

this Congress—a campaign promise that hasn't been kept.

The majority leader inserted \$25 million in funds for outreach in last week's reconciliation bill. That is hardly enough. That isn't going to reach and insure these children. The bill of the Senator from Tennessee to fund outreach to kids would appropriate \$100 million. Once we get all eligible kids enrolled, we should provide the Department of Health and Human Services with funds to grant to States that want to cover more children in their State.

Very briefly, here is what my amendment does. It expresses the sense of the Senate that the Senate should not vote to extend the capital gains and dividend tax cuts until Congress has taken steps to ensure that all children in America have access to affordable, quality health insurance.

The majority of the benefits of capital gains and tax cuts go to households with incomes over \$1 million a year. Aren't kids in America a higher priority than millionaires? And how many times do people in the course of a campaign or on this floor talk about family values and moral values? Here is a nice moral choice for the Senate: Is it more important to give a tax break to someone making more than a million dollars a year, or provide health insurance for 9 million uninsured children in America?

How does that play out, whether your inspiration is the Bible, the Torah, whatever it happens to be? I think most who have religious convictions and feelings and believe there are moral values we are fighting for say this is a pretty simple choice: a choice between tax cuts for people making over \$1 million a year or health insurance for 9 million uninsured children.

Specifically, my amendment would provide grants to States, faith-based organizations, safety net provider schools, and other community and non-profit organizations to facilitate the enrollment of 6.8 million children currently eligible for SCHIP and not enrolled.

It covers 90 percent of the costs associated with the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of enrollment systems that will provide more efficient enrollment and retention of eligible children.

It will establish a grant program under which a State may apply for a waiver to expand coverage of children in their State.

When I go back home and speak to the families I represent, time and again they say to me: Are you people in Washington in touch with the reality of what is facing us in America? Whether it is a business owner who had to cancel his health insurance because one of his employees had a sick baby which drove the premiums through the roof for every other employee in the pool, whether it is a member of a labor union who says, I am working harder this year, I am getting paid more this

year, but I have no take-home pay because it is being taken away from me in health insurance premiums and, Senator, I am getting less coverage, or whether it is a parent worried about a sick child and a medical bill they might never be able to repay—these are the realities of the life in America. It is not the reality of the debate in the Senate. We live in a different world in the Senate. We live in a world where people with a straight face can stand before us and say it is a much more moral thing to do and the right thing to do to give a tax cut to a wealthy person than to provide basic health care for a child in America.

That is the choice, and that is what my amendment will offer to the Members of the Senate. I hope they will choose the children over the millionaires.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of the time for debate on the amendment I just offered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a provision of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act conference report was intended to transfer certain funds. Unfortunately, an error in drafting made that transfer ineffective. It was clearly the intent of the conferees on that act to provide for the transfer of certain unobligated and unexpended balances to the University of Alaska. We will be taking steps to correct that error at the earliest possible opportunity.

Before the Senate votes on this conference report, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to Deb Fiddelke at the White House and Michael Allen at the National Security Council for their helpful input and insights into the State Department portion of this bill and the fiscal year 2006 foreign operations and related programs conference report. I appreciate the many courtesies they extend to my staff.

Finally, Secretary Rice and the entire State Department should be aware of the outstanding job Cindy Chang performed in conveying the priorities of the Secretary—indeed, the President—regarding funding for the State Department and our foreign aid programs. My staff and I appreciate the solid working relationship that Cindy has developed with the State Department, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee, and she remains vigilant in support of the President's foreign policy agenda.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA ROSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Virginia Rose to Lovelock, NV. After serving the city of Lovelock for 35 years, Virginia retired as deputy city clerk on September 23, 2005.

Virginia has proudly lived in Lovelock all her life. As a young woman, she established a strong work ethic on her family's dairy farm performing daily chores with her nine brothers and sisters.

She continued her hard work as an office clerk for the city of Lovelock from 1961 to 1968. In 1977, Virginia returned as a deputy city clerk and spent the next 28 years as city clerk and treasurer. Virginia's colleagues at the city describe her as a highly motivated and gracious leader who knows how to organize and accomplish what needs to get done.

Virginia continues to serve her community today through active participation in her church, the Pershing County Alumni Association, the Pershing County Democratic Committee, the Lovelock Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, the Sierra Swiss Club, the Lovelock Community Singers, and several other organizations.

Well liked and respected by her community, she has been honored on numerous occasions since 1964. Most recently, she received the Northern Nevada Women of Achievement Award and the Diocese of Reno Outstanding Christian Service Award.

Virginia would likely describe her greatest honor as mother to Kim and Timothy and grandmother to Sarah, Adam, Lauren, and Caroline. She shares in this joy with Glenn, her husband of 46 years.

I have known Virginia for many years. While she is considered a pillar in the Lovelock community, she modestly describes her contributions as a privilege. Her dedication, diligence, and exceptional work has improved the lives of her fellow residents. I hope that you will join me in acknowledging Virginia Rose for her service to the Lovelock community on the occasion of her retirement from the city of Lovelock.