. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska (Rept. No. 110-476).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 906. A bill to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-477).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 3109. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system (Rept. No. 110-478).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 3175. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program, to make technical corrections to that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-479).

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 3192. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to obtain 99-year lease authority for trust land (Rept. No. 110-480).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. OBAMA, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3528. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3529. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3530. A bill to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family or organ donors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 3531. A bill to authorize assistance for Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3533. A bill to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3534. A bill to provide for the expansion of Federal programs to prevent and manage

vision loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss; read the first time.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 3536. A bill to amend section 5402 of title 39, United States Code, to modify the authority relating to United States Postal Service air transportation contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 3537. A bill to establish the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 669. A resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 670. A resolution designating September 25, 2008, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 671. A resolution congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. Res. 672. A resolution designating September 12, 2008, as "National Day of Encouragement"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 673. A resolution recognizing the importance of workplace wellness as a strategy to help maximize employees' health and well being; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 674. A resolution designating September 22, 2008, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BROWNBAC,

Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 675. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging Americans to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. Res. 676. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 677. A resolution to authorize testimony and legal representation in Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. Con. Res. 100. A concurrent resolution authorizing the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol upon his death; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 368

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a State family support grant program to end the practice of parents giving legal custody of their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies for the purpose of obtaining mental health services for those children.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 960

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to establish

the United States Public Service Academy.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1255

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1255, a bill to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2263

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2851, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers.

S. 3021

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to length and weight limitations for buses, trucks, and other large vehicles on Federal highways, and for other purposes.

S. 3246

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3344

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3344, a bill to defend against child exploitation and child pornography through improved Internet Crimes Against Children task forces and enhanced tools to block illegal images, and to eliminate the unwarranted release of convicted sex offenders.

S. 3356

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3356, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemora-

tion of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program.

S. 3426

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3426, a bill to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents on Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. 3446

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3446, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to defer the tax on the gain on the sale of certain telecommunications and media businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3484, a bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name and the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3487, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 3491

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3491, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the effectiveness of rural health care support under section 254(h) of that Act.

S. 3498

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3498, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line.

S. 3509

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3509, a bill to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and potential security breakdown resulting from the mass displacement of Iraqis inside Iraq and as refugees into neighboring countries.

S. 3521

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3521, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the "Spencer Byrd Powers Jr. Post Office".

S. 3526

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3526, a bill to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 616, a resolution reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad.

S. RES. 660

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 660, a resolution condemning ongoing sales of arms to belligerents in Sudan, including the Government of Sudan, and calling for both a cessation of such sales and an expansion of the United Nations embargo on arms sales to Sudan.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 660, *supra*.

S. RES. 661

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Penn-

sylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 661, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

S. RES. 666

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 666, a resolution recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3529. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased today to announce the introduction of the Global Food Security Act of 2008. I would like to thank my friend Senator CASEY for lending his ideas and support to this bipartisan effort. I also thank USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore, who took an early interest in potential legislation. Her leadership is very much appreciated. Finally, I want to thank the members of USAID's informal food security team, who advised us on problems and possible legislative solutions.

As we know, food prices started a steep climb in the fall of 2007 and continued to increase during the spring of this year. The crisis has abated somewhat, largely due to the drop in energy prices. Nonetheless, this episode demonstrated that there are significant structural challenges to attaining global food security. The system is vulnerable to periodic disruptions that both expose and exacerbate deeper problems.

We live in a world where nearly 1 billion people suffer from chronic food insecurity. When droughts occur, hurricanes hit, or other disruptions arise, transitory food insecurity can put as many as 100 million people at a time in grave danger. In fact, the World Food Program reports that 25,000 people die each day from malnutrition-related causes. Health experts advise us that a diverse and secure food supply has major health benefits, including increasing child survival, improving cognitive and physical development of children, and increasing immune system function including resistance to HIV/AIDS.

Food insecurity is a global tragedy, but it is also an opportunity for the U.S. The U.S. is the indisputable world leader in agricultural production and technology. A more focused effort on our part to join with other nations to increase yields, improve food distribu-

tion, and broaden agricultural knowledge could begin a new era in U.S. diplomacy. Such an effort could solidify relationships with nations where, up to now, we have had few positive contacts. It could improve our broader trade relations and serve as a model for similar endeavors in the areas of energy and scientific cooperation. Achieving food security for all people also would have profound implications for peace and U.S. national security. Hungry people are desperate people, and desperation often sows the seeds of conflict and extremism.

The U.S. has always stood for big ideas—from the founding of the Republic on the basis of freedom to President Kennedy's vow to put a man on the moon. One of today's big ideas should be the eradication of hunger. We can bring America's dedication to science, innovation, technology, and education together to lead an effort devoted to overcoming the obstacles to food security.

The Global Food Security Act of 2008, is a 5-year authorization that seeks to provide solutions that will have the greatest effect. First, it creates a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security and puts that person in charge of developing a food security strategy. We call on the development of that strategy to take a whole-of-government approach and to work with other international donors, the NGO community, and the private sector.

Second, the bill authorizes additional resources for agricultural productivity and rural development. U.S. foreign assistance for agriculture has declined by nearly 70 percent since the 1980s. Globally, only four percent of official development assistance from all donors is allocated for agriculture. This amounts to neglect of what should be considered one of the most vital sectors in the alleviation of poverty. Food shortages are likely to recur frequently if the U.S. and the global community fail to invest in agricultural productivity in the developing world.

World leaders must understand that over the long term, satisfying global demand for more and better food can be achieved only by increasing yields per acre. In the 1930s, my father, Marvin Lugar, produced corn yields of approximately 40 to 50 bushels per acre. Today, the Lugar farm yields about 150 bushels per acre on the same land in Marion County, IN. The Green Revolution, from 1965 to 1985, saw the introduction of high yield seeds and improved agricultural techniques that resulted in a near doubling of cereal grain production per acre over 20 years. But yields may have to be doubled or tripled again.

Increasing acreage under production will not satisfy the growth in food demand, and these steps come with serious environmental and national security costs. We need a second green revolution that will benefit developed and developing nations alike.

Recent studies have demonstrated that funds spent in agriculture can be

up to four times more beneficial to economic growth than spending in other areas. It seems, therefore, that our overall foreign aid strategy would benefit from restoring agriculture programs to their former prominence. The bill increases funding for these programs in the first year by \$750 million. The increase would reach \$2.5 billion in year 5. Because those who subsist on less than one dollar a day spend at least half their incomes on food, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute, the bill highlights the need to focus on those living in extreme poverty.

In thinking about how to approach agricultural productivity, we tried to draw from the experience of U.S. land grant colleges and the contributions they have made to U.S. agriculture. The bill creates a new program that would strengthen institutions of higher education in the areas of agriculture sciences, research and extension programs. Investments in human capital and institutional capacity are important to developing a robust agricultural sector.

Universities and research centers can play an important role in achieving technological advances that are appropriate to local conditions. As such, the bill calls for increasing collaborative research on the full range of biotechnological advances including genetically modified technologies.

Third, the bill improves the U.S. emergency response to food crises by creating a separate Emergency Food Assistance Fund that can make local and regional purchases of food, where appropriate. Funds can be used for emergency food and agricultural assistance. The Government Accountability Office reports that it can often take 4 to 6 months from the time a crisis occurs until U.S. food shipments arrive. Our intention is to provide USAID with the flexibility to respond to emergencies more quickly, without supplanting other food programs such as P.L. 480.

I hope that our bill will begin a productive dialogue on how our government can be a more effective partner with NGO and private actors in promoting food security. There is no good reason why nearly a billion people should be food insecure or that the world should have to endure the social upheaval and risks of conflict that this insecurity causes.

I look forward to working with colleagues to improve the U.S. and global efforts to alleviate food insecurity and advance agricultural knowledge and technology worldwide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3529

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—POLICY OBJECTIVES, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Sec. 101. Statement of policy.

Sec. 102. Comprehensive food security strategy.

Sec. 103. Reports.

TITLE II—BILATERAL PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Agriculture, rural development, and nutrition.

Sec. 202. Agricultural research.

Sec. 203. Higher education collaboration for technology, agriculture, research and extension.

TITLE III—EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FOOD CRISES

Sec. 301. Emergency food assistance account.

Sec. 302. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Nearly 1,000,000,000 people worldwide suffer from food insecurity, defined as a lack of access to sufficient food to meet dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

(2) The number of food insecure increased from 849,000,000 in 2006 to 982,000,000 in 2007.

(3) The World Food Programme reports that 25,000 people die each day from malnutrition-related causes.

(4) The food security situation of lower income countries is projected to continue to deteriorate over the next decade.

(5) Nearly half of the world's food insecure live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(6) The agricultural sector comprises large portions of the total labor force in many developing countries, as high as 70 to 80 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it also contributes about 35 percent of the total gross national product (GDP).

(7) Agriculture has been shown to be an efficient engine of economic growth in developing countries.

(8) A diverse and secure food supply has health benefits, including increasing child survival, improving cognitive and physical development of children, and increasing immune system function including resistance to HIV/AIDS.

(9) Rapid increases in global food costs since 2007 threaten to significantly undermine gains achieved in poverty reduction and health programs.

(10) The poor in developing countries spend as much as 50 to 70 percent of their incomes on food.

(11) Three out of five of those suffering from hunger are rural small-scale agricultural families. One out of five is a rural landless laborer, and another one-fifth are urban poor, according to the United Nations Hunger Task Force.

(12) A comprehensive approach to food security should encompass improvements in nutrition, education, agricultural infrastructure and productivity, finance and markets, safety net programs, household incomes, and emergency preparedness.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) CHRONIC FOOD INSECURITY.—The term “chronic food insecurity” means ongoing and persistent lack of access to sufficient food to meet dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

(4) EXTREME POVERTY.—The term “extreme poverty” means income of less than half of the poverty level as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the relevant year.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” means educational institutions providing post-secondary education and training.

TITLE I—POLICY OBJECTIVES, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to promote global food security, to improve agricultural productivity, to support the development of institutions of higher learning that will enhance human capacity, a knowledge economy, agricultural research and technology, and the dissemination of farming techniques to all levels of the agriculture sector, and to support sustainable farming methods.

SEC. 102. COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) SPECIAL COORDINATOR.—The President shall designate an individual to serve in the Executive Office of the President as the Special Coordinator for Food Security. The coordinator shall advise and assist the President by—

(1) advising the President on international food security issues;

(2) taking such actions as are necessary to ensure the coordination of the food security efforts and programs of the United States, including the activities of Federal agencies, and

(3) overseeing the development and implementation of the strategy described in subsection (b).

(b) CONTENT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy referred to in subsection (a)(3) is a comprehensive food security strategy that—

(1) includes specific and measurable goals, benchmarks and time frames, and a plan of action to achieve the objectives described in section 101;

(2) seeks to encourage and leverage, to the greatest extent possible—

(A) private sector participation, including through the Global Development Alliances of the United States Agency for International Development and other measures; and

(B) the coordination of United States food security efforts with similar efforts of international organizations, international financial institutions, the governments of developing and developed countries, and United States and international nongovernmental organizations;

(3) provides appropriate linkages with United States international health programs, such as the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief;

(4) reflects a whole-of-government approach that incorporates and encompasses the programs of relevant Federal departments and agencies that engage in some aspect of food security, including the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Department of the Treasury, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(5) provides annual monitoring and evaluation of the program addressing progress toward access to food, availability of food, utilization of food, and risk factors associated with food insecure populations.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The United States Agency for International Development shall be the lead agency in implementing the strategy described in subsection (b).

SEC. 103. REPORTS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than December 31 of each year thereafter through 2014, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the strategy described in section 102(b).

(2) **CONTENT.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a copy of the strategy and an indication of any changes made in the strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(B) an assessment of progress made during the preceding calendar year toward meeting the objectives described in section 101 and the specific goals, benchmarks, and time frames specified in the strategy described in section 102(b);

(C) a description of United States Government programs contributing to the achievement of the objectives described in section 101, including the amounts expended on such programs during the preceding fiscal year; and

(D) an assessment of United States efforts to encourage and leverage private sector participation in United States food security programs and to coordinate such programs with similar efforts of international organizations, international financial institutions, the governments of developing and developed countries, and United States and international nongovernmental organizations.

(3) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the submission of each report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(A) a review of, and comments addressing, the report submitted under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations relating to any additional actions the Comptroller General determines to be necessary to improve a global food security strategy and its implementation.

(b) **PROGRAM REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing—

(A) an assessment of progress made during the preceding four years toward meeting the objectives described in section 101 and the specific goals, benchmarks, and time frames specified in the strategy described in section 102(b); and

(B) an evaluation of the impact during the preceding four years of United States food security programs on food security, health, and economic growth in countries suffering from chronic food insecurity.

(2) **BASIS FOR REPORT.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be based on assessments and impact evaluations utilizing sound quantitative and qualitative methodologies and techniques for the behavioral sciences.

TITLE II—BILATERAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND NUTRITION.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 103(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) to expand the economic participation of people living in extreme poverty and those who lack access to agriculturally productive land, including through productive safety net programs and health and nutrition programs, and to integrate those living in extreme poverty into the economy.”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President to provide assistance under section 103 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a) for the purpose of carrying out activities under this section, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purpose—

(1) \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(c) **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM.**—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (b), up to \$35,000,000 may be made available annually for the Collaborative Research Support Program for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

(d) **CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.**—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (b), up to \$45,000,000 may be made available annually for core long-term research for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

SEC. 202. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Section 103A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a–1) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “, and (3) make” and inserting “, (3) make”; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and (4) include research on biotechnological advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including genetically modified technology.”.

SEC. 203. HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION FOR TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Institutions of higher education can promote a robust agriculture sector through investments in human capital, research and technology, and extension services.

(2) Enrollment levels in higher education are 5 percent in Africa, 10 percent in South Asia, 19 percent in East Asia, and 23 percent in North Africa and the Middle East.

(3) Universities in the United States have a history of serving as engines of development.

(4) Many universities in the United States have experience in partnering with foreign universities on faculty and student exchanges, curriculum development, and joint research projects.

(5) According to a World Bank study, higher education contributes to national productivity, raises living standards, and improves a country's ability to compete globally.

(6) United States foreign assistance support for higher education has declined from the 1990s.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to provide United States assistance for the development of higher educational capacity in the field of agriculture in a manner that promotes economic growth in rural areas, the alleviation of poverty and malnutrition, nutritional diversity, and good governance.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ASSISTANCE PLAN.**—The term “assistance plan” means a multi-year plan devel-

oped by the United States Agency for International Development in coordination with a foreign government addressing assistance for agricultural education programs.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Board for Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension.

(3) **EDUCATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.**—The term “education center of excellence” means an institution of higher education that is designated as the lead educational institution for purposes of the assistance plan.

(4) **ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.**—The term “eligible country” means a country that meets the requirements of subsection (h).

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a program to be known as the Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (in this section referred to as the “Program” or “HECTARE”) for the purpose of providing assistance in support of policies and programs in eligible countries that advance agricultural productivity and hunger alleviation through partnerships with institutions of higher education.

(e) **FORM OF ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance may be provided under this section in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to or with eligible entities described in subsection (i) and shall be provided pursuant to assistance plans as described in subsection (g). Assistance may not be provided under this section in the form of loans.

(f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Assistance provided under this section may be used to provide support to education centers of excellence in eligible countries for the following purposes:

(1) Academic exchange programs for students, faculty members, and school administrators with other education of centers of excellence and with universities in the United States.

(2) Strengthening agriculture sciences curricula.

(3) Increasing research capacity.

(4) Improving the dissemination of appropriate information and technology to farmers.

(g) **ASSISTANCE PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall provide assistance under this section pursuant to an assistance plan developed in coordination with an eligible country that establishes a multi-year plan for significantly improving agricultural productivity and investing in rural economies through the strengthening of agricultural programs at institutions of higher learning.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—An assistance plan should—

(A) take into account the national development strategy of the eligible country;

(B) identify an education center of excellence devoted to agricultural sciences (in this paragraph referred to as a “center”);

(C) identify the partnerships between the center and other institutions of higher learning, including schools or research institutions in the United States and foreign countries, government agencies, including local and regional governments, private sector entities, and civil society;

(D) identify appropriate channels for dissemination of farming techniques to the field; and

(E) identify the center's plans for—

(i) conducting agricultural research and technology;

(ii) strengthening the teaching of agriculture science, including programs aimed at curriculum, faculty, and students;

(iii) providing rural outreach services (extension); and

(iv) improving university administration.

(3) **COORDINATION.**—The Administrator, as appropriate, shall coordinate the development of assistance plans with the Global AIDS/HIV Coordinator of the Department of State to ensure coordination of such plans with education programs provided for in section 204(c) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7623(c)).

(h) **ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.**—

(1) **CRITERIA.**—The Administrator shall identify eligible countries for purposes of this section. Such determination shall be based, to the maximum extent possible, upon objective and quantifiable indicators of a country's demonstrated commitment to the following:

(A) Investments in, and support for, rural economies, including the protection of private property rights, the promotion of private sector growth and sustainable management of natural resources, the rights of women, and the well-being of women and children.

(B) Raising agricultural productivity of small- and medium-sized farms.

(C) Alleviating poverty and hunger among the entire population.

(D) Strengthening the system of higher education institutions with regard to agriculture science, research, and technology.

(E) The wide dissemination of farming techniques.

(F) Working with other international partners, such as universities in the United States, other foreign universities, civil society, and private business and research institutions.

(G) Good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption policies.

(2) **ADDITIONAL FACTORS.**—The Administrator, in selecting eligible countries, shall consider—

(A) the extent to which the country clearly meets or exceeds the eligibility criteria;

(B) the opportunity to increase agricultural productivity, enhance human and institutional capacity, and reduce hunger in the country;

(C) the availability of funds to carry out this section; and

(D) the percentage of the country's population that faces chronic food insecurity.

(i) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Entities eligible for assistance under this section are the following:

(1) Universities in the United States working in partnership with institutions of higher education in eligible countries.

(2) Education centers of excellence and other institutions of higher education in eligible countries.

(3) National governments of eligible countries.

(4) Regional or local governmental units of eligible countries.

(5) Nongovernmental organizations and private entities.

(j) **BOARD FOR GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall establish a permanent Board for Global Agricultural Education (in this section referred to as the "Board") for purposes of assisting in the administration of the programs authorized under this section.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall consist of 7 members, of whom—

(A) not less than 4 shall be selected from universities in the United States; and

(B) not less than 3 shall be selected from representatives of nongovernmental organizations devoted to agricultural research and education.

(3) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Board shall include the following:

(A) Responsibility for advising the Administrator on issues related to the planning,

implementation, and monitoring of activities described in this section.

(B) Advising the Administrator in the formulation of basic policy, program design, procedures, and criteria for the Program.

(C) Advising the Administrator on the qualifications of interested institutions of higher learning based on—

(i) their ability to work collaboratively to improve agricultural production, scientific research, and the dissemination of sound agricultural technologies;

(ii) their commitment to expanding and applying their academic, teaching, research, and outreach capacities; and

(iii) their commitment to partner with private organizations, civil society, and government entities.

(D) Advising the Administrator on which developing nations could benefit from programs carried out under this section and have an interest in establishing or developing agricultural institutions that engage in teaching, research, or extension services.

(4) **TERM.**—Terms of members shall be set by the Administrator at the time of appointment.

(5) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.**—Members of the Board shall be entitled to such reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties (including per diem in lieu of subsistence while away from their homes or regular place of business) as the Administrator deems appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

(k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President for the purpose of carrying out activities under this section—

(1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(l) **DISCLOSURE OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY UNITED STATES UNIVERSITIES.**—The Administrator shall prescribe regulations providing for the utilization by universities in the United States of alternative sources of public and private funding to carry out the purposes of this section and requiring the disclosure, not less than annually, of all such alternative funding, both prospective and received.

(m) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than October 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing the activities carried out under this section during the preceding fiscal year and containing a projection of programs and activities to be conducted in the following year.

TITLE III—EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FOOD CRISES

SEC. 301. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Whenever the President determines it to be important to the national interest, the President may furnish on such terms and conditions as he may determine appropriate assistance under this Act or the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for the purpose of meeting unexpected urgent food assistance needs, notwithstanding any provision of law which restricts assistance to foreign countries.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a United States Emergency Food Assistance Fund to carry out the purposes of this section (in this section referred to as the "Fund").

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President from time to time such sums as may be necessary for the Fund to carry out the purposes of this section, except that

no amount of funds may be appropriated which, when added to amounts previously appropriated but not yet obligated for such purpose, would cause the total of such appropriated amounts to exceed \$500,000,000.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Assistance provided under this section may include the local and regional purchase and distribution of food, and the provision of emergency non-food assistance.

(d) **LIMITED DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority under subsection (a) may be delegated to the Administrator, provided that not more than \$100,000,000 may be made available in any fiscal year pursuant to determinations made by the Administrator pursuant to the delegation of such authority.

(e) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administration shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 5 days before providing assistance pursuant to a determination made under this section. The report shall indicate the unexpected urgent food needs to be addressed by the assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided.

SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 for the purpose of carrying out this title.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act. In today's economic climate, Americans need relief from sky-rocketing oil and gas prices. This applies to everyone, including people who engage in much-needed volunteer work. In July, I introduced a similar bill to help volunteers. It gave the Internal Revenue Service authority to change the mileage rate—currently set by statute at 14 cents per mile—for calculating the deductible cost of operating a vehicle for charitable purposes. We can't let an out-of-date mileage rate exacerbate the pinch at the pump for volunteers who selflessly provide so many vital goods and services in every community across America. After working with Congressman LEWIS and Congressman RAMSTAD on compromise language we have improved the original bill. This compromise legislation will provide immediate relief for volunteers serving our elderly, poor, frail, and at-risk Americans. I am pleased that the

senior Senator from Maine, Senator SNOWE, and my other colleagues, the senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, the junior Senator from Nevada, Senator ENSIGN, the senior Senator from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, and the senior Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, and the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, are original cosponsors of this bill and I thank all of them for their support.

The Internal Revenue Code does not fix a rate for individuals who are required to use their own vehicle for work, or for individuals taking a mileage deduction for moving purposes. The IRS is able to increase the deduction amount for these purposes to reflect the current economic climate and dramatically higher fuel prices. This is exactly what the IRS recently did.

As of July 1st, the IRS modified the standard mileage rates for computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, medical, or moving expenses. The revised standard mileage rate for business purposes increased from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 cents. For medical and moving expenses, the IRS increased the rate from 19 cents per mile to 27 cents per mile. I think the Nation's volunteers who travel on behalf of charitable organizations deserve an increase in their mileage rate, too.

My bill gives the IRS flexibility in setting the rate so that volunteers for charitable organizations could be given the same tax benefit accruing for moving, medical, and business expenses. It also provides a floor for volunteers, not allowing their rate to be set lower than moving and medical rate. In today's climate of increasing food and fuel prices, this bill will help relieve some of the pressure on charitable organizations and their volunteers. Additionally, this bill will allow the organization to reimburse the volunteer up to the business rate without any tax impact to volunteers.

Take Meals on Wheels, for example. This organization delivers nutritious meals and other nutrition services to men and women who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or otherwise at-risk. The services Meals on Wheels provides significantly improve the recipients' quality of life and health, and often help to postpone institutionalization.

Over the past year, there has been nearly a 20 percent increase in fuel and food prices, coupled with reduced Government funding and fewer donations across the country. Nearly 60 percent of the estimated 5,000 programs that operate under the auspices of the Meals on Wheels Association of America have lost volunteers, in large part because it is too expensive for the volunteers to drive back and forth. Nearly half the programs have eliminated routes or consolidated meal services. About 38 percent of the programs have switched to delivering frozen meals, and about 30 percent are cutting personal visits from 5 days a week to one.

In Maryland, the Central Maryland Meals on Wheels has experienced an increase of 7 percent in food costs and suppliers are charging higher delivery fees. The cost to fill up the vans with gas has increased. Fuel costs averaged \$72,538.70 in fiscal year 2007; this year, the costs have jumped to \$86,790.63. This is an organization with volunteers serving over 3,100 elderly, disabled, frail and at-risk Marylanders. Its volunteers deserve relief from high gas prices just as much as people who use their car for work or for medical purposes or for moving.

Throughout the U.S., Meals on Wheels served over 3 million people and more than 250 million meals in fiscal year 2006. This is just one of thousands of charitable organizations. We need to encourage and support the Meals on Wheels volunteers and all other volunteers who need their cars to help their neighbors and communities. The Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere bill will do just that, and I hope my colleagues will support it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3532

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act of 2008" or the "GIVE Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF STANDARD MILEAGE RATE FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS DEDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to standard mileage rate for use of passenger automobile) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) STANDARD MILEAGE RATE FOR USE OF PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE.—For purposes of computing the deduction under this section for use of a passenger automobile, the standard mileage rate shall be the rate determined by the Secretary, which rate shall not be less than the standard mileage rate used for purposes of section 213."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to miles traveled after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR CHARITABLE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to items specifically excluded from gross income) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 139C. CHARITABLE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual, gross income shall not include amounts received from an organization described in section 170(c)(2) as reimbursement of operating expenses with respect to the use of a passenger automobile for the benefit of such organization.

"(b) LIMITATION.—The amount excluded from gross income under subsection (a) shall not exceed the product of the standard mileage rate used for purposes of section 162 multiplied by the number of miles traveled for which such reimbursement is made.

"(c) APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES ONLY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any expenses relating to the performance of services for compensation.

"(d) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—A taxpayer may not claim a deduction or credit under any other provision of this title with respect to reimbursements excluded from income under subsection (a).

"(e) EXEMPTION FROM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6041 shall not apply with respect to reimbursements excluded from income under subsection (a).

"(f) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—For purposes of this section, no exclusion shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any reimbursement unless with respect to such reimbursement the taxpayer meets substantiation requirements similar to the requirements of section 274(d)."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 139C. Charitable mileage reimbursement."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to miles traveled after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3534. A bill to provide for the expansion of Federal programs to prevent and manage vision loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Vision Preservation Act of 2008 with my colleague Sen. GEORGE VOINOVICH. The goal of this legislation is to help Americans avoid the personal tragedy of unnecessary, preventable vision loss. This important legislation is supported by Prevent Blindness America, the American Foundation for the Blind, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the American Optometric Association.

Right now there are an estimated 80 million Americans suffering from potentially blinding eye disease. Three million more Americans struggle with low vision. 1.1 million more are legally blind. Glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract and age-related macular degeneration, AMD, and other vision problems are costing tens of thousands of people in the United States their ability to see each year. With the aging baby boom generation moving toward retirement age, these numbers are expected to grow considerably. It is estimated that by 2030, the number of blind and visually impaired people will double if nothing is done.

Unsurprisingly, "The Economic Impact of Vision Problems: The Toll of Major Adult Eye Disorders, Visual Impairment, and Blindness on the U.S. Economy," a study conducted by Prevent Blindness America, reveals that vision loss carries significant cost to individuals, private insurers, health care providers, and the Federal government. The study indicates that the direct and indirect costs of vision loss among adults are \$51.4 billion. And over a lifetime, the cost for just one

person dealing with this terrible condition is \$566,000. The lifetime costs associated with just those Americans born with vision loss in 2000 is \$2.5 billion.

But what makes vision loss even more tragic is that half of all blindness is preventable if action is taken soon enough. There are many health and financial challenges our nation is facing that we may just have to weather. But here is one we can do something about—and we should. That is why Sen. VOINOVICH and I are introducing the Vision Preservation Act. This legislation would improve and strengthen important public health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA. Specifically, it would expand existing public education and awareness efforts to empower Americans to do what is necessary to protect their own vision. This legislation would also incorporate vision screening, prevention, and rehabilitation into the Maternal and Child Health Block Grants and the Community Health Centers so low income Americans who are most likely to go without needed prevention and screening can be alerted to the early warning signs of vision loss. It would improve the training and education of health professionals so that they are better prepared to help their patients identify and deal with conditions that could lead to vision loss.

These are simple steps that we in the Senate can take to help make sure that millions of Americans can live without fear of losing their sight. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3534

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Vision Preservation Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) An estimated 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, and more than 19.1 million Americans report trouble seeing, even with eye glasses or contacts. At least 1.1 million Americans are legally blind, and 200,000 Americans experience profound vision loss. Refractive errors affect approximately one third of persons 40 years or older in the United States. Visual impairment is one of the 10 more frequent causes of disability in the United States.

(2) While it is believed that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Americans who are blind or visually impaired is expected to double by 2030.

(3) Vision loss can, especially without appropriate rehabilitation and skills training, significantly impact an individual's ability to conduct activities of daily living, as well

as developmental learning, communicating, working, health, and quality of life.

(4) One in twenty preschoolers experience visual impairment which, if unaddressed, can affect learning ability, personality, and adjustment in school.

(5) It is estimated that blindness and visual impairment cost the Federal Government more than \$4 billion annually in benefits and lost taxable income, and cost the United States economy approximately \$51.4 billion annually in direct medical costs, direct non medical costs, and indirect costs such as lost productivity and wages.

(6) Vision rehabilitation helps people with vision loss to live safely and independently at home and in the community, reduce medication errors, cook and perform other daily activities reliably, and avoid accidents which may lead to injury or even the onset of additional disabilities, especially among older persons living with vision loss.

(7) Recognizing that the Nation requires a public health approach to visual impairment, the Department of Health and Human Services dedicated a portion of its Healthy People 2010 initiative to vision. The initiative set out as a goal the improvement of the Nation's visual health through prevention, early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation.

(8) Greater efforts must be made at the Federal, State, and local levels to increase awareness of vision loss and its causes, its impact, the importance of early diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, and effective prevention strategies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Nation must have a full-scale integrated public health strategy to comprehensively address vision loss and its causes that, at a minimum, includes the following:

(1) Communication and education.

(2) Surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research.

(3) Programs, policies, and systems change.

SEC. 3. VISION LOSS PREVENTION.

Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317S the following:

“SEC. 317T. PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO VISION LOSS.

“(a) COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institutes of Health, shall expand and intensify programs to increase awareness of vision problems, including awareness of—

“(A) the impact of vision problems; and

“(B) the importance of early diagnosis, management, and effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies.

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

“(A) conduct public service announcements and education campaigns;

“(B) enter into partnerships with eye-health professional organizations and other vision-related organizations;

“(C) conduct community disease prevention campaigns;

“(D) conduct testing, evaluation, and model training for vision screeners based on scientific studies; and

“(E) evaluate strategies to reduce barriers to access to treatment by optometrists and ophthalmologists.

“(3) EVALUATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish appropriate measurements for public awareness of vision problems;

“(B) establish appropriate measurements to determine the effectiveness of existing campaigns to increase awareness of vision problems;

“(C) establish quantitative benchmarks for determining the effectiveness of activities carried out under this subsection; and

“(D) not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, submit a report to the Congress on the results achieved through such activities.

“(b) SURVEILLANCE, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand and intensify activities to establish a solid scientific base of knowledge on the prevention, control, and rehabilitation of vision problems and related disabilities.

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

“(A) create a national ongoing surveillance system;

“(B) identify and test screening modalities;

“(C) evaluate strategies to reduce barriers to access to treatment by optometrists, ophthalmologists, and other vision rehabilitation professionals;

“(D) evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current and future interventions and community strategies;

“(E) update and improve knowledge about the true costs of vision problems and related disabilities; and

“(F) require the Surgeon General to assess the state of vision care and vision rehabilitation in the United States.

“(c) PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND SYSTEMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand and intensify research within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the prevention and management of vision loss.

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

“(A) build partnerships with voluntary health organizations, nonprofit vision rehabilitation agencies, Federal, State, and local public health agencies, eye health professional organizations, and organizations with an interest in vision issues;

“(B) work with health care systems to better address vision problems and associated disabilities; and

“(C) award grants for community outreach regarding vision loss to health care institutions and national vision organizations with broad community presence.”

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF VISION PROGRAMS UNDER THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 501(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting “, and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) introduce core performance measures on eye health by incorporating vision screening and examination standards into State programs under this title, based on scientific studies.”

SEC. 5. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR UNDERSERVED, MINORITY, AND OTHER POPULATIONS.

(a) EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF VISION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall expand and intensify programs targeted to prevent vision loss, treat eye and vision conditions, and rehabilitate people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted in underserved and minority communities, including the following:

(1) Vision care services at community health centers receiving assistance under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b).

(2) Vision rehabilitation programs at vision rehabilitation agencies, eye clinics, and hospitals.

(b) **VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR VISION SCREENING.**—The Secretary, in consultation with eye-health professional organizations and other vision-related organizations, shall develop voluntary guidelines to ensure the quality of vision screening and appropriate referral for comprehensive eye examinations and subsequent vision rehabilitation services.

SEC. 6. VISION REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may make grants to eligible institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations for the purpose of activities described in subsection (b) relating to vision rehabilitation professional development.

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary may not make a grant to an institution of higher education or a nonprofit organization under this section unless the institution or organization agrees to use the grant for the following:

(1) Developing and offering preparatory and continuing education training opportunities (incorporating state-of-the-art approaches, technologies, and therapies to meet the unique needs of older adults with vision loss) in—

(A) geriatrics among vision rehabilitation professionals, including professionals in the vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility, and low vision therapy fields; and

(B) vision rehabilitation among occupational therapists and others in related rehabilitation and health disciplines.

(2) Conducting, and disseminating the findings and conclusions of, research on the effectiveness of preparatory and continuing education training under paragraph (1).

(3) Developing and disseminating interdisciplinary course curricula for use in the preparation of new professionals in vision rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and related rehabilitation and health disciplines.

(4) Educating physicians, nurses, and other health care providers about the value of vision rehabilitation, to increase appropriate referral by such professionals for the full range of vision rehabilitation services available to older individuals with vision loss.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be a university, academic medical center, national or regional nonprofit organization, community rehabilitation provider, or allied health education program, or a consortium of such entities, that—

(1) offers or coordinates education or training activities among professionals described in subsection (b)(1); or

(2) agrees to use the grant to expand its capacity to coordinate such activities.

(d) **DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that grantees offer or coordinate training for current and emerging professionals—

(1) from a variety of geographic regions and a range of different types and sizes of settings and facilities, including settings and facilities located in rural, urban, and suburban areas; and

(2) serving a variety of populations of older individuals with vision loss, including racial and ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and other underserved populations.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—To seek a grant under this section, an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, September 19, 2008.

Hon. CHRIS DODD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: The American Optometric Association (AOA), representing over 36,000 doctors of optometry who are the frontline providers of eye and vision care, optometric researchers, educators and optometry students, deeply appreciates your continued outstanding leadership on priority eye and vision care issues before Congress.

With that in mind, it is my pleasure to inform you that the AOA wholly endorses and will be working to pass the Vision Preservation Act of 2008, legislation you have crafted to strengthen federal vision programs designed to prevent and manage vision loss.

Vision impairments are a growing problem in the US—particularly with the aging of the babyboomer generation. Approximately 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract, and age-related macular degeneration. If we fail to take decisive action, the number of blind and visually impaired Americans will double in the next 25 years, even though half of all blindness is preventable.

By introducing the Vision Preservation Act, you are providing important leadership on vision-related programs and policies at the federal level. This bill's focus on increasing public awareness about vision problems, bolstering research at the National Eye Institute, and improving access to vision care at Federally-Qualified Health Centers, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and under the Medicaid program are key components that optometry and others in the vision community are completely united behind.

As the Vision Preservation Act of 2008 is considered, be assured that we will continue to work with you and your colleagues in Congress to place maximum emphasis on early identification of those individuals at risk for vision loss and need access to quality care.

If we can be of any assistance on this legislation, or any other vision related questions, please contact Alicia Kerry Jones.

Sincerely,

MICHELE HARANIN, O.D.,
Chair, AOA Federal Relations Committee.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 669—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTSTANDING HISPANIC SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 669

Whereas the purpose of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States who promote a greater public understanding of science and motivate Hispanic youth to develop an interest in science;

Whereas the 8th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, October 11, 2008;

Whereas proceeds from the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala support

scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in the Youth Enriched by Science Program of the Museum of Science and Industry, known as the “YES! Team”;

Whereas a need to acknowledge the work and effort of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States has led to the selection of Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff as the honoree of the 8th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award;

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff is an internationally recognized molecular biologist who is deeply committed to the recruitment and retention of minorities in science;

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Cytonome, Inc., a company building the first optical cell sorter capable of supporting rapid, sterile sorting of human cells for therapeutic use; and

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff was a key member of the research team that first demonstrated that bacterial cells produce insulin and her varied and active professional life includes research positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and the University of Massachusetts Medical Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for the Hispanic community, including efforts—

(A) to honor outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States at the annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala; and

(B) to motivate Hispanic youth to study science through “Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day”, an opportunity for Hispanic youth to meet the honoree of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award; and

(2) congratulates the 2008 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year designated by the Museum of Science and Industry, for ongoing dedication to improving the quality of, and access to, science and engineering research and education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 670—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2008, AS “NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 670

Whereas millions of Americans have benefited from the courageous service of first responders across the United States;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as “first responders”) work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornados in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007, the flooding in the Midwest in June 2008, and the wildfires in the West in July 2008;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 900,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 900,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 "first responders" make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,671 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 167 per year, and 181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers in the United States were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others; and

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2008, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day" to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution today that will designate September 25 as National First Responder Appreciation Day. Last year I introduced this resolution with my good friend and colleague Senator ROBERT CASEY and I am pleased Senator CASEY has joined me again in honoring our first responders. I am also pleased to be joined by Senators AKAKA, BENNETT, BROWN, CHAMBLISS, CLINTON, COLEMAN, CRAPO, DOMENICI, DURBIN, ENZI, HUTCHISON, INHOFE, KENNEDY, LANDRIEU, LEAHY, LIEBERMAN, MIKULSKI, MURRAY, PRYOR, ROCKEFELLER, SANDERS, STABENOW, STEVENS, VOINOVICH, WHITEHOUSE and WICKER in this important recognition of our men and women who keep us safe.

The contributions that our Nation's 1.1 million firefighters, 900,000 police officers, and 890,000 emergency medical professionals make in our communities are familiar to us all. Their heroics can be seen every night on our TV screens, read about in our papers, and heralded by the survivors of every modern disaster. From the wildfires in Colorado and California, the tragic events at Virginia Tech, and the horrific damage of Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Ike, our first responders regularly risk their lives to protect property, uphold the law, and save the lives of others.

The duty of a first responder is never without risk and requires the courage to place the safety of others ahead of one's own. It is courage that compels a firefighter to rush into a burning building, a police officer to charge into an active shooter, and an emergency medical professional to perform precision lifesaving procedures in the most hazardous conditions imaginable. While all of these brave Americans know the risks involved, some make that ultimate sacrifice to save another, at the cost of their own life.

Every year over 100 firefighters and nearly 200 police officers are killed in the line of duty. And while some may not consider a career in the emergency medical services dangerous, EMS workers actually have an occupational fatality rate comparable to that of firefighters and police officers. I know I speak on behalf of all Americans when I express my sincerest appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

While we recognize our first responders for their sacrifices, we also acknowledge their everyday contributions that make our communities throughout America a safer place. In addition to battling fires, firefighters reach out through fire prevention and public education, like teaching our children about fire safety and proper emergency response. In addition to arresting criminals, police officers encourage communities to stay involved in crime prevention and cooperate with law enforcement to help make our

neighborhoods safer and more livable. If we or our loved ones experience a medical emergency, EMTs are there at a moment's notice to provide lifesaving care.

In many ways, our first responders embody the very best of the American spirit. With charity and compassion, these brave men and women commit themselves to preserving the highest standard of life we all enjoy in this great Nation. Through their actions they have become heroes to many, through their examples they have become role models to us all.

While various cities and towns have recognized the contributions made by their local first responders, there exists no national day to honor and thank these courageous men and women. The time has come to give our first responders the national day of appreciation that they deserve.

Designating September 25 as National First Responder Appreciation Day provides an opportunity for this institution and the people of the United States to honor first responders for their contributions, sacrifices, and dedication to public service.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting passage of this worthwhile resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 671—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 671

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in 1807, making it the first public and the fifth oldest medical school in the United States;

Whereas, in 1823, the University of Maryland School of Medicine became the first teaching hospital in the Nation with the construction of the Baltimore Infirmary and became the first medical school in the United States to institute a residency training program;

Whereas the School of Medicine was the founding school of the University of Maryland and is an integral part of the 11-campus University System of Maryland;

Whereas, at the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care, and community service;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care, and service to improve the health of the people of Maryland and the United States;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is committed to the education and training of M.D. and Ph.D. students in fields including physical therapy, rehabilitation science, and medical research technology;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has played a crucial role in helping to meet the health care needs of

the people of Maryland and continues to recruit and develop faculty to serve as exemplary role models for students; and

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has developed a legacy of academic excellence, outstanding patient care, and ground-breaking research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the School of Medicine in providing outstanding service to, and in training leaders for, the local community, the State of Maryland, and the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 672—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 12, 2008, AS “NATIONAL DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT”

Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 672

Whereas negative images, stories, and influences in the day-to-day lives of Americans can detrimentally affect their emotional well-being, interactions with others, and general demeanor;

Whereas a group of teenagers participating in a leadership forum at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, identified a lack of encouragement as one of the greatest problems facing young people today;

Whereas the youth of our Nation need guidance, inspiration, and reassurance to counteract this negativity and to develop the qualities of character essential for future leadership in our country;

Whereas a National Day of Encouragement would serve as a reminder to counterbalance and overcome negative influences, and would also provide much-needed encouragement and support to others;

Whereas, following the events of September 11, 2001, thousands of people of the United States made sacrifices in order to bring help and healing to the victims and their families, inspiring and encouraging the Nation; and

Whereas the renewed feelings of unity, hope, selflessness, and encouragement that began on September 12, 2001, are the same feelings that the National Day of Encouragement is meant to recapture and spread: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 12, 2008, as “National Day of Encouragement”;

(2) acknowledges the importance of encouragement and positive influences in the lives of all people; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to encourage others, whether it be through an act of service, a thoughtful letter, or words of kindness and inspiration, and to thereby boost the morale of all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 673—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE WELLNESS AS A STRATEGY TO HELP MAXIMIZE EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 673

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve the health of American workers;

Whereas employees who improve their health also reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, thus posing a serious and growing challenge to business in the United States;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care, as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driving force of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from \$3 to \$15 for each dollar invested, as well as a 28 percent average reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26 percent reduction in health care costs, and a 30 percent average reduction in workers’ compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health-related goal that at least ¾ of United States employers, regardless of size, will voluntarily offer a comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—(1) health education and programming which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees’ interests and needs; (2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization’s expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease; (3) integration of the worksite wellness programs into the organization’s structure; (4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and (5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow-up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas the employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 Americans have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas, for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, chief executive officers of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State gov-

ernors should be encouraged to make workplace health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee health management to help our Nation achieve this goal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on private and public employers to support workplace wellness and implement voluntarily worksite health promotion programs to help maximize employees’ health and well being and lower health care costs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 674—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2008, AS “NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 674

Whereas older adults value their independence and a fall can significantly limit their ability to remain self-sufficient;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries among older adults in the United States;

Whereas older adults are by far the population at greatest risk for falling unintentionally, with more than ¼ of all people 65 years or older falling each year;

Whereas older adults who fall once are 2 to 3 times more likely than adults who have not fallen to fall again;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bureau of the Census reported that more than 34,800,000 adults older than the age of 65 live in the United States, and that number is expected to grow to almost 55,000,000 by 2020;

Whereas 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, such as bruising, hip fractures, and head traumas;

Whereas, in 2005, falls resulted in nearly 1,800,000 older adults being treated in emergency departments and more than 433,000 older adults being hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2005, nearly 16,000 people aged 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

Whereas the total in direct costs associated with both fatal and non-fatal falls is more than \$19,000,000,000 annually for hospitalization, emergency department visits, and outpatient care;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not stemmed, annual direct treatment costs will reach \$43,800,000,000 by 2020, with an annual cost under the Medicare program of \$32,400,000,000;

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards;

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-202) was enacted, amending the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) to create a national education campaign aimed at older

adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, its numerous supporting organizations and all other supportive organizations, should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote greater understanding, research, and pilot programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2008, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) commends the National Falls Free Coalition and all other supportive organizations for their efforts to promote awareness about preventing and reducing falls among older people in the United States;

(3) encourages the private sector, the public health community, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses, individuals, and the media to use National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote awareness of this important public health problem in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older people in the United States.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation designating September 22, 2008, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Earlier this year Senator ENZI and I worked together to pass a law that expands research and education on elder falls. Passing our resolution is yet another way we can help raise awareness and educate the Nation about this serious issue. Falls prevention helps seniors live longer, healthier, and more independent lives.

Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults. In 2005, falls among older adults accounted for 16,000 deaths, 1.8 million emergency department visits, and 433,000 hospitalizations. In Maryland alone, falls resulted in roughly 340 deaths, 23,000 falls-related emergency room visits, and 13,000 hospitalizations. The resulting costs to the individual, their families, and the health care system are avoidable.

I am pleased to continue to work with the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group comprised of the Home Safety Council, the National Council on Aging, the National Safety Council, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, AARP, and many other concerned advocates to prevent elder falls. Together, I am hopeful we can continue to improve the quality of life for America's seniors through awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 675—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 675

Whereas there are approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 129,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 61 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 3 years;

Whereas, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who “age out” of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 26,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though “Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years”;

Whereas, while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial sup-

port is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 20,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas, in 2007, adoptions were finalized for over 4,200 children through more than 260 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 15, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CLINTON, (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 676

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, an 11-year special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been sponsored by the National Family Partnership and nationally recognized since 1988 to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life, and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, committed throughout its 35 years to aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances, has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts,

education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the Nation faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, including the abuse of methamphetamines, inhalants, and prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States;

Whereas, between 1996 and 2006, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of methamphetamines, prescription medications, and marijuana each significantly rose;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well known brand-name candies and foods; and

Whereas parents, youths, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to promote the creation of drug-free communities and to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 677 TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN RAMSEY, ET AL. V. WILSON, ET AL.

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 677

Whereas, in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., Case No. 06-82, pending in federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee of the office of Senator George Voinovich;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That Anthony Condia is authorized to testify in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al. and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Anthony Condia in connection with the action referenced in section one of this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100—AUTHORIZING THE LAST SURVIVING UNITED STATES VETERAN OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO LIE IN HONOR IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. BYRD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 100

Whereas the veterans of the First World War fought bravely and made heroic sacrifices for the Allied forces;

Whereas the veterans of the First World War suffered the terrors of both trench warfare and the chemical battlefield;

Whereas the veterans of the First World War suffered the scourge of the Spanish influenza pandemic;

Whereas past resolutions have sought authorization for veterans, representative of specific wars, to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol;

Whereas it is the desire of all veterans to honor both those who serve and those who have served in time of war and peace;

Whereas it is the Nation's collective desire to express its gratitude for the sacrifice and service of all First World War veterans; and

Whereas Frank Woodruff Buckles, born February 1, 1901, in Bethany, Missouri, and residing in Jefferson County, West Virginia, at age 107, is believed to be the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. HONORING VETERANS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In recognition of the historic contributions of United States veterans who served in the First World War, the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War shall be permitted to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol upon his death, so that the citizens of the United States may pay their last respects to these great Americans.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Architect of the Capitol, under the direction and supervision of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take the necessary steps to implement subsection (a), including, if necessary, scheduling the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the purposes described in such subsection at such a time as such use will not coincide with the use of the Capitol for an Inauguration or a State of the Union address.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5632. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5834, to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5632. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R.

5834, to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 4, strike the comma and all that follows to the end period and insert the following: "and has increased the bounty paid for turning in North Korean refugees".

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike "including" and all that follows through "killings" on line 17.

On page 4, line 4, strike "On February", and insert the following: "Since the passage of the North Korean Human Rights Act, Congress has on several occasions expressed interest in the status of North Korean refugees, and on February".

On page 4, line 19, strike "at overseas posts".

On page 5, line 10, after "should", insert "continue to".

On page 6, line 3, strike "rights, humanitarian, and refugee issues," and insert the following: "rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues,".

On page 7, line 20, strike "\$4,000,000" and insert "\$2,000,000".

On page 9, line 13, after "including", insert the following: ", in coordination with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration,".

On page 9, line 21, strike "coordinate" and insert "participate in the formulation and".

On page 11, line 13, strike "paragraphs" and insert "paragraph".

On page 11, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 19.

On page 11, line 20, strike "(4)" and insert "(3)".

On page 12, lines 3 and 4, strike "may be provided in a classified format, if necessary" and insert the following: "shall be provided in unclassified form, with a classified annex, if necessary".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Tuesday, September 23, at 10 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider pending legislative issues.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202-224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, September 25, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on (1) H.R. 1294, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2007; (2) S. 514, Muscogee Nation of Florida Federal Recognition Act; (3) S. 724, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2007; and (4) S. 1058, Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan Referral Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202-224-2251.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1027, S. 3341.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3341) to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3341) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3341

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 11 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “and sunset”; and

(2) by striking “and shall cease to be effective 8 years after such date of enactment”.

SEC. 3. WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.

Section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and maintain a public website that serves as a central point of information and access for applicants for Federal grants.

“(2) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the website established under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, for each Federal grant—

“(A) the grant announcement;

“(B) the statement of eligibility relating to the grant;

“(C) the application requirements for the grant;

“(D) the purposes of the grant;

“(E) the Federal agency funding the grant; and

“(F) the deadlines for applying for and awarding of the grant.

“(3) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The website established under this subsection shall, to the greatest extent practical, allow grant applicants to—

“(A) search the website for all Federal grants by type, purpose, funding agency, program source, and other relevant criteria;

“(B) apply for a Federal grant using the website;

“(C) manage, track, and report on the use of Federal grants using the website; and

“(D) provide all required certifications and assurances for a Federal grant using the website.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking “All actions” and inserting “Except for actions relating to establishing the website required under subsection (e), all actions”.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 7. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this Act.

“(b) CONTENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the applicable period—

“(A) a list of all grants for which an applicant may submit an application using the website established under section 6(e);

“(B) a list of all Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities;

“(C) a list of each Federal agency that has complied, in whole or in part, with the requirements of this Act;

“(D) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (C), a description of the extent of the compliance with this Act by the Federal agency;

“(E) a list of all Federal agencies exempted under section 6(d);

“(F) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (E)—

“(i) an explanation of why the Federal agency was exempted; and

“(ii) a certification that the basis for the exemption of the Federal agency is still applicable;

“(G) a list of all common application forms that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to apply, in whole or in part, for multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies) through a single common application;

“(H) a list of all common forms and requirements that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to report, in whole or in part, on the use of funding from multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies);

“(I) a description of the efforts made by the Director and Federal agencies to communicate and collaborate with representatives of non-Federal entities during the implementation of the requirements under this Act;

“(J) a description of the efforts made by the Director to work with Federal agencies to meet the goals of this Act, including a description of working groups or other structures used to coordinate Federal efforts to meet the goals of this Act; and

“(K) identification and description of all systems being used to disburse Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), shall include—

“(A) a discussion of the progress made by the Federal Government in meeting the goals of this Act, including the amendments

made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, and in implementing the strategic plan submitted under section 8, including an evaluation of the progress of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) towards implementing the strategic plan; and

“(B) a compilation of the reports submitted under section 8(c)(3) during the applicable period.

“(c) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PERIOD.—In this section, the term ‘applicable period’ means—

“(1) for the first report submitted under subsection (a), the most recent full fiscal year before the date of the report; and

“(2) for the second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), the period beginning on the date on which the most recent report under subsection (a) was submitted and ending on the date of the report.”.

SEC. 5. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 as sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 7, as amended by this Act, the following:

“SEC. 8. STRATEGIC PLAN.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall submit to Congress a strategic plan that—

“(1) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common applications based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

“(2) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common reporting forms or requirements based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

“(3) identifies common aspects of multiple Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common application or reporting forms or requirements;

“(4) identifies changes in law, if any, needed to achieve the goals of this Act; and

“(5) provides plans, timelines, and cost estimates for—

“(A) developing an entirely electronic, web-based process for managing Federal financial assistance, including the ability to—

“(i) apply for Federal financial assistance;

“(ii) track the status of applications for and payments of Federal financial assistance;

“(iii) report on the use of Federal financial assistance, including how such use has been in furtherance of the objectives or purposes of the Federal financial assistance; and

“(iv) provide required certifications and assurances;

“(B) ensuring full compliance by Federal agencies with the requirements of this Act, including the amendments made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008;

“(C) creating common applications for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (1), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(D) establishing common financial and performance reporting forms and requirements for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (2), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(E) establishing common applications and financial and performance reporting forms

and requirements for aspects of the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (3), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(F) developing mechanisms to ensure compatibility between Federal financial assistance administration systems and State systems to facilitate the importing and exporting of data;

“(G) developing common certifications and assurances, as appropriate, for all Federal financial assistance programs that have common or similar purposes, regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies; and

“(H) minimizing the number of different systems used to disburse Federal financial assistance.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing and implementing the strategic plan under subsection (a), the Director shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities and Federal agencies that have not received an exemption under section 6(d).

“(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Director submits the strategic plan under subsection (a), the head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall develop a plan that describes how the Federal agency will carry out the responsibilities of the Federal agency under the strategic plan, which shall include—

“(A) clear performance objectives and timelines for action by the Federal agency in furtherance of the strategic plan; and

“(B) the identification of measures to improve communication and collaboration with representatives of non-Federal entities on an on-going basis during the implementation of this Act.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—The head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities during the development and implementation of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the head of a Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) develops the plan under paragraph (1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the head of the Federal agency shall submit to the Director a report regarding the progress of the Federal agency in achieving the objectives of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(d) of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by inserting “, until the date on which the Federal agency submits the first report by the Federal agency required under section 8(c)(3)” after “subsection (a)(7)”.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 925, S. 1193.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1193) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1193) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1193

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Albuquerque Indian School Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—The term “19 Pueblos” means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—

- (A) Acoma;
- (B) Cochiti;
- (C) Isleta;
- (D) Jemez;
- (E) Laguna;
- (F) Nambe;
- (G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
- (H) Picuris;
- (I) Pojoaque;
- (J) San Felipe;
- (K) San Ildefonso;
- (L) Sandia;
- (M) Santa Ana;
- (N) Santa Clara;
- (O) Santo Domingo;
- (P) Taos;
- (Q) Tesuque;
- (R) Zia; and
- (S) Zuni.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior (or a designee).

(3) SURVEY.—The term “survey” means the survey plat entitled “Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Pueblos Agency, BIA Property Survey” (prepared by John Paisano, Jr., Registered Land Surveyor Certificate No. 5708), and dated March 7, 1977.

SEC. 3. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b) (including any improvements and appurtenances to the land) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) take such action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to document the transfer under paragraph (1); and

(B) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a)(1) is the 2 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 18.3 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School, more particularly described as follows:

(1) TRACT B.—The approximately 5.9211 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.

(2) TRACT D.—The approximately 12.3835 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.

(c) SURVEY.—The Secretary may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (b) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying errors.

(d) USE OF LAND.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos.

(e) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, land taken into trust under section 3(a) shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian land.

(b) GAMING.—No gaming activity (within the meaning of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)) shall be carried out on land taken into trust under section 3(a).

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6893.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6893) to amend Parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6893) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5834, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5834) to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is considering H.R. 5834, a bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act. The act underscores U.S. concern about the poor human rights conditions inside North Korea and the difficulties faced by thousands of North Koreans who have fled the country and become refugees. I support this bill because I believe our Government's approach to North Korean human rights and refugee issues must be seamlessly integrated into a coherent strategy that promotes regional peace and stability, advances core U.S. national security interests by verifiably eliminating North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, and step by step encourages North Korea to adhere to international norms in the areas of human rights, security, and trade.

It is essential that the United States reach out and begin a dialogue with North Korea on issues related to basic human rights. Four years ago, I was proud to work with my colleague, Senator BROWNBACK of Kansas, on an amendment to the North Korean Human Rights Act that created within the Department of State a Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea. In reauthorizing the act, the Congress expresses its intent that the envoy should be a full-time employee, and Congress elevates the post to the rank of ambassador, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The incumbent special envoy has pursued his duties part-time while residing outside of Washington, making coordination with the Department more difficult and limiting the overall effectiveness of his diplomatic efforts. By expressing the sense of the Congress that the new ambassador should be a full-time position, the Congress does not preclude the possibility that the President may find it desirable to nominate as ambassador an individual who already has other duties closely related to those to be pursued by the Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues. Indeed, such dual assignments are not uncommon within the State Department.

The bill acknowledges that the new Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be able to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues, particularly given the fact that returning refugees are among those most likely to be persecuted by North Korean authorities. But it is my expectation that the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) will continue to play the leading role on North Korean refugee issues, engaging with China and other nations to ensure humane treatment in accordance with international norms. PRM has the staffing, expertise, congressional authorization, and experience needed to spearhead U.S. efforts in this area, and they should continue to do so.

The new Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues will have to

approach the job with quiet determination and considerable patience. Discussing human rights issues with North Korean authorities will not be easy, and the new ambassador will need to have both excellent diplomatic skills and a deep understanding of East Asia and the particular circumstances on the Korean Peninsula. Change will not come easily, and is more likely to flow from dialogue and engagement than from bombast and condemnation.

There are many issues on the table, ranging from family reunification visits for the thousands of Korean-Americans with relatives in the north, to ending the persecution of people of faith inside North Korea. Other humanitarian issues may also enter the mix, including food security and public health. It is my hope that the new ambassador will work with our treaty ally, South Korea, and with other countries neighboring North Korea to craft an approach to human rights issues that can, step by step, see an improvement in the lives of average North Koreans and compassionate care for those who have fled the country. In this effort, the ambassador may find it useful to draw appropriate lessons from the Helsinki process in Europe, but ultimately the approach will have to be one that is specifically tailored to the North Korean situation.

As Congress passes this legislation, we must not lose sight of the fact that members of the Bush administration are toiling to convince North Korea to resume the disablement of its nuclear facilities and to agree to a verification mechanism for its nuclear declaration. These efforts are of vital importance. It is regrettable that progress has been derailed over a dispute about sanctions relief and the verification protocol. North Korea should understand that if Pyongyang honors its commitments, we stand ready to honor ours. On the basis of action-for-action, I hope the United States and North Korea, along with other members of the Six Party Talks, will work to accomplish the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the full integration of North Korea into the community of nations. In exchange for the complete and verifiable elimination of its nuclear weapons programs, North Korea stands to receive energy assistance, sanctions relief, and security assurances from the United States and other members of the Six Party Talks. I look forward to the day when North Korea is truly at peace with its neighbors and enjoys normal relations with the United States. It is a future that is within North Korea's grasp if it abandons its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5632) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make certain technical and clarifying amendments)

On page 3, beginning on line 4, strike the comma and all that follows to the end period and insert the following: "and has increased the bounty paid for turning in North Korean refugees".

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike "including" and all that follows through "killings" on line 17.

On page 4, line 4, strike "On February", and insert the following: "Since the passage of the North Korean Human Rights Act, Congress has on several occasions expressed interest in the status of North Korean refugees, and on February".

On page 4, line 19, strike "at overseas posts".

On page 5, line 10, after "should", insert "continue to".

On page 6, line 3, strike "rights, humanitarian, and refugee issues," and insert the following: "rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues".

On page 7, line 20, strike "\$4,000,000" and insert "\$2,000,000".

On page 9, line 13, after "including", insert the following: ", in coordination with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration".

On page 9, line 21, strike "coordinate" and insert "participate in the formulation and".

On page 11, line 13, strike "paragraphs" and insert "paragraph".

On page 11, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 19.

On page 11, line 20, strike "(4)" and insert "(3)".

On page 12, lines 3 and 4, strike "may be provided in a classified format, if necessary" and insert the following: "shall be provided in unclassified form, with a classified annex, if necessary".

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 5834), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 677.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 677) to authorize testimony and legal representation in Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony and representation in a civil action in Federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio. In this action under the Federal Tort Claims Act, in which the plaintiffs seek damages arising out of an accident involving a pickup truck, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee in Senator VOINOVICH's office who was traveling in his own car on official Senate business at the time of the accident. A trial in this case is scheduled

to commence on November 10, 2008. Senator VOINOVICH would like to co-operate. This resolution would authorize the Senator's former staffer to testify in connection with this action, and in related proceedings, with representation from the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 677) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 677

Whereas, in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., Case No. 06-82, pending in federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee of the Office of Senator George Voinovich;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Anthony Condia is authorized to testify in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Anthony Condia in connection with the action referenced in section one of this resolution.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3507

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 3507 and that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3535

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3535) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

Mr. REID. I now ask for its second reading—I do that in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV—and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 894, S. 3297.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m., September 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6049, the tax extenders legislation, under the previous order; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order the Chair has issued, the Senate will consider up to three amendments to the tax extenders legislation with limited debate on the amendments and on the bill. The first vote of the day is expected to occur prior to the caucus luncheons and the remaining votes to occur in the afternoon. This bill is one of the most important ones done by this Congress. It is so important that we get this bill done. I hope the House will accept this legislation very quickly.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 3037:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SCOTT C. BLACK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CARROLL F. POLLETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. PILLSBURY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID N. BLACKORBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID E. GRAETZ
BERT S. KOZEN
BRUCE A. POSTMA
STEPHEN E. VAUGHN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

ORMAN W. BOYD
SCOTT R. CARSON
BRENT V. CAUSEY
RANDALL C. DOLINGER
THOMAS L. DUDLEY, JR.
THOMAS E. ENGLE
THOMAS G. EVANS
JOEL C. HARRIS
FRANKLIN L. JACKSON, JR.
YOUNG H. KIM
KARL O. KUCKHAHN, JR.
WILLIAM H. PHILLIPS, JR.
JIM L. PITTMAN
JONATHAN E. SHAW
D0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER C. CARLSON
JAMES R. COTTER
STEVEN E. DYESS
BRADFORD L. FIPPS
RALPH J. GORE, JR.
PHILLIP L. HUNTER
WYLLIE W. JOHNSON
DAVID B. KOCH
JEFFREY D. MCGRADY
ALVIN E. MILLER
BERNARD K. NISWANDER
JOHN C. PETTIT
DAVID A. POLLOK, JR.
MARK SACHS
OTTO C. SCHNARR, JR.
STEPHEN B. SHOW
HARRY W. TERMAAT
LARRY O. TONEY
KEVIN R. TURNER
JAMES G. WINTER, JR.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

BILL NELSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

BOB CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

September 22, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S9221

CONFIRMATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate Monday, September 22, 2008:

BILL NELSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-
THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

BOB CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS.