

in the State of Utah. Many of these individuals rely on Title II funding from the Ryan White Program to receive health care, vital medications and support services.

These individuals are also counting on me to fight for their continued access to care and services that have such a big impact on their survival and quality of life. We in Congress are being counted on to work together on behalf of the nearly 1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in our country.

The last reauthorization period for the Ryan White Program expired in 2005. It is incredibly important that we reauthorize the program again now in order to continue providing the care that is so critical to these populations and alleviate strain from shifts in the epidemic felt by health care providers.

There are real people counting on us. We need to move forward in reauthorizing the only Federal program that helps the neediest of people living with this devastating disease. This bill extends the availability of vital services, and it includes changes that intend to fix discrepancies that have resulted in Ryan White funds not following the epidemic.

This is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ENZI. I am very distressed. I have had a lot of success on other bills we are trying to get through. People have been willing to listen to reason and understand the urgency of a lot of the issues, particularly in the health area, but also in the education, labor, and pensions area.

As a committee, we work on these things across the aisle and across the building. As a result, we have had 12 bills signed by the President. Of those 12 bills, we have only spent about 2 hours total in the Senate debating them because we work across the aisle and across the building. We work on important issues. We solve the parts we can and we bring them here. This is one of those where we thought we had the parts solved that we could. There are a lot of moving parts to a lot of these things. We work to get as much consensus as we can, but occasionally we reach a sticking point like this.

I am really disappointed we have reached a sticking point like this where people are going to die. If, by tomorrow, we have not passed this bill and in case we go longer than tomorrow, I am going to ask the leader to file cloture on this bill so we can see if five Senators can hold up a Senate bill.

If we leave tomorrow or the next day, it won't ripen yet, but it can ripen as soon as we can get back. We can spend the time debating it, and those States that are losing money on September 30, while they will not be able to retrieve all the money they will lose, they will have some breathing room for the future.

I am desperate. I usually do not have to do that sort of thing. I am willing to do it on this bill. I am very distressed. Usually we are able to get agreement.

We went a long ways toward giving concessions to those States.

In all fairness, if you do not have the cases, you really should not have the money tomorrow, let alone 3 more years. We have tried to be reasonable. We have tried to help out States. We have run a bunch of formulas to make it as fair as we possibly could and to protect the States as much as we can, but it is time to be fair to the people with HIV/AIDS and to be fair to the families of people with HIV/AIDS.

I ask unanimous consent that a Washington Post article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 28, 2006]

LAWMAKERS ARGUE OVER AIDS FUNDING BILL  
(By Erica Werner)

WASHINGTON.—House members from rural areas and the South clashed with big-city lawmakers Thursday over who should get a bigger share of federal money to care for AIDS patients.

"It's shameful and disgraceful," shouted Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., denouncing amendments to the \$2.1 billion Ryan White CARE Act that could take millions of dollars out of New York's health care coffers.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is moving," countered Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas. "This is a very fair compromise. It begins to treat all states on an equal footing."

The House was expected to vote on the bill later in the evening. A two-thirds vote was needed for passage.

Even if it passes the House, the bill faces uncertain prospects in the Senate before Congress recesses at the end of the week to campaign for re-election. Senators from New York, New Jersey and California are blocking it.

Supporters said the election-year updates were needed because of how AIDS has changed since the Ryan White law first passed in 1990. Once a big-city epidemic infecting mostly gay white men, the disease is now prevalent in the South and among minorities.

By some measures federal funding has not kept up, and states like California, New York and New Jersey get more money per patient than Alabama, Kentucky or North Carolina.

The Ryan White amendments, the first since 2000, make a number of changes aiming to spread money more equally around the country.

While current law only counts patients with full-blown AIDS, the revision also would count patients with the HIV virus who have not developed AIDS.

That change would favor parts of the country where the disease is a newer phenomenon, which tend to be southern and rural areas.

New York state stands to lose \$100 million over the five years of the bill. New Jersey would lose \$70 million.

Alabama, by contrast, would get an increase from \$11 million a year to about \$18 million a year.

"The problem is that the population of those needing services has grown, but the funding for Ryan White programs has not grown with it," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. "That means if we're going to give to some people who are very deserving, we're going to take from others who are very deserving."

California and some other states are worried about a change in the bill that mandates

counting HIV patients by name instead of codes. Some states used code-based systems out of concern for patient privacy. California could lose an estimated \$50 million in the last year of the bill, when the name-based system would take effect, because it won't be prepared to make the transition.

Mr. ENZI. I have a unanimous consent that has been agreed to by the majority and minority leader. I yield back all time on the Defense appropriations conference report.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TIME ALLOCATION

Mr. ENZI. I further ask that all time after 9 p.m. tonight be counted postcloture, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate.

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

PRYOR NOMINATION TO PBS  
BOARD

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I am very proud to say that my father has been nominated to a seat on the board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I think he will do an excellent job. I think we will all be proud of his services there. However, because he is my father, I decided to recuse myself from that nomination and abstain from any votes. I don't think it has all been worked out yet, but my anticipation is that it will not be done by rollcall vote but by voice vote or some other type of vote.

I would like the record to show that I am abstaining from that vote and recusing myself from that nomination.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, might I say that I was privileged not only to serve with the Senator's father but consider him a good personal and professional working partner. He is an extraordinary individual and the citizens of this country are fortunate if his nomination is confirmed and he takes up that service.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I add my compliments and congratulations to the Senator dad. I feel so close to him that I am tempted to recuse myself, but I won't do that. Instead, I will be very happy to vote for him whether it is a rollcall or a voice vote.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was privileged to serve with David Pryor. I am proud of him. I think it is going to be a wonderful opportunity for the board to have his services.