making the transition from welfare to work. As my colleagues know, H.R. 3672, which has been signed into law, would extend TANF until December 31, 2005, so this legislation represents a total extension of TANF until the end of March, 2006.

This is the twelfth extension of TANF and related programs. Welfare reform reauthorization should have been passed years ago. Too many families are languishing on the welfare rolls and we are seeing a backsliding of the improvements that we saw in the early years, after welfare reform. Child care funding has remained stagnant. States have been operating their welfare programs under a cloud of uncertainty regarding what a final Federal welfare reauthorization bill would require of them. We need to make some critical reforms to build on the success of the 1996 bill and give States the ability to manage and plan for their welfare programs. I am hopeful that this represents the final short-term extension of TANF and that the Congress will act quickly to pass a comprehensive welfare bill.

Additionally, this legislation includes a provision to extend cost-sharing assistance to qualifying individuals, QIs, for the Medicare Part B premium through September, 2006. This program has been helping vulnerable individuals with incomes between 120 and 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Level since 1997. It is estimated that the Part B premiums will cost a beneficiary $88.50 a month, an increase of $10.30 from the current $78.20 premium. For these low-income individuals, that represents a significant percentage of their monthly income. The President's budget includes a one year extension of the QI program.

Both the QI and TANF programs provide critical support to individuals and families with children who are in need—folks who otherwise might not be able to get healthcare services or make ends meet.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the President to reduce or disapprove any appropriation any bill present by Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S.J. RES. 25

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

''ARTICLE —

''SECTION 1. The President may reduce or disapprove any appropriation in any bill, order, resolution, or vote, which is presented to the President under section 7 of Article I.

''SECTION 2. Any legislation that the President approves and signs, after being amended pursuant to section 1, shall become law as so modified.

''The President shall return those portions of the legislation that contain reduced or disapproved appropriations with objections to the House where such legislation originated.

''Congress may separately consider any reduced or disapproved appropriations in the manner prescribed under section 7 of Article I for bills disapproved by the President.

''SECTION 3. This article shall take effect on the first day of the first session of Congress beginning after the date of ratification.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTION

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE'S EXPLORATIONS IN THE INTERIOR WEST OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 252

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born January 5, 1779, in Lamberton, New Jersey, to a military family, which quickly was on the move across the Nation with Pike growing up on frontier military posts;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike served the United States with distinction, initially as a commissioned First Lieutenant in the First Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, later as a Captain, further as a Colonel of the 15th Regiment during the War of 1812, and ultimately as a Brigadier General in 1813;

Whereas in July of 1806, Zebulon Montgomery Pike was given the assignment of leading an expedition west from present-day St. Louis, Missouri, up the Arkansas River to its source in the highest of the Rocky Mountains, then into Colorado's San Luis Valley;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his expedition traveled through the present day states of Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado observing the geography, natural history, and population of the country through which he passed;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his expedition reached the site of present day Pueblo, Colorado on November 23, 1806, and, fascinated with a blue peak in the Rocky Mountains to the west, Pike set out to explore the mountain;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike was prevented from completing the ascent due to waist-deep snow, inadequate clothing, and sub-zero temperatures, and so chose to turn back for the safety of his expedition;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike never set foot on ''Pike's Peak'' but did contribute significantly to the interior west's early exploration through the headwaters of the Arkansas River;

Whereas Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his expedition found the area of present day Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado and the headwaters of the Rio Grande, which he mistakenly thought was the Red River; and

Whereas on April 27, 1813, Zebulon Montgomery Pike died in valiant service to his country, leading an attack on York, later to become Toronto, during the War of 1812: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the year 2006 as the 200th anniversary of Zebulon Montgomery Pike's discoveries throughout the American West; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate his contributions to our Nation's history with appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 7, 2005, AS ''NATIONAL 'IT'S ACADEMIC' TELEVISION QUIZ SHOW DAY''

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 253

Whereas ''It's Academic'', the Nation's foremost televised high school quiz show, will begin its 45th season on NBC4 in Washington, District of Columbia, and is the longest running television quiz show in the Nation's history;

Whereas ''It's Academic'' has used the power of television to motivate and showcase 2 generations of students in cities across the country, including students in Washington, District of Columbia, Baltimore, Maryland, Charlottesville, North Carolina, Buffalo, New York City, and Rochester New York, Los Angeles, California, Chicago, Illinois, Honolulu, Hawaii, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Boston, Massachusetts, Denver, Colorado, Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, Jacksonville, Florida, Norfolk, Virginia, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Wilmington, Delaware, and students throughout the state of Kentucky;

Whereas each year hundreds of secondary schools—public, parochial, private, suburban, rural, and inner-city—compete on ''It's Academic'', demonstrating a diverse student population focused on academic excellence and encouraging community support for education;

Whereas the dedicated teachers who work with the teams and prepare them for the competition on ''It's Academic'' are introduced on the program, providing those teachers with positive recognition that reflects on the entire teaching profession;

Whereas the corporate sponsors of ''It's Academic'' have generously given scholarship grants to participating schools to help students pursue their education;

Whereas ''It's Academic'' has encouraged academic excellence by promoting academic competition as a motivating factor and generates the same adulation and respect for student scholars as for student athletes; and

Whereas ''It's Academic'' continues to provide a forum for showcasing academic excellence at the high school level and for presenting a positive image of schools, teachers, and students, thereby helping to offset negative stereotypes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 7, 2005, as ''National 'It's Academic' Television Quiz Show Day''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe the day by supporting the academic success of students and their local schools.