United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007 *No. 68*

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Monsignor George Coyne, Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Tiltonsville, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

We gather in this special place this morning, aware of our dependence upon our Creator for the spiritual gifts needed to conduct the affairs of this great Nation. Elected officials are called by God through the voice of the people to work for peace and justice.

Almighty God, empower these men and women of the Congress with knowledge and wisdom so that they will lead and govern Your people in the right way. Be with them today in the deliberations and the decisions they will make. Guide them so that they will always keep the common good as their first priority. Help them always to be aware of Your presence in their lives.

Creator God, we ask Your special blessing on all world leaders. May they work together to end terrorism. May they be instruments for peace in our world.

We ask Your blessing on our President. Bless our Senators. Bless the men and women of this Congress. Bless all who assist in the operation of our government. Bless the people of our great Nation. Keep each of us today and every day in Your loving care and protection.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania 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.

INTRODUCTION OF MONSIGNOR GEORGE COYNE

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I welcome my good friend, Monsignor George Coyne, to the Congress this morning.

I have known Monsignor Coyne since I was a young boy and he was a student in the seminary. At that time, he was also working for my grandfather in our family business. My entire family came to know him well. Monsignor Coyne set such a good example that his brothers, Jerry and Tim, followed him as employees of our family business.

Even back then, Monsignor carried a deep faith and a commitment to serving others in our community, which he has all of his life as a priest. All of these years later, his faith and commitment are more evident than ever. Today, Monsignor Coyne serves the parishioners at two churches in eastern Ohio: Saint Joseph Church in Tiltonsville, and Saint Lucy Church in Yorkville.

Just as I have, parishioners at Saint Joseph and Saint Lucy have witnessed Monsignor Coyne's passion firsthand. Today the Congress and the viewers across the Nation have had their chance to see what makes Monsignor Coyne such a special person. For that I am deeply grateful.

In closing, I would like to thank Monsignor Coyne for joining us here today and for his years of dedicated service to the people of eastern Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 one-minute speeches on each side.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007, passed yesterday by this House by an overwhelming margin.

Small businesses are critical to the Kansas and American economies. They create jobs, they keep wealth in our local communities, and they spur innovation. But in order to succeed, small businesses need ready access to startup capital and financial services.

The Small Business Association's 7(a) loans have helped tremendously. Last year alone, 757 Kansas businesses received $104 million through the 7(a) program.

Printed on recycled paper.

The Small Business Lending Improvements Act will increase the accessibility of small business loans, helping to drive the Kansas economy forward. I especially support its provisions benefiting the rural lenders that serve so many entrepreneurs in my district.

I was pleased to vote for this important and innovative bill.

AVOID FUTURE CAMPUS TRAGEDIES

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The recent tragedy at Virginia Tech leads us to ask what else could have been done to protect students at our colleges and universities.

The Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is intended to protect the confidentiality of student records and define under what instances parents can have access to student information and grades. Unfortunately, under the definitions in the act, there are many examples where information was not released to parents or guardians regarding a student's mental health, which led to withholding of vital information that could have prevented suicides, assaults and other crimes.

Schools are hesitant to release information for fear of legal action. In my 25 years of practice as a psychologist, I have known many instances where these problems arose.

I am introducing legislation to clarify the act to help define circumstances where universities can release vital information to parents, including risks for suicide, homicide and physical assaults. Further, it will hold harmless colleges and universities who, after consultation with a mental health specialist, act in the best interest of the student, where they can release information to help save lives. We can no longer let this 30-year act be a barrier between parents, students and schools.

I urge my colleagues to sign in support of this bill.

DAY OF DEFEAT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq defeat bill that this House has passed sets the day certain that American troops will leave Iraq. By doing so, Congress is trying to legislate ''defeat day'' no matter the consequences.

In other words, retreat, retreat, at any price, retreat. Quit, quit, at any price, quit. Withdraw, withdraw, at any price, withdraw. Flee, flee, at any price, flee. Surrender, surrender, at any price surrender.

Congress has changed the phrase, ''when the going gets tough, send in the U.S. Cavalry, send in the U.S. Marines,'' to, ''when the going gets tough, leave,'' leave in the darkness of the night and let the Iraqis go it alone.

I am sure there is joy in ''Desertville'' in the fanatical minds of the enemies of freedom. Mr. Speaker, war is hard. This war is hard. But we cannot neglect our duty because it is hard.

The stability of the region and our national security depend on our U.S. success in defeating the enemy. We need to make it hard on them. Give them a day to remember.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRAT BUDGET: ''RESERVE FUNDS''

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American public deserves to have all the facts about the Democrats' $3 trillion budget resolution.

On the surface, it looks great, more money for program after program, all the while balancing the budget. If it sounds too good to be true, it's because it is.

This budget funds a wish list of spending with so-called reserve funds. On paper, these reserve funds appear to designate funding for billions of dollars in Federal spending. But the fact is they are empty, little more than a clever gimmick to help balance the books, a shell game.

In order to fund them, offsets would have to be found elsewhere or taxes would have to be raised. Since their plan doesn't include offsets, that leaves only one option, tax hikes.

In other words, the Democrats are asking Americans to tighten their belts so that Uncle Sam can loosen his. Congress has serious fiscal challenges to solve, but tax hikes and budget gimmicks are not the right answer.

COMMENDING MOUNT PLEASANT, NORTH CAROLINA, HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Mount Pleasant High School Wrestling Team for the 2007 North Carolina High School Athletic Association State 1–A/2–A Championship Title win.

Mount Pleasant completed an impressive run to the team championship title. The overall team record for the 2006–2007 season was 31–1. The Tigers also hold the 2007 titles of Cabarrus County Champions, Rocky River Conference Regular Season and Tournament Champions, and 1–A/2–A Midwest Regional Champions.

This season there were nine State qualifiers and eight State place winners on the team, the most in Mount Pleasant's high school history. In the title match, Mount Pleasant recorded 135.5 points to second-place Mayodan Dalton McMichael High School's 82 points.

I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and scholarship of these young men from North Carolina's Eighth District. Congratulations, Coach Greg Hinson, Coach Randy Kaiser and the Mount Pleasant High School men's wrestling team on your successful season and State championship victory. Go Tigers.

FAREWELL TO TIA WILLIAMS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Second Congressional District of South Carolina will lose an important public servant. Tia Williams is departing the Washington office to be in graduate school at the University of Virginia where she will seek a master's degree in urban and environmental planning.

Tia has served as staff assistant to the Second District since March 2006. Many South Carolinians have come to know her, as she was vital in arranging tours for Palmetto State families visiting Washington.

A native of South Congaree, Tia is the daughter of Marty and Angie Williams and the sister of Taylor Williams. She is a graduate of Clemson University and Airport High School of West Columbia.

I appreciate Tia's dedication to the people of the Second District. I know she will apply the same dedication to her studies at UVA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11. All Americans should read the Lieberman op-ed in today's Washington Post.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 249, WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER PROHIBITION

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 331 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 331

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the

House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 249 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

□ 1015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 331.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 331 provides for consideration of H.R. 249, to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, under an open rule with a preprinting requirement.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule requires that any amendments to the bill must be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 249 is a bipartisan bill that restores important protections for wild horses and burros from sale and slaughter. This bill is necessary because these long-standing protections were stripped by a rider inserted into the 2005 omnibus spending bill without a hearing or debate.

The transportation practices faced by these wild horses and burros are cruel and inhumane. They are transferred hundreds or thousands of miles in cramped quarters, just so their meat can be consumed in foreign markets. H.R. 249 bans the sale of wild horses and burros by the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the transfer of these animals for the purpose of processing into commercial products.

Over the last 2 years, the House has voted twice on this issue, and these passed either unanimously or overwhelmingly. But they have never been signed into law. It is time we end this inhumane practice once and for all.

Since the enactment of these protections through the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act in 1971, we have seen wild horse populations fall by more than 50 percent. These animals cannot wait any longer for us to reaffirm our commitment to the protections we promised 34 years ago.

As an animal lover, I am deeply disturbed and opposed to suffering inflicted on animals and will work against practices that lead to their torture or injury. That is why we must pass this rule and pass H.R. 249. These animals need protection, and it is time we restored it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971 Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. That law established as national policy that wild free-roaming horses shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment and death; and to accomplish this, they are considered in the area where presently found as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands. The law also directed that no wild free-roaming horse or its remains may be sold or transferred for consideration for processing into commercial products. However, the fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act directed that wild horses over 10 years old or that were not adopted after three attempts must be sold unconditionally.

While ''excess'' wild horses have been cited as the reason for the recent changes in law, there are fewer wild horses on the public lands today than there were a quarter of a century ago. In 1980, there were approximately 62,000 wild horses on public lands. Today, there are approximately 28,000. The underlying bill, H.R. 249, would undo the current practice and would prohibit the commercial sale of wild horses by the Bureau of Land Management.

With regard to process, again the majority likes to proclaim that they have offered another bill under what they are describing as an open rule. But it really is not an open rule. According to a survey of activities of the House Committee on Rules from the 104th Congress, an open rule is defined as ''one under which any Member may offer an amendment that complies with the standing rules of the House and the Budget Act.'' A modified open rule requiring preprinting in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is defined as a type of rule that permits the offering only of those amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Because Members under this rule that bring the underlying legislation to the floor today must submit their amendments prior to floor consideration, they are prohibited from offering amendments on the floor as the debate progresses. So if a Member, for example, Mr. Speaker, is watching the debate and has an idea to improve the bill pursuant to the debate, he or she has an idea, this rule prevents that Member from offering their amendment. So by its very nature, the rule is restrictive. It is not an open rule. So for the sake of clarity and specificity, we would point that out for the record, and we think the majority should stop calling it an open rule.

I also want to point out that once again the majority offers this modified open rule on noncontroversial, bipartisan bills such as the one that we bring to the floor today, bills that really should be considered under suspension of the rules or under a genuinely open rule. If the majority really wants to live up to their campaign promise of a more open and bipartisan Congress, they should offer open rules, for example on this bill, and on bills where there is some controversy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support of the underlying measure.

This House, in a bipartisan manner, has demonstrated its strong support for our wild horses and burros twice over the last 2 years. There is no reason we cannot continue this strong commitment to protecting these animals here again today. This is a commonsense issue that must be addressed. No longer can we ignore the inhumane treatment inflicted upon these wonderful and beautiful animals. I urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SUTTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER PROHIBITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 331 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 249.

□ 1028

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, with Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 249 is important legislation with broad, bipartisan support. I am pleased to be joined in this endeavor by my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. ED WHITFIELD, and a number of other Members on both sides of the aisle.

This Congress is tasked with the stewardship of much that is invaluable, our breathtaking natural wonders, our healthy rivers and streams, icons of American history; and it is our responsibility as public stewards of our land to manage these resources for the good of future generations. It is a responsibility as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee that I take very seriously.

The proper care and preservation of wild horses which roam public lands in the West fall within our stewardship, and we are failing to live up to our responsibility. I say that because in 1971 Congress formally protected these wild horses and mandated that they cannot be sold or processed into commercial products, in effect, slaughtered.

□ 1030

Since that time when the Bureau of Land Management has determined that the wild horse population is excessive to the ability of the range to support them, captured animals have been offered to the public through adoption.

But all that changed as a result of a rider tucked away into a massive omnibus appropriation bill enacted during December 2004.

The so-called Burns rider overturned 33 years of national policy on the care and management of wild horses and burros by repealing the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of these animals that had been in law. In effect, Mr. Chairman, these animals were earmarked for death.

Since that time, some of these animals, which belong to all Americans I might add, and which represent the very spirit of the American West, have been rounded up for slaughter and shipped overseas.

And to what end? So their meat can end up on menus in France, Belgium and Japan, where it is considered a delicacy.

Incredible. It is truly and simply incredible. We do not allow the commercial sale of horseflesh in this country for human consumption, but we are exporting horse meat for that very purpose abroad.

Since I first introduced this legislation during the last Congress, I have received an impressive volume of heartfelt letters and e-mails from across the Nation.

The very notion that wild horses, wild American horses, would be slaughtered as a food source for foreign gourmets has struck a chord with the American people. They see in this issue the pioneering spirit and the ideals of freedom. And the current policy has created disillusionment with many over how their government works and what their elected leaders stand for.

The measure we are now considering will halt that practice. The sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros must stop not only because it is wrong, but also because the program is a failure.

While the Bureau of Land Management, the Federal agency which oversees the program, may sincerely hope that these animals do not end up on menus in France or Japan or Belgium, the Burns rider severely handicaps efforts to protect these herds.

Now, some will say the sale authority is necessary because the agency costs of managing the program have grown too high, but this is an issue of the BLM's own making. Each year they round up more animals than can be adopted. The excess animals are sent to holding facilities where their numbers simply increase per year, year after year, driving up management costs. If the agency wants to save money without selling these animals, it needs only to get its round-ups and adoptions in sync.

There are also those who say we need to allow these animals to be sold off because there are too many of them on the public lands and they are causing massive resource damage.

First of all, it should be noted that there are significantly fewer wild horses and burros on public lands today than there were just 25 years ago.

Second, compared to the 3 to 4 million cattle that graze these same acres, wild horses and burros are hardly the most serious threat to our public rangelands.

All I seek to do in this legislation, with H.R. 249, is to return the law to the way it existed for 33 years prior to the Burns rider. The House has twice gone on record supporting a prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros.

So I conclude by asking my colleagues' support once again today. It's time to do right by these living icons of the American West.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is indeed an honor for me to be here with the distinguished chairman of the Resources Committee. Through his illustrious career I have been impressed with the way he has run the committee. I've also been impressed with his commonsense approach to issues, except for this one. And I appreciate the opportunity of being here.

You know, Mr. Chairman, this is the time of year when everyone has a great deal of hope. This is the beginning of the baseball season, where every team, with the possible exception of the Royals, still has a mathematical chance of winning the division.

And as a loyal Cub fan, who is now in my 99th year, consecutive year, of reconstruction and renewal, there is still hope for me.

It is also sad because we are about to commemorate very soon the 43rd anniversary of the worst trade made in the history of baseball, according to many scholars. And that trade was a six-player trade in which my Cubs sent three players, including Lou Brock, to the St. Louis Cardinals in exchange for three other players and Ernie Broglio, who was an 18-game winner at the time.

Now, on paper this trade made great sense for the Cubs. They were getting an outfielder, a veteran relief pitcher, and a starting pitcher, a 20-game winner who had won 18 games the year before.

What happened in reality, of course, is that Lou Brock accepted the role of a lead-off hitter when he went to the Cardinals and spurred them to not only the Pennant but also the World Series victory on his way to a Hall of Fame career.

Broglio, a great pitcher, actually developed arm problems, won only seven games the rest of his career, and 2 years later he is out of baseball.

Now, this is known as one of those great trades that looked perfect on

paper but in reality it simply wasn't there.

With all due respect, this bill is one of those great bills on paper, but the reality of it simply isn't there. This is an Ernie Broglio bill if there ever was one.

Now, I have to admit that I don't have a great deal of personal knowledge about horses. My reference to horses in the last 30 years is probably helping my kid to choose either the striped or the painted one on the merry-go-round. The unfortunate thing is that most of the people who will be voting on this bill have the exact same background that I do have.

I am happy to note, though, that I do have a brother who met his wife while he was the rodeo clown, and his wife was in the barrel racing contest and is one the few people who has actually trapped and trained a wild horse on the open desert in Utah and Nevada. So I am using that background from the history as we talk about this particular bill.

And as I looked at this bill as it came out of committee and studied it closer, there are five areas in which I think this bill has significant flaws.

The first is that this bill does not do what its supporters claim it will do. Not the sponsor. He's been totally honest in this. But many of those who have been writing about this particular bill have exaggerated what it actually does.

Secondly, this bill takes away a tool of management from BLM and does not replace it with anything created to help them in their established goal.

Number three, this bill has a difficult system in making the ecosystem of the West, the desert West, a more difficult area to manage.

Number four, there is indeed an extreme cost that the taxpayers are paying in this program that actually ends up being more abusive of the animals that we are trying to preserve and to help.

And finally, I think there is, indeed, a regional bias that can be seen in this particular bill.

Now, if I could, Mr. Chairman, I would like to just talk about perhaps that first issue, just that first issues. This bill does not do what the proponents claim. I have seen the Dear Colleague letters from Robert Redford and Willie Nelson, and one came from the Humane Society making all sorts of claims that are actually not done by this particular bill. The reality is, as well-intentioned as this bill may be, there is actually no change in what will happen with the BLM and their priorities.

If this bill passes, no horse is actually safer than it would have been. And if this bill fails, no horse is actually going to be eaten in France. The idea is this is a very narrow bill that only deals with BLM and deals with forestlands. It doesn't deal with all public lands, doesn't deal with national parks or wildlife refuges or reservations or military affairs. It has been said there are about 90,000 horses a year that are unwanted. Their owners either cannot or will not maintain them.

On BLM lands we are only talking about 7,000 horses, 6,800 last year that were taken off land because of the inability of the land to sustain them. This is only a small portion that this bill deals with, so the overall idea of trying to help all the animals, to stop foreign sales consumption of those, it's not covered in this particular bill. What it does do, though, is take away a management tool the BLM has.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, in the coming speeches by my colleagues who will be down here, and as we go through for the next hour this particular bill, I hope to explore those other issues.

Therefore, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, only to respond to the latter point that the gentleman has just made, the original 1971 language only dealt with BLM lands, so that is why we are not considering all these other areas to which the gentleman referred.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, it's my honor to recognize and yield time to the distinguished Representative from Idaho. I yield Mr. SALI 2 minutes and 14 seconds, which is what he says he needs.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 249 that would end the Bureau of Land Management's authority to sell wild horses. This is an important resource and wildlife management issue that affects our Nation's rangelands.

Recognizing the need to ensure healthy herds and healthy rangelands, the U.S. Congress gave the administration the authority to manage, protect and control wild horses and burros with the enactment of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.

The statute directs the agency to maintain populations at a designated appropriate managed level, based on wild herds and rangeland monitoring, to determine the number of animals, including livestock and wildlife, that the land can support. In spite of the removal of horses, as was mentioned by the gentleman from Utah, currently the population of wild horses on the range is more than 10,000 above the appropriate management level.

The excess horse populations are causing significant resource and environmental damage. Even conservation groups such as the National Association of Conservation Districts, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Izaak Walton League, and a number of others have acknowledged the damage caused by this overpopulation of horses. Balanced management, respecting recreation, watersheds, wildlife and grazing must be restored to the public lands where these horses roam.

I urge a vote against H.R. 249 to help protect the environment and ecosystems of the western States.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR).

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Chairman, just for the record, I want everyone to know that I am wearing one of my favorite ties, which is a horse tie. I have been a lifelong farmer and rancher, and I can assure you that no one in this Chamber loves horses more than I do.

But the good citizens of western Colorado and all Americans love our beautiful country and the public plans administered by the National Park Service, the Forest Service and the BLM. For more than 100 years, the Forest Service, the BLM lands, have been managed for multiple use and sustainable yield of their products. This means historic uses such as grazing remain a bedrock use of the land, and conservation remains a bedrock principle for which these lands are managed.

It is one thing to agree on these core principles. It is another one to do the hard work needed to effectively express the principles and actions and policies. Great needs for land management are going unanswered because Congress lacks the will to provide adequate funding to these core management functions. And at the same time, Mr. Chairman, the courage to adjust these laws reflects the reality of land management today.

So, for example, conservation of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act and other laws is regarded by many, including myself, as among the highest conservation priorities in our country. Nevertheless, Congress consistently fails to provide adequate funding for species conservation on the ground, or funding agencies to adequately implement the law.

We are at a similar place with respect to wild horses and wild burros. Legal recognition of the place of wild horses and burros on public lands was introduced in the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act in 1971. This law reflected America's love for horses and the concern that they be managed properly on public lands. These are values that, undoubtedly, we all share. The key provisions of the law required the BLM to manage the horses to an appropriate management level, called the AML. As a practical matter, this means that horse population numbers had to be managed within the multiple-use framework controlling management of BLM land.

For years, BLM has not been able to bring horse populations down within the AML ceiling. This means public lands have been degraded from overgrazing by horses. The habitat and food is taken from the wildlife, and the areas overpopulated by horses cannot

sustain other multiple uses of the land. Congress has consistently declined to provide the funding needed to gather more horses off BLM land and support them to live a healthy life in long-term holding facilities.

□ 1045

Still, the law calls for maintenance of wild horse populations at the AML, but the political will has been lacking to allow the agency to succeed.

So Congress enacted a legislative solution in the fiscal year 2005 appropriations bill to help relieve the overpopulation of wild horses on public lands by authorizing the sale of unadoptable horses. These are horses that no one wanted. Not ranchers, not public officials, not even members of the animal rights groups or horse protection leagues, and, I am most certainly sure, no one voting ''yes'' on H.R. 249.

That first year, in 2005, more than 1,500 horses were sold. BLM credits the law with allowing them to operate their program within budget for the first time in a number of years. A small sales program continues today that is significant to the BLM budget. This year already, in 2007, 346 horses have been sold. BLM estimates that it could run a small sales program of about 600 horses per year. The sale of this number of horses is worth several million dollars to BLM over the life of the horses, for a program that is funded only at approximately $30 million annually.

H.R. 249, sponsored by the great chairman, whom I have the greatest of respect for and I know his intentions are good, would eliminate this sales program. Why do it? BLM efforts to prevent the slaughter of horses have been successful to date. Congress is not making sufficient funding available to take necessary care of the horses in long-term care facilities.

While the public is adopting some horses under the BLM program, horses are not being adopted at a rate sufficient to ease the overpopulation on public lands. Perhaps worst of all, the administration's budget for fiscal year 2008 called for a complete cutting of the funding for the horse and burro program. The slow progress that has been made towards achieving the AML in recent years will be reversed if BLM lacks the funds to gather the horses. Expenses will increase in the near future, as there will be more horses to manage because the population will not be controlled next year.

The existing sale authority is a small but necessary tool in an overall program to manage wild horses and burros on public lands.

If you care about the proper management of public lands, responsible government, horse welfare, and political courage, you will vote ''no'' on H.R. 249.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again it is my pleasure to try to say a couple of other elements. As I said, there were five concerns that we have with this particular bill.

The first one, as I mentioned, is it really does not solve the problem. This bill does nothing that the BLM is not already doing in common practice. That is why I said if this bill were to pass, it simply would have no more impact on horses than it does now. No horse would be safer. If it doesn't pass, no horse is going to the slaughter, and no horse is going to be consumed by someone in France.

This bill is very, very narrow. It only deals with a portion of the public lands and a portion of the number of horses that are there, not the overall situation.

But it does do one thing that is harmful. This is the second element. It takes away the tool, as the gentleman from Colorado clearly enunciated, that is used for the management of wild animals, wild horses, on public lands.

There are only two things that we can do. You can either allow these horses that are excess, that are destroying the habitat, that have to be taken off the land, roughly 7,000 last year. About 28,000 are being held in pens right now as we speak that are excess horses, about half of everything the Federal Government actually controls. You can either adopt them, which is a year-long practice and individuals are limited to four adoptees per individual. Or you can sell them. Sell them either for $100 to $2,000, if it is especially a unique animal, and it is limitless. That is what has been happening in the past. BLM has had the ability and about 2,500 horses have been sold. None for consumption purposes.

Now, you have to realize that if you buy a horse from the BLM today, by law and by contract it cannot be resold for consumption. It cannot be resold for slaughter. If that happens, that is a felony. That is why this bill does nothing that it is not already doing today. But this bill does take away the ability to sell those animals, which means you are down to the adoption, which is a very difficult process to go through. That means it will be harder for BLM and the Forest Service, which actually doesn't run their process, which always works through BLM, to actually find homes and places for the excess animals on public lands.

In taking that tool of management away, this bill does nothing to give BLM a creative solution to the situation. Just saying ''no'' may be a good slogan for a drug policy, but saying ''no'' to the BLM does not help them in their chartered task of trying to manage the herd as well as the ecosystem that is going on there.

These horses are not native species to these lands. They do hurt the environment. They trample it down. That is why since 1971 almost a quarter of a million, roughly 200,000 horses, have been taken off the public lands because the habitat is not there for them.

The bottom line is there are too many horses for the land that is available. The bulk of these animals are in my State, Nevada, a few in Colorado, and some in Wyoming and Arizona. This is desert territory. It is not the natural habitat of these horses. This is not the idea of horses running over the rolling hills. If you did that, you would probably want to send them back east to where the natural habitat is, but there is no BLM land back there.

Actually if you really want to help the situation out, you would take about 150 head and put them in Central Park where they could roam freely without any fear of contamination, disease, or muggings like the New York citizens themselves have back in Central Park. That would really help the situation out.

What we have to do here is either allow nature to take its course, in which case these horses will die a pitiful, miserable death of starvation, disease, or by the hands or by the mouths of a predator; or destroy the ecosystem; or, worse, both situations happening, unless we give BLM the tools to remove the animals and find an alternative source for them.

This is a cost for the government. In reality we are spending $38.6 million every year to run the wild horse program. The overwhelming majority of that, almost either $20 million to $25 million, depending on which source you look at, is simply for holding these excess horses in pens, not letting them run free, not giving them the freedom in the wild that you think of, but actually holding them in pens.

Some of the problems for the horses we look at is sometimes we think of Sea Biscuit as we are talking about these animals, an animal that has been bred and groomed and is well taken care of.

These animals fight for their own existence. They are not necessarily the most lovable of animals. And, therefore, they have a hard time being adopted, which means BLM has to put them in a pen where they don't move, they don't do anything except sit around all day and eat. And since they eat and are fed and there are no predators around, these animals can live for up to 30 years at a cost of about $15,000 per animal to the Federal taxpayer, to have them sit around in a pen with no chance of activity whatsoever, in actually a miserable condition.

We are spending $20 million a year to be more abusive to animals than they would be if we gave them the tools to actually give them to other sources. We actually allow them to sell in some particular way, which is why the Humane Society, from their air conditioned offices downtown, wrote me and told me to support this bill. The Farm Bureau that actually works with these animals and knows what they are talking about wrote me and told me to oppose this bill. And in past years when we had further variations of this particular concept, veterinarian groups,

horse owners, cattlemen, over 200 organizations that specifically know and understand horses have opposed the concepts that we are trying to codify in this particular bill.

So once again I say the problem that we have here in the House is that most people like me have no access and no understanding or knowledge of these animals. They are like me, where the biggest decision they have to make with a horse is whether to put their kid on the horse or the snail on the carousel ride. And we are making decisions that actually go against the attitude and the advice that professionals that work with these animals and that know the situation are asking us to do. And it may seem emotional. It may seem good on paper. But trust me. This is the Ernie Broglio bill. It is not as good in reality as it looks in black and white.

Let me also say that to me there is an element of regional bias within this. This is a map of all the public land that is owned in the United States. Everything in blue is the amount of public land owned in the United States. You will notice that there is kind of a balance towards the West. This is where the public land is. This is where the wild horses are. This is desert country. This is not their natural habitat. All of our good friends who are proposing and supporting this type of legislation, unfortunately, are living over here, where there is no BLM land or very little BLM and no wild horse activity, but this is, indeed, the natural habitat. It is unfair to us to try to impose a solution without creative alternatives by the representatives from here on this piece of territory.

We know what the situation is, and that is why we are simply asking you, as best we possibly can, to vote ''no'' on this particular piece of legislation.

I have avoided using any cliches and any bad puns so far. And, LISA, I need to know what my cliches are. Until now, which means I am asking you to notice that this bill is all hat and no saddle. I am asking you that the horse may be with you, and I urge you to vote ''neigh'' on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. All Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I noticed on the map, Mr. Ranking Member, that we show across the western States much public land. Among the public land is also a great amount of ranching and farming land. I know that in some of my farming country and my own farm in Costilla County, every now and then, almost every year, we have a beautiful potato field that is run over by a herd of wild horses just because BLM does not have the proper funding and the authority to be able to manage these horses properly. I firmly believe that this bill will take those tools away that BLM currently has to manage wildlife.

Divisional Wildlife manages elk and deer herds so that they can thrive within the habitat that they currently have. One of the biggest problems that I see is that BLM uses the tools that they have and the funding that they have to be able to manage wildlife and horses on public land; but the biggest problem that I see is that if this bill passes, they will not be able to weed out the bad apples in the wild herds.

For example, they round up these horses. They put back into the wildlife the horses that are good, many of them that are good, but the ones that are lame or the ones that we saw like the one here in this picture, the ones that have broken legs, they can weed out of the population so that they can have better wild horse populations out there.

There is nothing more beautiful than to see a herd of wild horses out on the public lands running forever. I can assure you that if this bill passes, it will hurt BLM's ability to manage the great wild horse populations.

So I would also urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1100

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, in response to several arguments that have been brought up about BLM's management of these lands and the cost of the program, I would respond that if there is a cost problem with the management of wild horses and burros, it is one, as I said in my opening remarks, of the BLM's own making.

Each year the Bureau of Land Management rounds up more animals than can be adopted. The excess animals are then sent to holding facilities, where their numbers increase year after year. That drives up the cost of the program. If the BLM wants to save more money, then as I've said, it needs only to get its round-ups and its adoptions in sync. There are ways other than the sale and slaughter of wild horses to save money. For example, a 2004 USGS study found that in the wild, use of contraceptive measures alone would save $7.7 million. So I don't think we should blame the wild horses and the burros for BLM's mismanagement of the program.

And as far as the map the gentleman from Utah presented about where these lands exist, that's true, they exist out West. But it's also true that the title to these lands is in the holding of every American taxpayer, as they are the lands of the public, and our names are on that deed for these lands.

I would note also, in conclusion, that on a similar amendment to last year's Interior appropriation bill, in which language was written to prohibit any such funds, the amendment did pass the House of Representatives by a vote of 249–159, and on this side of the aisle, the majority today, there were only 19 noes on that particular amendment to the Interior appropriation bill.

So I would urge my colleagues to vote ''aye,'' again, to help us protect an icon of the American West, and to provide for the humane consideration and treatment of these wild horses and burros.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, today's legislation marks a continuation of the important effort to advance animal welfare in the 110th Congress. One of the stark differences with the new congressional majority is the ability to deal meaningfully with important animal welfare provisions. Congress, as one of its first orders of business, passed the long-stalled animal fighting legislation, ending barbaric cruelty that helped foster and advance other illegal and dangerous activities.

Today Congress has the opportunity to take another step reaffirming policies that deal with the protection of horses and wild burros; protection of free roaming horses and burros from commercial sale and slaughter.

Actually, it's embarrassing that it had to get to this point because, since 1971, the Federal Government has had a policy to protect these animals. Unfortunately, in the last Congress, without hearing or public notice, a rider was slipped into legislation that eliminated these protections. I'm pleased that a majority of the Commerce Committee and a strong bipartisan majority has voted to support this important provision. The Senate is also moving to protect animals by ending the sale of horse meat for human consumption. These are important steps reflecting a renewed commitment to animal welfare, an essential part of any vision of a livable community.

It is important and overdue that Congress renew our commitment to developing a policy framework strongly supported by the American public.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I have to return to South Carolina to attend the presidential primary debate and the dedication of the library at Shaw Air Force Base. As a result, I will be unable to cast my vote today for H.R. 249, to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. If I were able to cast my vote, I would vote in favor of H.R. 249, as I have done in the past 109th Congress, rollcall vote 199.

In the 109th Congress, I joined Representatives RAHALL, Sweeney, and WHITFIELD in offering an amendment to the Department of the Interior Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 to ensure that none of the funds made available would be used for the sale or slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. Our amendment passed the House by a vote of 249–159.

The number of wild horses is dwindling. Just a century ago, 2 million horses roamed the west. Today, the combined number of wild horses and burros is less than 30,000, demonstrating that these animals need more protection.

I hope that others will join me in supporting this and other legislation to end the slaughter of our American horses.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 249, a bill to restore the prohibition on the sale for slaughter of wild horses and burros.

Behind closed doors, language was added to the fiscal year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill that overturned the 33-year-old ban on the slaughter of wild horses and burros. Immediately, Congress rejected this ploy by voting to amend the fiscal year 2006 Agriculture Appropriations bill to reinstate the ban. That amendment, introduced by Congressman NICK RAHALL, passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 249–159 in the House and the same amendment was included in the fiscal year 2007 bill. We must restore a permanent ban on the slaughter of wild horses and burros to ensure that they remain protected.

Legislators are working to put an end to horse slaughter in this country because horses are some of the most beautiful and beloved domesticated animals on earth. Americans have long appreciated horses—for transport, on ranches, as police mounts, and as cherished companions. America's wild horses are especially prized. The approximately 28,500 horses and burros that roam public land—our prairies, ranges, and the open plains—are cherished symbols of American freedom.

The American Horse Council reports that 1.9 million Americans currently own horses. Another 7.1 million Americans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees and volunteers, while tens of millions participate in horse events as spectators. These millions of Americans know that horses should be treated with dignity and respect in life and death. They are disgusted, as I am, that in 2006 over 100,000 horses were slaughtered at three American-based, foreign-owned plants so that the meat could be shipped to Europe and Asia for consumption as a delicacy. And they are saddened that wild horses were sentenced to the same fate, despite the Bureau of Land Management's access to humane options, including adoption, sterilization, relocation, and placement with qualified organizations and individuals.

Not surprisingly, a recent poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies found that 65 percent of Americans do not support horse slaughter. And 64 percent of Americans believe that horses are a companion animal, like dogs and cats, and killing a horse to eat is not different than killing a cat or dog to eat.

I think it's time to listen to the American public and finally end the barbaric practice of horse slaughter, for wild horses, and for all horses. This legislation demonstrates that we are willing to heed the call of the American people, and take the necessary steps to protect horses from an inhumane and unjust fate.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 249, which will ''Restore the Prohibition on the Commercial Sale and Slaughter of Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros.'' I am sure my colleagues would agree that horses are as American as apple pie, and a symbol of our great Nation. From the time of great explorers like Lewis and Clark to the present day celebration at Churchill Downs, horses have been an intricate part of our society. To their owners, they are companions, for law enforcement officials they are colleagues, but to the American people they have never served as a source of food.

Last year, I stood on this floor in support of H.R. 503, American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. That act sought to prohibit the horrendous practice of domestic horse slaughter for consumption. At the time I spoke out against the appalling practices of this industry that tend to fly under the radar. Horses are forced to travel across our borders for more than 24 hours without rest, water or food in trailers that provide little protection from the elements. Many horses—sick, lame, pregnant or blind—are in distress even before being loaded.

Once at the slaughterhouse, the suffering gets worse. Horses are left for long periods in tightly packed trailers, subjected to further extremes of heat and cold. In hot weather, thirst is acute. Downed animals are unable to rise. All the horses are moved off forcibly when it's time to unload and hurried through the facility into the kill box. In the face of these deplorable conditions, including overcrowding, deafening noise, and the smell of blood, the horses typically become desperate, exhibiting fear typical of ''flight'' behavior—pacing in prance-like movements with their ears pinned back against their heads and eyes wide open.

Despite the Federal mandate that horses be rendered unconscious before being put to death, many horses are killed alive by repeated blows to the head with captive bolt pistols. While writhing in pain, the coup de grace is administered by a slit of the throat. The dead animal is then processed for shipment overseas and destined for a foreign dining table.

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 249 because it extends protection to wild free-roaming horses and burros. This legislation closes the final loophole that jobbers—the middlemen for slaughterhouses—can use. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 249.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 249, which would restore the prohibition on commercial sale of wild horses and burros that was in place from 1971 to 2004.

I want to thank my colleagues Representative NICK RAHALL from West Virginia and Representative ED WHITFIELD from Kentucky for their hard work in restoring this ban, which should have never been lifted in the first place. In the 2 years since the prohibition was eliminated, hundreds of wild horses have been slaughtered. This is unacceptable.

Wild horses are a fixture in United States history. In the 1800s there were more than 2 million wild horses and burros in this country. Today, there are fewer than 29,000. This bill will protect the small number of wild horses and burros who remain, preserving them as national treasures.

Mr. Chairman, this House has time and again expressed the desire of the American people to end the slaughter of innocent, beautiful horses by voting in support of legislation that would ban the slaughter of horses. I urge my colleagues to vote''yes'' on H.R. 249.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I support this bill, but I think the Natural Resources Committee should consider whether additional legislation would be appropriate in order to improve the management of wild horses and burros on Federal lands.

The bill repeals a provision enacted in 2004 as part of an appropriations bill that itself repealed the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros that had been the law since 1971.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 established as national policy that wild free-roaming horses and burros were to be protected from capture, branding, harassment, and death and, among other things, it directed that ''no wild free-roaming horse or burros or its remains may be sold or transferred for consideration for processing into commercial products.''

Practically since its enactment, the law's implementation has been problematic. In particular, the Bureau of Land Management—BLM—has been criticized by the Government Accountability Office and the Interior Department's Inspector General for the way it has responded to the challenge.

Under the act, the agencies inventory horse and burro populations on Federal land to determine ''appropriate management levels.'' They are authorized to remove animals determined to be exceeding the range's carrying capacity so as to restore a natural ecological balance and protect the range from deterioration.

Toward that end, the law authorizes removed animals to be offered for private adoption. New owners can receive title after a 1-year wait, with certification of proper care during that time. An individual may receive title to no more than four animals per year.

The law says that if adoption demand is insufficient, the remaining healthy animals are to be destroyed—but that authority has not been used for more than 20 years, and BLM was prohibited from doing so by funding limitations included in the appropriations act from 1988 through 2004.

The latest numbers I have seen indicated that there currently are an estimated 28,500 wild horses and burros on BLM's 199 herd management areas. I understand this is the lowest level since the early 1970s and is the closest to what BLM considers to be the appropriate management level since that time—but evidently BLM expects the population to increase to about 34,000 in this fiscal year while a reduced emphasis on removal, as proposed in the President's budget request for fiscal 2008, could result in a considerable increase in the number of wild horses and burros on BLM-managed lands. My understanding is that as of the end of fiscal year 2006 there were another 3,180 wild horses and burros on 37 ''territories'' managed by the Forest Service.

Removals have long been controversial. Some think they are not appropriate, while others are of the opinion that reduction of herds protects range resources and balances wild horse and burro levels with wildlife and domestic livestock. BLM says it bases decisions about appropriate management levels on population censuses and range monitoring, taking into account natural resources, such as wildlife and vegetation, and land uses, including grazing.

My understanding is that between fiscal 1972 and fiscal 2006, 268,709 horses and burros were removed, of which 216,942 were adopted, while others died of natural causes, were sent to holding facilities, or were sold. Because more animals have been removed than have been adopted, large numbers of animals are being held in facilities.

This was the context in which Congress enacted the requirement for sale of unadopted

animals that this bill would repeal. However, in April 2005, BLM temporarily suspended sale and delivery of wild horses and burros due to concerns about the slaughter of some animals. The agency did not sell animals directly for slaughter, and was requiring purchasers to give written affirmation of an intent to provide humane care. Nevertheless, 41 sold animals were resold or traded and then sent to slaughterhouses. Another 52 animals were sold to slaughterhouses, but Ford Motor Co. committed to purchasing them. In May 2005, BLM resumed sales after revising its bill of sale and pre-sale negotiation procedures.

I support this bill because the provision it would repeal was inserted without the benefit of any hearings or public notice and without an opportunity for the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction, to consider possible alternative approaches.

For the same reason, when the House considered the fiscal 2006 Interior appropriations bill, I supported the Rahall amendment that prohibited the use of funds for the sale or slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros—an amendment that the House again included in the fiscal 2007 Interior Appropriations bill by voice vote.

After passage of this bill, the appropriate next step will be for our committee to review the status of the wild horse and burro program to see whether there is a need for more carefully considered changes in the law.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired. Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SALE OF WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(d)(5) of Public Law 92–195 (16 U.S.C. 1333(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking the period and inserting the following: ''*Provided*, That no wild free-roaming horse or burro or its remains may be sold or transferred for consideration for processing into commercial products.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

(b) CRIMINAL PROVISIONS.—Section (8)(a)(4) of Public Law 92–195 (16 U.S.C. 1338(a)(4)) is amended by striking ''except as provided in section 3(e),''.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Amendments printed in the RECORD may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered read.

Are there any amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT OF OFFSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No authorization of appropriations made by this Act or other provision of this Act that results in costs to the Federal Government shall be effective except to the extent that this Act provides for offsetting decreases in spending of the Federal Government, such that the net effect of this Act does not either increase the Federal deficit or reduce the Federal surplus.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''deficit'' and ''surplus'' have the meanings given such terms in the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 249, the bill that we are discussing here, prohibits the commercial sale of wild horses and burros by the Bureau of Land Management.

As part of the Bureau of Land Management's program to protect and manage and control wild, free-roaming horses and burros, they are permitted to sell wild horses and burros that are over 10 years of age for commercial purposes for approximately $10 per animal, if the animals have not been successfully adopted in three auctions. If the animals are not adopted and BLM cannot sell the animals, then it will have to provide long-term care for them.

Implementing this bill, H.R. 249, will cause the Bureau of Land Management to lose the minimal revenue it is currently able to generate from the sale of the animals and incur additional costs by requiring it to provide long-term care for the animals that they otherwise wouldn't have to, essentially, by mandating a new responsibility.

Now, according to the CBO report accompanying this bill, it says, ''Based on information from Bureau of Land Management about the number of animals sold and the cost to care for them, CBO estimates that the resulting net changes in discretionary spending under H.R. 249 would not exceed $500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.''

However, it costs BLM roughly $25 million a year to feed and shelter roughly 30,000 wild horses in its management program. In 2006, 100,000 horses were slaughtered for consumption, which raises concerns that the cost of this legislation could turn out to be much more significant than CBO and the bill's proponents predict.

My amendment is very simple. It will apply the principle of pay-as-you-go to any new spending authorized by this legislation. It would require that any new spending as a result of this legislation must have a specific offset before this legislation can take effect.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as you know, an excerpt of the New Direction For America, which was proposed by the new majority, the House Democrats, in the 109th Congress as their plan once they were to take the majority, reads, ''Our new direction is committed to pay-as-you-go budgeting. No more deficit spending. We are committed to auditing the books and subjecting every facet of Federal spending to tough budget discipline and accountability, forcing the Congress to choose a new direction and the right priorities for all Americans.'' And I agree, Mr. Chairman.

On April 18, the majority leader was quoted as saying, ''We want to get the budget deficit under control. We've said that fiscal responsibility was necessary, but we are not going to be hoisted on the torrent of fiscal responsibility.'' That was just prior to the new majority ignoring their own PAYGO rules in order to pass a bill.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that rules aren't rules if you only follow them when you want to. Democrats promised to use PAYGO rules for everything, and instead they are picking and choosing when to do so. At home, we call that breaking a rule and breaking a promise.

So I urge the new majority to rededicate itself to the principle of pay-as-you-go spending. Fiscal responsibility shouldn't be something that is talked about only on the campaign trail.

This might not seem like a lot of money to my friends on the other side of the aisle, but Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve for us to be good stewards of their hard-earned money all the time, not just when it's politically convenient.

I urge adoption of this quality, commonsense, simple PAYGO amendment.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Price of Georgia amendment. The gentleman is attempting to put PAYGO requirements on a bill that neither authorizes nor contains any spending. I repeat that. The gentleman is attempting to put PAYGO provisions on a bill that neither authorizes nor contains any spending.

H.R. 249 merely returns the law the way it existed for 33 years prior to changes made in the law by an appropriations writer in 2004. Both the CBO and the Budget Committee have determined that there are no PAYGO implications with H.R. 249.

What the gentleman from Georgia is proposing to do is an unnecessary, unwise addition to the legislation. He has attempted it many times before. It has been rejected by the Homeland Security many times before. Those times include identical amendments to H.R. 569 and H.R. 700 which were considered by the House in March, and in both cases the House rejected the Price amendments, the first time by a vote of 166–260, and the second time by a vote of 176–256.

So again, I repeat, there should be no PAYGO requirements because it neither authorizes nor contains any spending.

I would urge the House to reject this unwise and unnecessary amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what Representative PRICE is trying to do. Let me try and put in context, once again, what the issue at hand in this very narrowly crafted bill is.

As of today, by rule, by court order, and by regulation and law, BLM, if it sells an animal, may not sell that animal for consumption. If the buyer resells that animal for consumption, that is a felony. It violates the contract they signed, which means the ability of selling, which is different from adopting, is a management tool of BLM. If this bill passes, it would take the option of sale away.

Last year, there were 2,400 horses that were sold. That would no longer be the case. And indeed, BLM would then incur a new burden for keeping those animals and providing for those animals. That is why we support Representative PRICE's amendment that applies PAYGO standard to this bill. There will be an additional cost because the policy will change.

If H.R. 249 passes and the BLM can no longer sell, not for consumption, but just sell wild horses, this agency estimates it will cost $12- to $15 million over the next 10 years. Long-term care and feeding of these animals were not considered when the CBO scored this bill.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the last word and to address the House for 5 minutes in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my very strong support for the bill that Mr. RAHALL, the Chair of the Resources Committee, has brought to this floor because it restores a longstanding prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros.

This amendment that we are currently debating is designed to defeat the substance of this bill. The reality is that this is not a bill that costs the Treasury money, but it does cost our country something of great value.

At the turn of the 20th century, some 2 million wild horses roamed freely in the wild. But by the 1950s, just half a century, their population had dwindled to fewer than 20,000. The population went from 2 million to 20,000. Ninety-nine percent of these majestic creatures were taken off the face of the American continent, and many of them were being inhumanely captured by profiteers who would slaughter them and then sell their meat for pet food and human consumption in European and Asian restaurants.

So, after enough awareness and concern, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 that protects wild horses and burros on Federal lands from such atrocities. But then in the 108th Congress, under different leadership, longstanding Federal policy that protects wild horses from being sold at auctions and subsequently shipped to slaughter plants was reversed.

Last year, two Texas plants and one in Illinois slaughtered nearly 105,000 horses for human food, mainly for European and Asian consumers. I think it's time to end this senseless for-profit massacre, really, of the symbol of the spirit of the American West.

Animals are given into our care, and we ought to treat them with some greater respect than we do, particularly in the case of horses.

I believe that a generation from now we will shudder at how recklessly we treated these animals which are so symbolic of the spirit, the strength, the stamina of this country. In the event of survival, so many of them face neglect and abuse today, and that is the argument that is raised. But that is not an excuse not to pass this legislation nor to implement a more humane policy, because this policy is inhumane at every step in the process, from how they're purchased at auction, to their transportation to the slaughterhouse, to how they are killed.

Many of the horses that are transported to the slaughterhouse are bought by what are called ''killer buyers'' at auction. These unscrupulous buyers prey on the trust of horse owners who believe that their horse is being bought by a good family and will lead a comfortable life. They are unaware that they are being misled by professional slaughterhouse agents, with their companion animal being sent to a very painful death.

The reality of the slaughtering process is difficult and uncomfortable for many of us to hear, but the suffering begins during the transportation of horses to the slaughterhouse. They are shipped with no food or water or any ability to rest. Often due to overcrowding and slippery floor surfaces, the horses fall and they are trampled during transportation. If they survive the trip to the slaughterhouse, the horse's suffering needlessly continues. Due to their cautious nature, many of these horses are not properly stunned before slaughter. Many are completely conscious when they have their throats cut. Simply put, this is not in the American tradition.

Despite what some of my colleagues will have you believe, the practice is not needed to control the number of horses in the United States. California banned horse slaughter in 1998, and since then there has been no corresponding rise in cruelty or neglect cases.

□ 1115

There has even been a 34 percent drop in horse theft since the ban went into effect.

The fact is that the American public wants to protect horses and is horrified that they are being slaughtered for use as food in other countries. Poll after poll shows that 70 percent of Americans believe that we should end the slaughter of horses. They are right, we should end this slaughter, today. And that is why we should pass this bill and defeat the amendment.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly admire and respect the gentlemen who are offering this amendment and making arguments in favor of it. I agree, however, with the gentleman from West Virginia that it has very negligible fiscal impact on the Federal budget.

As has been stated, there are less than 20,000 wild mustangs and burros left on Federal lands in the West. And if they are concerned about the fiscal impact of not slaughtering a few horses, I would say there are over 214 million acres of Federal lands in the West that the ranchers and corporations that are leasing that land are paying the Federal Government less than 10 cents per acre per year.

Now, that is much less being paid than what my farmers that I represent in Kentucky are paying for leased land. I recognize that this land in the West, much of it is arid, it is not really that rich. But there are lots of people who would be willing to lease land for less than 10 cents per acre. And I think we at the Federal level have a responsibility to protect these wild mustangs and burros; and as the gentleman before me said, at one time the population was around 2 million, now it is around 20,000 head, and we have an obligation to protect these animals.

I want to commend the gentleman from West Virginia for offering this bill, H.R. 249, to restore the Federal protections of these animals that have been in effect since 1971. And the only reason that it was changed in the omnibus bill a couple of years ago without anyone's knowledge, those Federal protections were removed. And so H.R. 249 simply restores that protection.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge the Members to vote against this amendment and to support H.R. 249.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition to the amendment and in support of the underlying bill, Mr. RAHALL's bill, to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

A lot of people bet on horses. Today, the horses are betting on us. They are betting that we remember something essential about the America of long ago to which these wild horses and burros connect us, betting that we do not misuse our power to cause these horses, these wild animals to be subject to slaughter. They are betting that we have the sense to put together policies that can provide for the protection of the wild horses and burros.

Now, it is the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management to enforce the laws on public lands that related to the bill that Congress passed 36 years ago that established as national policy that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, and death. And this Bureau of Land Management has not done the job. They haven't properly managed their responsibilities,

they haven't enforced the law. Why should we permit the wild horses to be further victimized by the Bureau of Land Management?

This legislation exposes part of the spirit of America to an attack because of the ineffectiveness and inefficiency and indeed the callous disregard of those at the Bureau of Land Management. Rather than pass a law which opens up wild horses to commercial sale and slaughter, we should be looking at a dramatic revision of the Bureau of Land Management's responsibilities here. We should be looking at that agency which took the responsibility by law in 1971 to make sure that these horses were protected, because they haven't done that. And now we are having Members advocate that we continue a condition where these horses are subjected to slaughter.

I think that occasionally we reconnect to our greatness as a country when we remember where we came from, when we remember our connection with the land, when we remember our connection with Native Americans, when we remember our connection with the sky, when we remember our connection with the water, and when we remember our connection with God's creatures who still, through the grace of God, freely roam the plains of this country as wild horses and burros.

Support the Rahall bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, let me just say a couple of things to try and set the record straight about the last couple of speeches which haven't actually been dealing with the amendment nor necessarily the bill itself.

There are approximately 33,000 wild horses on public range lands today. There are 28,000 wild horses that are standing in pens today. That is the total amount.

Those animals are not slaughtered. If they are sold or adopted, it is a felony to slaughter those animals. That is the BLM practice today. Any kind of talking about animals being slaughtered for consumption are not the animals owned by the Federal Government nor the animals that are subject to this particular bill. All this bill does is take away the opportunity of selling these animals, not for consumption or slaughter, to someone else. And it takes away a standard which the BLM has estimated will cost them between $10 million and $12 million over the next 10 years to try to keep these animals standing in a pen all day.

The problem is, we do have an arid topography. This is not the land that can support these animals. All of my good friends in the east have perfect land for that. And, to be honest, if they would open up some of their land so that wild horses can run freely back in their districts, you might be able to solve this problem again. But it is not going to happen unless you actually give them the tools to do it on this limited number of animals we are actually speaking about.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 238, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 267]

AYES—186

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Fallin
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—238

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Eshoo
Everett
Faleomavaega
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Cannon
Clyburn
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Engel
Etheridge
Fattah

Feeney	Lampson	Spratt
Johnson, E. B.	Rodriguez	Westmoreland

□ 1152

Messrs. MURPHY of Connecticut, BOUCHER, ROTHMAN, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. LEE, Messrs. BAIRD, GORDON of Tennessee, WELCH of Vermont, WATT, MELANCON, CUELLAR and DONNELLY changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. TANCREDO, BARTLETT of Maryland, GILCHREST, WELDON of Florida, TURNER and CARNEY changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR) having assumed the chair, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, pursuant to House Resolution 331, he reported the bill back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Price of Georgia moves to recommit the bill H.R. 249 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 2, after line 13, insert the following:

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This legislation shall not take effect until 60 days after the date on which the Secretary certifies to Congress that the long-term care of all animals not sold as a result of this Act does not exceed $500,000 annually.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit offers an effective date for fiscal responsibility.

H.R. 249 prohibits the commercial sale of wild horses and burros by the Bureau of Land Management. Implementing this bill will cause the BLM to lose the ability to sell these animals and incur additional costs by requiring it to provide long-term care for the animals that they otherwise would not be required to, thus mandating a new responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, according to the CBO report accompanying this bill, it said, based on the information from BLM about the number of animals sold and the cost to care for them, CBO estimates that the resulting net changes in discretionary spending under H.R. 249 would not exceed $500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

However, the Bureau of Land Management spends roughly $25 million a year to feed and shelter 30,000 wild horses in its management program. This motion to recommit will establish an effective date for the legislation, requiring the Secretary to certify to Congress that the long-term care of animals spared by this act will not exceed the cost of $500,000, which is noted in the bill and is the CBO estimate.

We all know that the CBO is noted for outrageously poor estimates. The capital gains tax reductions from 2003 to 2006, from 20 to 15 percent, that were enacted, CBO estimated revenue at $197 billion. In fact, Mr. Speaker, $330 billion were gained, an error of 68 percent. This is after the CBO underestimated capital gains revenue following the 1997 decrease by $217 billion. Further, CBO underestimated Federal tax revenue due to the responsible tax decreases that were enacted earlier this decade by $255 billion. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we all know that CBO estimated the Medicare part D premium would cost $38 a month, and in fact, it costs $22 per month, an error of 72 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this week in The Hill newspaper, former Congressman Charlie Stenholm appealed to Congress not to pass this legislation for budgetary reasons. Under the new PAYGO regime, Congress should not be perpetuating long-term options when another, less costly, option is available.

As of December 2004, 8,400 wild horses and burros became eligible for sale, and as of April 2007, the Bureau of Land Management has sold more than 2,300 horses. If the remaining horses which are available for sale are safe for long-term care, then the Secretary should be required to clarify that the care will not create an undue financial burden on the American people.

If the Secretary can certify that this legislation will not exceed $500,000 annually, then this proposal goes forward. If the Secretary cannot certify this requirement, then the legislation should be stopped, and the onus is on Congress to revisit the proposal and find new money.

I urge the new majority to rededicate themselves to the principle of fiscal responsibility. Fiscal responsibility should not be something that is just talked about on the campaign trail. This may not seem like a lot of money to my friends on the other side of the aisle, but the American people deserve for us to be good stewards of their hard-earned money all the time, not just when it is politically convenient.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on the motion to recommit.

□ 1200

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, first, I will respond to the gentleman from Georgia that this was an open rule. All Members knew that, and I cannot understand why the gentleman would not have offered this as an amendment during the normal process of legislative consideration of this bill. Instead, he comes at the last moment in the recommittal, which is true to his nature on previous legislation that has passed this body.

The gentleman's motion to recommit would change the effective date until 60 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior certifies to Congress that the long-term care of all unsold wild horses and burros as a result of this act does not exceed $500,000 annually. There is no time limit placed on that period during which the Secretary of the Interior has to certify. I am assuming that the gentleman is entrusting the same Federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management, that has so mismanaged this whole process in the beginning, entrusting with that agency the same responsibility to do such certification. Again, there is no time limit. It could be 30 days, it could be 30 years, it could be 300 years before the Secretary so certifies.

So the amendment is purely a killer amendment. The Members know that is the intent of the gentleman from Georgia, and I would urge its rejection.

In addition, as I have emphasized so many times on this bill, there is no PAYGO issue with this bill. The CBO estimated that the administrative cost of this bill is less than $500,000.

Third, the impact of this amendment is to allow slaughter for another 60 days, at the minimum, but more likely, indefinitely, as I said, because there is no time limit on the certification procedure stated in the motion to recommit. There is no time frame. The certification is open-ended. We have no idea as to how long that process will take.

Again, I respond to the gentleman from Georgia, this is a killer amendment. Every Member that voted against the previous amendment and has voted for this legislation in the past knows that is such.

I would urge opposition to the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 234, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 268]

AYES—182

Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bean
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
English (PA)
Fallin
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pomeroy
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Space
Stearns
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

NOES—234

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bartlett (MD)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Ellison
Emanuel
Emerson
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Heller
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Platts
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Reynolds
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Cannon
Clyburn
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Engel
Etheridge
Fattah
Feeney
Harman
Johnson, E. B.
Lampson
Meehan
Rodriguez
Spratt
Sullivan
Westmoreland

□ 1222

Mrs. EMERSON changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mrs. GILLIBRAND and Messrs. MURPHY of Connecticut, LAHOOD, BARROW and CUELLAR changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL HAYS UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS READING CLERK FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think of our institution without the services of our reading clerk, Paul Hays. Before we get back, Paul will retire, after some 41 years of service here in the House.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

Mr. Speaker, Paul's distinctive voice, I think, is familiar to all of us. I think all of you know that Paul is a patriot. He even got married on the 4th of July. From his service in the National Guard, to his service with the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Paul has given much to our country, and he has given much to all of us and to our institution.

Paul, thank you.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOEHNER. I would be happy to yield to my colleague from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise to join him in thanking Paul Hays for the extraordinary service he has given to this institution.

Our reading clerk, Paul Hays, who after 19 years in this position as reading clerk and, as has been noted by the distinguished minority leader, 41 years as an employee of this House, has announced he will retire effective Monday, April 30, and begin a new phase of his life.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, Paul Hays, with his deep, crisp, commanding voice is perhaps most recognized to our viewers on C–SPAN, perhaps more than many of the rest of us, because he is here all the time and that voice is heard and his visage is seen.

It has been a privilege, I know, for him to serve here, but as I have noted on other occasions when other members of the desk have retired, they serve our country as well as those who have been elected to serve, and we appreciate their service.

Since 1789, the House has employed reading clerks, who are responsible for reading aloud, obviously, the text of bills, amendments, motions, messages, special rules and other privileged resolutions and veto messages. Our reading clerks almost always, almost always, have been appointed from the ranks of existing House employees who have extensive prior floor experience. Paul was one of those.

Paul, a graduate of Georgetown University, is no exception. In fact, Paul was appointed reading clerk in 1988 by one of the most distinguished persons with whom I have served, one of the most decent Americans that has served in this House, the distinguished minority leader, Bob Michel.

It is no coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that given his speaking talents, Paul, as I understand it, intends to do voiceover work in the future.

Now, Paul, we want you to be very discriminating in what voiceovers you do. There may be a lot of requests. We want you to know how nice we are being to you today.

Paul, I want to thank you. I want to thank you for your service to this institution and to our country. As you go from this phase of your very successful life into the next successful phase of your life, not only do we thank you, but we wish you well.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his remarks.

Paul, we all wish you well, and no more excuses about your golf game.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill, H.R. 249.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 277, nays 137, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 269]

YEAS—277

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono
Boozman
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Buchanan
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Campbell (CA)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Emanuel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Pitts
Platts
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—137

Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Cardoza
Carter
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Costa
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dingell
Doolittle
Drake
Ellsworth
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fortenberry
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Hinojosa
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Poe
Pomeroy
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Space
Stearns
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walz (MN)
Weldon (FL)
Wicker
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—18

Cannon
Clyburn
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Engel
Etheridge
Fattah
Feeney
Gonzalez
Harman
Johnson, E. B.
Lampson
McNulty
Rodriguez
Rush
Spratt
Sullivan
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1238

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Maryland, the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend, Mr. BLUNT, for yielding.

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in pro forma session. No legislative business.

On Tuesday the House will meet at 10:30 for morning hour business and noon for legislative business. We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A complete list of those bills will be made available by the close of business tomorrow.

On Wednesday and Thursday the House will meet at 10 a.m.

On Friday no votes are expected, assuming we complete our business scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

We'll consider H.R. 1429, the Head Start reauthorization bill; H.R. 1867, the National Science Foundation reauthorization bill; H.R. 1868, the NIST reauthorization bill; and H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement and Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that information. And on the discussion of Tuesday, I want to say, first of all, I appreciate the early information you were able to give us on Monday and Tuesday, and wonder, as Members are planning on traveling either Monday or Tuesday, if you have any further sense of when votes may occur on Tuesday.

Mr. HOYER. Votes could occur as early as 12 noon. It will be a full day. Even though we are not here Monday, usually you're in 6:30 the next day. But because of the shortness of the week, we will be in, as I indicated, at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and then 12 for business. There could be votes as early as 12 noon.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate that, and I think that is helpful to Members to know where the leader is headed on that topic.

Two bills you mentioned for next week. I know the local law enforcement, the hate crimes, some of our Members are beginning to be, I think, concerned about this bill, refer to it as a thought crimes bill. But there was a long markup in committee, lots of amendments, and I am thinking on that bill we're hopeful that we can have the same kind of opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on the floor that the committee had; and on both that and the Head Start bill, we are hoping for a rule that allows that. I wonder if the gentleman has any sense of what the rule on those two bills will look like.

Mr. HOYER. The answer is I have not talked to Rules Committee Chairman

SLAUGHTER about the specific nature of those rules. But, as you know, the Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on the Head Start bill and two science bills on Tuesday, and they will do the rules then.

We'll do the hate crimes bill rule later in the week, probably Wednesday, for consideration on Thursday.

But I understand the gentleman's observation that there was significant debate on both these bills. There are issues that a number of people want to raise on the floor, and I would think that the committee would want to try to make in order some amendments to accomplish that objective.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I certainly hope so. And I think the time that this took, and the bill on hate crimes or thought crimes, whatever we decide to refer to it as in the coming days, the markup there would indicate a lot of interest.

On the supplemental that we voted on last week, Mr. Leader, do we have a sense of when that will go to the White House or how quickly that bill will come back? And would you expect us to deal with a return? I mean, we all expect the President to veto this particular supplemental. Would it be your sense that we would likely deal with that next week as well?

Mr. HOYER. Obviously, to some degree, that is dependent upon how quickly the President acts. Obviously, he has a number of days to act. But our presumption is he will act soon. And one of the reasons that we have put the time of 12 noon, I mean, it depends upon how early in the day he vetoes that bill. We may have it back here very soon. I talked to the majority leader in the Senate just an hour ago. It's his expectation that that vote will occur today. It's our expectation that we will send the bill down either late Monday, obviously the funeral is occurring and people won't be here, or very, very early Tuesday so that the President will have it Tuesday. And then it will depend upon how soon the President acts. But it would be our expectation that we would act quickly on any action the President took if he vetoes the bill.

We, of course, as you know, are hopeful that he will sign the bill. We think it gives all the money for the troops that the President has asked for, and then some additional monies, and it does not either micromanage the troops or set any precipitous withdrawal dates. But obviously the President has expressed a contrary opinion.

So I think you're right; I think the expectation, based upon the President's representation, is that he is going to veto that bill if it comes to him, and we will have to consider that veto.

Mr. BLUNT. This bill has been, of course, very widely debated, pretty divisive in our points of view on it. A couple of our Members voted with you. A number of your Members voted with us against the bill. But I am certainly in agreement with the gentleman's view that we should pursue whatever next steps are there as soon as possible.

I'd also like to say to the gentleman that I, and I know others on our side, a significant number of others on our side, are eager to work with the majority and the White House both, and get this issue resolved so that our troops are appropriately funded. We can move on to the other appropriations work. And some of these issues, I am sure, are going to be available to the other appropriations bills as topics of discussion that don't necessarily need to be resolved immediately.

On the topic of rules, on the bill that was considered on Tuesday, the science bill, we had an open rule on that. But the deadline to file an amendment, a potential amendment, was last Friday. Obviously, Friday was a travel day.

Normally the deadline would have been sometime the day before the bill was taken up, and I am hopeful that we are not seeing that as a pattern; that we'll still give maximum time for Members to look at legislation, to be able to file a bill. And obviously, if you've got a rule that requires looking at the amendments, you have to have the amendments in before the Rules Committee can meet. But a Friday deadline, when no one was here anyway, on a bill to be handled on Tuesday, seemed to me to be outside of the norm.

□ 1245

And I hope that the gentleman's response is that it is outside the norm and not a new view of a very limited, needlessly limited, time to file amendments. And I would be glad to hear your response to that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Of course, as you know, that bill was scheduled for consideration last week. We did not get to that bill. We took it off the calendar.

Mr. BLUNT. I think I am talking about the other science bill. Not the one that was scheduled on Friday, but the one that was the teachers bill also had a Friday deadline.

Mr. HOYER. Let me find out.

Mr. BLUNT. I believe that is the case. Maybe we could let our staff sort this out.

Mr. HOYER. I am not sure of the exact sequencing. But let me say this in answer to your question, because your question was really not necessarily about this specific bill, but about general process.

Mr. BLUNT. It was.

Mr. HOYER. Clearly, we are trying to pursue a process which gives notice to Members about what they are going to consider.

As you noted, I hope, we waited the full 24 hours on the supplemental conference report so that Members will have the full 24 hours. And as a matter of fact, we were almost to the hour at 5:50 p.m. yesterday. And although there were some Members whom it had caused a problem to because of their schedules, we had said we were going to give 24 hours' notice, and we did give 24 hours' notice, and we want to continue to do that.

On the amending process, obviously, we are going to many times require that amendments be filed timely so that Members have an opportunity to see what amendments are going to be asked of the Rules Committee. But we will pursue what we believe to be, and hope in consultation with you, is a reasonable time frame to expect people to notice their amendments. Clearly, they have to be out of committee. Clearly, they have to have time to see the bill and prepare amendments. But we want to have amendments in many instances noted so that the membership can know what they are considering.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate that and I appreciate your commitment to consultation. Our staffs can look at which of these two Science Committee bills that we are talking about.

And, again, my concern would be that we give Members maximum opportunity to file a bill and not set a deadline on a travel day for a bill that is not going to be on the floor for several days anyway. And I think we have had a discussion that I am comfortable with, and I hope our staff continues to talk about that process meeting everybody's needs, the Rules Committee, the Members that want to file amendments, and understanding that a deadline on a day when Members are trying to get back to their district is really almost a day that the Members themselves may not be able to be engaged in that process. If it is necessary, it is necessary. But when it is not, I would hope we can avoid it. And I believe the gentleman suggested we will continue to view that in that way.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. BLUNT. I would.

Mr. HOYER. Certainly we want to make a process where all Members on either side of the aisle have the opportunity to note their amendments in a fashion that does not put them in a place where it makes it very difficult for them. On the other hand, obviously, it is not just the floor that considers it. It is the Rules Committee that has to; so you have to consider when the Rules Committee is going to meet as well.

And although I appreciate the gentleman's observation about Fridays, I have heard a lot about what we can or cannot do on Fridays, I will tell my friend, or what we should be doing on Fridays.

But having said that, assuming a Member is working with his staff and/or the committee's staff or CRS in preparing his or her amendment, obviously if they get it ready and the Rules Committee is going to meet Monday or Tuesday, an expectation that it would be filed by close of business on Friday I don't think is unreasonable, even if we are not here on Fridays, because presumably their staff has been working with them on their amendment and

can make sure that amendment gets filed even if the Member is not physically present here.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend as long as the bill is available the full week before, and our opportunity at the end of the week to talk about what is going to be available, I think there is reasonableness there. On a bill that suddenly we just decide we have time to do it, that might be different than the normal procedure that my friend is suggesting.

Mr. HOYER. Will my friend yield?

Mr. BLUNT. I would.

Mr. HOYER. Because you said as long as the bill has been available at least a week before. I want to think about that timeframe. That was sort of an add-on in your comment. I don't want my silence to be perceived as, oh, yes, okay, that's a procedure we can follow. I am not sure we can follow that. But certainly the substance of your comment we do want to follow, and that is give Members a reasonable opportunity to prepare an amendment to a bill. Obviously they considered it in committee and they reported it out of committee, but there may be times, as you observed, when that doesn't happen and it goes more quickly.

Mr. BLUNT. On that topic of what may be out there, Mr. Speaker, I have just a couple of final questions.

One is we are now approaching 4 weeks before another opportunity for a district work period during the Memorial Day time. I wonder if the leader has a sense of a couple of items, your sense of what you are hoping as major things to get done during that month, generally; and, specifically, if there is any information about a GSE bill. The committee voted a GSE bill out on March 28. That was a full month ago. I am wondering if there is a sense of when that might be on the floor. And anything else the gentleman has about an appropriation schedule that might involve the next 4 weeks would be helpful. And that would be my final question unless your answer prompts a question.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I will try to be precise so that your response will be germane to my observations.

Let me say that with respect to the GSE bill, there has been a reference to another committee. That committee has not reported out that bill, so obviously we have to find out what it does.

On your general question, let me say it is my hope during the next 30 days prior to the Memorial Day break there will be a number of significant things we will do. We mentioned this coming week's work. We will start the appropriations process. I am hopeful that we will adopt a budget resolution conference report by that time. If we do not, as I indicated last week to you, it would be my hope that we would have the Appropriations Committee move ahead and mark bills to the House-passed level, as we have done in the past, and deem its passage.

I would hope that we would pass a number of appropriations bills in May. And as the gentleman also knows, as we have historically done, we will be considering the defense authorization bill in May.

So appropriation bills, the authorization bill. There will be some other pieces of legislation, but I expect them to be the major focus of the balance of time between now and when we take the Memorial Day break.

Mr. BLUNT. I think that is very helpful, and I thank the majority leader.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ARCURI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the rules of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 110th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The committee adopted these rules by voice vote, with a quorum being present, at our organizational meeting on January 18, 2007.

Pursuant to rule XI, Clause 2(a)(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the rules for the 110th Congress for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Committee adopted these rules by voice vote, with a quorum being present, at our organizational meeting on January 18, 2007.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 110TH CONGRESS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—JANUARY 18, 2007)

Rules of Procedure for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

1. MEETING DAY

Regular Meeting Day for the Full Committee. The regular meeting day of the Committee for the transaction of Committee business shall be the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

2. NOTICE FOR MEETINGS

(a) GENERALLY.—In the case of any meeting of the Committee, the Chief Clerk of the Committee shall provide reasonable notice to every Member of the Committee. Such notice shall provide the time and place of the meeting.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this rule, ''reasonable notice'' means:

(1) Written notification;

(2) Delivered by facsimile transmission, regular mail, or electronic mail that is

(A) Delivered no less than 24 hours prior to the event for which notice is being given, if the event is to be held in Washington, D.C.; or

(B) Delivered no less than 48 hours prior to the event for which notice is being given, if the event is to be held outside Washington, D.C.

(c) EXCEPTION.—In extraordinary circumstances only, the Chairman may, after consulting with the Ranking Minority Member, call a meeting of the Committee without providing notice, as defined in subparagraph (b), to Members of the Committee.

3. PREPARATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) GENERALLY.—Designated Committee Staff, as directed by the Chairman, shall brief Members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting in order to:

(1) Assist Committee Members in preparation for such meeting; and

(2) Determine which matters Members wish considered during any meeting.

(b) BRIEFING MATERIALS.

(1) Such a briefing shall, at the request of a Member, include a list of all pertinent papers, and such other materials, that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting; and

(2) The Staff Director shall also recommend to the Chairman any testimony, papers, or other materials to be presented to the Committee at the meeting of the Committee.

4. OPEN MEETINGS

(a) GENERALLY.—Pursuant to Rule XI of the House, but subject to the limitations of subsections (b) and (c), Committee meetings held for the transaction of business and Committee hearings shall be open to the public.

(b) MEETINGS.—Any meeting or portion thereof, for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or any hearing or portion thereof, shall be closed to the public, if the Committee determines by record vote in open session, with a majority of the Committee present, that disclosure of the matters to be discussed may:

(1) Endanger national security;

(2) Compromise sensitive law enforcement information;

(3) Tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; or

(4) Otherwise violate any law or Rule of the House.

(c) HEARINGS.—The Committee may vote to close a Committee hearing pursuant to House Rule X clause 11(d)(2), regardless of whether a majority is present, so long as at least two Members of the Committee are present, one of whom is a member of the Minority and votes upon the motion.

(d) BRIEFINGS.—The Committee briefings shall be closed to the public.

5. QUORUM

(a) HEARINGS.—For purposes of taking testimony, or receiving evidence, a quorum shall consist of two Committee Members, at least one of whom is a member of the Majority.

(b) OTHER COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS.—For purposes of the transaction of all other Committee business, other than the consideration of a motion to close a hearing as described in rule 4(c), a quorum shall consist of a majority of Members.

6. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENTS AND VOTES

(a) AMENDMENTS.—When a bill or resolution is being considered by the Committee, Members shall provide the Chief Clerk in a timely manner with a sufficient number of written copies of any amendment offered, so as to enable each Member present to receive a copy thereof prior to taking action. A point of order may be made against any amendment not reduced to writing. A copy of each such amendment shall be maintained in the public records of the Committee.

(b) REPORTING RECORDED VOTES.—Whenever the Committee reports any measure or matter by record vote, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of, and the votes cast in opposition to, such measure or matter.

(c) POSTPONEMENT OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.—In accordance with clause 2(h) of House Rule XI, the Chairman is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) GENERALLY.

(1) Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee.

(2) Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct.

(3) Subcommittees shall be governed by these rules.

(4) For purposes of these rules, any reference herein to the ''Committee'' shall be interpreted to include subcommittees, unless otherwise specifically provided.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee establishes the following subcommittees:

(1) Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence;

(2) Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence;

(3) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and,

(4) Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management.

(c) SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

(1) GENERALLY.—Each Member of the Committee may be assigned to at least one of the four subcommittees.

(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP.—In the event that the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee do not choose to sit as regular voting members of one or more of the subcommittees, each is authorized to sit as an ex officio member of the subcommittees and participate in the work of the subcommittees. When sitting ex officio, however, they:

(A) Shall not have a vote in the subcommittee; and

(B) Shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(d) REGULAR MEETING DAY FOR SUBCOMMITTEES.—There is no regular meeting day for subcommittees.

8. PROCEDURES FOR TAKING TESTIMONY OR RECEIVING EVIDENCE

(a) NOTICE.—Adequate notice shall be given to all witnesses appearing before the Committee.

(b) OATH OR AFFIRMATION.—The Chairman may require testimony of witnesses to be given under oath or affirmation.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION.—Upon the determination that a witness shall testify under oath or affirmation, any Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman may administer the oath or affirmation.

(d) QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES.

(1) GENERALLY.—Questioning of witnesses before the Committee shall be conducted by Members of the Committee.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.

(A) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may determine that Committee Staff will be authorized to question witnesses at a hearing in accordance with clause (2)(j) of House Rule XI.

(B) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member are each authorized to designate Committee Staff to conduct such questioning.

(e) COUNSEL FOR THE WITNESS.

(1) GENERALLY.—Witnesses before the Committee may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) COUNSEL CLEARANCES REQUIRED.—In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject to be discussed deals with classified information, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present.

(3) FAILURE TO OBTAIN COUNSEL.—Any witness who is unable to obtain counsel should notify the Committee. If such notification occurs at least 24 hours prior to the witness' appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain counsel, however, will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(4) CONDUCT OF COUNSEL FOR WITNESSES.—Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves ethically and professionally at all times in their dealings with the Committee.

(A) A majority of Members of the Committee may, should circumstances warrant, find that counsel for a witness before the Committee failed to conduct himself or herself in an ethical or professional manner.

(B) Upon such finding, counsel may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(5) TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF COUNSEL.—The Chairman may remove counsel during any proceeding before the Committee for failure to act in an ethical and professional manner.

(6) COMMITTEE REVERSAL.—A majority of the Members of the Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chairman to remove counsel for a witness.

(7) ROLE OF COUNSEL FOR WITNESS.

(A) COUNSEL FOR A WITNESS:

(i) Shall not be allowed to examine witnesses before the Committee, either directly or through cross-examination; but

(ii) May submit questions in writing to the Committee that counsel wishes propounded to a witness; or

(iii) May suggest, in writing to the Committee, the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses.

(B) The Committee may make such use of any such questions, or suggestions, as the Committee deems appropriate.

(f) STATEMENTS BY WITNESSES.

(1) GENERALLY. A witness may make a statement, which shall be brief and relevant, at the beginning and at the conclusion of the witness' testimony.

(2) LENGTH. Each such statement shall not exceed five minutes in length, unless otherwise determined by the Chairman.

(3) SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE. Any witness desiring to submit a written statement for the record of the proceeding shall submit a copy of the statement to the Chief Clerk of the Committee.

(A) Such statements shall ordinarily be submitted no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness' appearance before the Committee and shall be submitted in written and electronic format.

(B) In the event that the hearing was called with less than 24 hours notice, written statements should be submitted as soon as practicable prior to the hearing.

(g) OBJECTIONS AND RULING.

(1) GENERALLY.—Any objection raised by a witness, or counsel for the witness, shall be ruled upon by the Chairman, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee.

(2) COMMITTEE ACTION.—A ruling by the Chairman may be overturned upon a majority vote of the Committee.

(h) TRANSCRIPTS.

(1) TRANSCRIPT REQUIRED.—A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during any hearing of the Committee.

(2) OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT.—Any witness testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of the hearing, and may be accompanied by counsel to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. Such counsel:

(A) May review the transcript only if he or she has the appropriate security clearances necessary to review any classified aspect of the transcript; and

(B) Should, to the extent possible, be the same counsel that was present for such classified testimony.

(3) CORRECTIONS.

(A) Pursuant to Rule XI of the House Rules, any corrections the witness desires to make in a transcript shall be limited to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

(B) Corrections may not be made to change the substance of the Testimony.

(C) Such corrections shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within 7 days after the transcript is made available to the witnesses.

(D) Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman.

(4) COPY FOR THE WITNESS.—At the request of the witness, any portion of the witness' testimony given in executive session shall be made available to that witness if that testimony is subsequently quoted or intended to be made part of a public record. Such testimony shall be made available to the witness at the witness' expense.

(i) REQUESTS TO TESTIFY.

(1) GENERALLY.—The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE.—Any person who believes that testimony, other evidence, or commentary, presented at a public hearing may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation may submit to the Committee, in writing:

(A) A request to appear personally before the Committee;

(B) A sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or commentary; or

(C) Proposed questions for the cross-examination of other witnesses.

(3) COMMITTEES DISCRETION.—The Committee may take those actions it deems appropriate with respect to such requests.

(j) CONTEMPT PROCEDURES.—Citations for contempt of Congress shall be forwarded to the House only if:

(1) Reasonable notice is provided to all Members of the Committee of a meeting to be held to consider any such contempt recommendations;

(2) The Committee has met and considered the contempt allegations;

(3) The subject of the allegations was afforded an opportunity to state either in writing or in person, why he or she should not be held in contempt; and

(4) The Committee agreed by majority vote to forward the citation recommendations to the House.

(k) RELEASE OF NAME OF WITNESS.

(1) GENERALLY.—At the request of a witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee, the name of that witness shall not be released publicly prior to, or after, the witness' appearance before the Committee.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the chairman may authorize the release to the public of the name of any witness scheduled to appear before the Committee.

9. INVESTIGATIONS

(a) COMMENCING INVESTIGATIONS.—The Committee shall conduct investigations only if approved by the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION.—An authorized investigation may be conducted by Members of the Committee or Committee Staff members designated by the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to undertake any such investigation.

10. SUBPOENAS

(a) GENERALLY.—All subpoenas shall be authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or by vote of the Committee.

(b) SUBPOENA CONTENTS.—Any subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may compel:

(1) The attendance of witnesses and testimony before the Committee, or

(2) The production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other tangible item.

(c) SIGNING OF SUBPOENA.—A subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may be signed by the Chairman, or by any Member of the Committee designated to do so by the Committee.

(d) SUBPOENA SERVICE.—A subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may be served by any person designated to do so by the Chairman.

(e) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of these rules.

11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of these rules, ''Committee Staff' or ''Staff of the Committee'' means:

(1) Employees of the Committee;

(2) Consultants to the Committee;

(3) Employees of other Government agencies detailed to the Committee; or

(4) Any other person engaged by contract, or otherwise, to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE STAFF AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Committee Staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chairman and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman.

(2) STAFF ASSISTANCE TO MINORITY MEMBERSHIP.—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) and except as otherwise provided by Committee Rules, the Committee Staff provided to the Minority Party Members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(3) SECURITY CLEARANCE REQUIRED.—All offers of employment for prospective Committee Staff positions shall be contingent upon:

(A) The results of a background investigation; and

(B) A determination by the Chairman that requirements for the appropriate security clearances have been met.

(4) SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Chairman shall supervise and direct the Committee Staff with respect to the security and nondisclosure of classified information. Committee Staff shall comply with requirements necessary to ensure the security and nondisclosure of classified information as determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

LIMIT ON DISCUSSION OF CLASSIFIED WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

(a) PROHIBITION.

(1) GENERALLY.—Except as otherwise provided by these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, Members and Committee Staff shall not at any time, either during that person's tenure as a Member of the Committee or as Committee Staff, or anytime thereafter, discuss or disclose, or cause to be discussed or disclosed:

(A) The classified substance of the work of the Committee;

(B) Any information received by the Committee in executive session;

(C) Any classified information received by the Committee from any source; or

(D) The substance of any hearing that was closed to the public pursuant to these rules or the Rules of the House.

(2) NON-DISCLOSURE IN PROCEEDINGS.

(A) Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during the person's tenure as a Member of the Committee, or of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(B) In the event of the termination ofthe Committee, Members and Committee Staff shall be governed in these matters in a manner determined by the House concerning discussions of the classified work of the Committee.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.

(A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose those matters described in subsection (a)(1) with:

(i) Members and staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence designated by the chairman of that committee;

(ii) The chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and staff of those committees designated by the chairmen of those committees;

(iii) The chairman and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the House Committee on Appropriations and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chairman of that subcommittee; and

(iv) Members and staff of the Intelligence Oversight Panel of the House Appropriations Committee designated by the chairman of that panel.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose only that budget-related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of the annual defense authorization bill with the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services and the staff of those committees designated by the chairmen of those committees.

(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss with and disclose to the chairman and ranking minority member of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee with jurisdiction over an agency or program within the National Intelligence Program (NIP), and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chairman of that subcommittee, only that budget related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of an appropriations bill within which is included an appropriation for an agency or program within the NIP.

(D) The Chairman may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, upon the written request to the Chairman from the Inspector General of an element of the Intelligence Community, grant access to Committee transcripts or documents that are relevant to an investigation of an allegation of possible false testimony or other inappropriate conduct before the Committee, or that are otherwise relevant to the Inspector General's investigation.

(E) Upon the written request of the head of an Intelligence Community element, the Chairman may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, make available Committee briefing or hearing transcripts to that element for review by that element if a representative of that element testified, presented information to the Committee, or was present at the briefing or hearing the transcript of which is requested for review.

(F) Members and Committee Staff may discuss and disclose such matters as otherwise directed by the Committee.

(b) NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.

(1) GENERALLY. All Committee Staff must, before joining the Committee, agree in writing, as a condition of employment, not to divulge or cause to be divulged any classified information which comes into such person's possession while a member of the Committee Staff, to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS. In the event of the termination of the Committee, Members and Committee Staff must follow any determination by the House of Representatives with respect to the protection of classified information received while a Member of the Committee or as Committee Staff.

(3) Requests for Testimony of Staff.

(A) All Committee Staff must, as a condition of employment agree in writing to notify the Committee immediately of any request for testimony received while a member of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, concerning any classified information received by such person while a member of the Committee Staff.

(B) Committee Staff shall not disclose, in response to any such request for testimony, any such classified information, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(C) In the event of the termination of the Committee, Committee Staff will be subject to any determination made by the House of Representatives with respect to any requests for testimony involving classified information received while a member of the Committee Staff.

13. CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

(a) Receipt of Classified Information.

(1) GENERALLY. In the case of any information that has been classified under established security procedures and submitted to the Committee by any source, the Committee shall receive such classified information as executive session material.

(2) STAFF RECEIPT OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS.—For purposes of receiving classified information, the Committee Staff is authorized to accept information on behalf of the Committee.

(b) NON-DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Any classified information received by the Committee, from any source, shall not be disclosed to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, or otherwise released, except as authorized by the Committee in accord with the Rules of the House and these rules.

14. PROCEDURES RELATED TO HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(a) SECURITY MEASURES.

(1) STRICT SECURITY.—The Committee's offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Director of Security and Registry of the Committee under the direct supervision of the Staff Director.

(2) U.S. CAPITOL POLICE PRESENCE REQUIRED.—At least one U.S. Capitol Police officer shall be on duty at all times outside the entrance to Committee offices to control entry of all persons to such offices.

(3) Identification Required.—Before entering the Committee's offices all persons shall identify themselves to the U.S. Capitol Police officer described in paragraph (2) and to a Member of the Committee or Committee Staff.

(4) MAINTENANCE OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS.—Classified documents shall be segregated and maintained in approved security storage locations.

(5) EXAMINATION OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS.—Classified documents in the Committee's possession shall be examined in an appropriately secure manner.

(6) PROHIBITION ON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED MATERIALS.—Removal of any classified document from the Committee's offices is strictly prohibited, except as provided by these rules.

(7) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the prohibition set forth in paragraph (6), a classified document, or copy thereof, may be removed from the Committee's offices in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures shall govern the handling of any classified documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(b) ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY MEMBER.—All Members of the Committee shall at all times have access to all classified papers and other material received by the Committee from any source.

(c) NEED-TO-KNOW.

(1) GENERALLY.—Committee Staff shall have access to any classified information provided to the Committee on a strict ''need-to-know'' basis, as determined by the Committee, and under the Committee's direction by the Staff Director.

(2) APPROPRIATE CLEARANCES REQUIRED.—Committee Staff must have the appropriate clearances prior to any access to compartmented information.

(d) Oath.

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Before any Member of the Committee, or the Committee Staff, shall have access to classified information, the following oath shall be executed:

''I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose or cause to be disclosed any classified information received in the course of my service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, except when authorized to do so by the Committee or the House of Representatives.''

(2) COPY.—A copy of such executed oath shall be retained in the files of the Committee.

(e) Registry.

(1) GENERALLY.—The Committee shall maintain a registry that:

(A) Provides a brief description of the content of all classified documents provided to the Committee by the executive branch that remain in the possession of the Committee; and

(B) Lists by number all such documents.

(2) DESIGNATION BY THE STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Staff Director shall designate a member of the Committee Staff to be responsible for the organization and daily maintenance of such registry.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Such registry shall be available to all Members of the Committee and Committee Staff.

(f) REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OF OTHER COMMITTEES.—Pursuant to the Rules of the House, Members who are not Members of the Committee may be granted access to such classified transcripts, records, data, charts, or files of the Committee, and be admitted on a non-participatory basis to classified hearings of the Committee involving discussions of classified material in the following manner:

(1) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Members who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the Committee, or to attend Committee hearings or briefings on a non-participatory basis, must notify the Chief Clerk of the Committee in writing.

(2) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—The Committee shall consider each such request by non-Committee Members at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Committee shall determine, by roll call vote, what action it deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In its determination, the Committee shall consider:

(A) The sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;

(B) The likelihood of its being directly or indirectly disclosed;

(C) The jurisdictional interest of the Member making the request; and (D) Such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

(3) COMMITTEE ACTION.—After consideration of the Member's request, the Committee may take any action it may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:

(A) Approving the request, in whole or part;

(B) Denying the request;

(C) Providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member; or (D) Making the requested information or material available to all Members of the House.

(4) REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS BY NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—Prior to a non-Committee Member being given access to classified information pursuant to this subsection, the requesting Member shall:

(A) Provide the Committee a copy of the oath executed by such Member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13; and

(B) Agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member pursuant to this subsection to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as otherwise authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(5) CONSULTATION AUTHORIZED.—When considering a Member's request, the Committee may consult the Director of National Intelligence and such other officials as it considers necessary.

(6) FINALITY OF COMMITTEE DECISION.

(A) Should the Member making such a request disagree with the Committee's determination with respect to that request, or any part thereof, that Member must notify the Committee in writing of such disagreement.

(B) The Committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the Committee will take.

(g) ADVISING THE HOUSE OR OTHER COMMITTEES.—Pursuant to Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413), and to the Rules of the House, the Committee shall call to the attention of the House, or to any other appropriate committee of the House, those matters requiring the attention of the House, or such other committee, on the basis of the following provisions:

(1) BY REQUEST OF COMMITTEE MEMBER.—At the request of any Member of the Committee to call to the attention of the House, or any other committee, executive session material in the Committee's possession, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity to consider that request.

(2) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST.—The Committee shall consider the following factors, among any others it deems appropriate:

(A) The effect of the matter in question on the national defense or the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) Whether the matter in question involves sensitive intelligence sources and methods;

(C) Whether the matter in question otherwise raises questions affecting the national interest; and

(D) Whether the matter in question affects matters within the jurisdiction of another Committee of the House.

(3) VIEWS OF OTHER COMMITTEES.—In examining such factors, the Committee may seek the opinion of Members of the Committee appointed from standing committees of the House with jurisdiction over the matter in question, or submissions from such other committees.

(4) OTHER ADVICE.—The Committee may, during its deliberations on such requests, seek the advice of any executive branch official.

(h) REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE MATERIALS.—Before the Committee makes any decision regarding any request for access to any classified information in its possession, or a proposal to bring any matter to the attention of the House or another committee, Members of the Committee shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, documents, or other materials in the Committee's possession that may inform their decision on the question.

(i) NOTIFICATION TO THE HOUSE.—The Committee may bring a matter to the attention of the House when, after consideration of the factors set forth in this rule, it considers the matter in question so grave that it requires the attention of all Members of the House, and time is of the essence, or for any reason the Committee finds compelling.

(j) METHOD OF DISCLOSURE TO THE HOUSE.

(1) Should the Committee decide by roll call vote that a matter requires the attention of the House as described in subsection (i), it shall make arrangements to notify the House promptly.

(2) In such cases, the Committee shall consider whether:

(A) To request an immediate secret session of the House (with time equally divided between the Majority and the Minority); or

(B) To publicly disclose the matter in question pursuant to clause 11 (g) of House Rule X.

(k) REQUIREMENT TO PROTECT SOURCES AND METHODS.—In bringing a matter to the attention of the House, or another committee, the Committee, with due regard for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall take all necessary steps to safeguard materials or information relating to the matter in question.

(l) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO OTHER COMMITTEES.—The Committee, having determined that a matter shall be brought to the attention of another committee, shall ensure that such matter, including all classified information related to that matter, is promptly made available to the chairman and ranking minority member of such other committee.

(m) PROVISION OF MATERIALS.—The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall provide a copy of these rules, and the applicable portions of the Rules of the House of Representatives governing the handling of classified information, along with those materials determined by the Committee to be made available to such other committee of the House or non-Committee Member.

(n) ENSURING CLEARANCES AND SECURE STORAGE.—The Director of Security and Registry shall ensure that such other committee or non-Committee Member receiving such classified materials may properly store classified materials in a manner consistent with all governing rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and statutes.

(o) LOG.—The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall maintain a written record identifying the particular classified document or material provided to such other committee or non-Committee Member, the reasons agreed upon by the Committee for approving such transmission, and the name of the committee or non-Committee Member receiving such document or material.

(p) MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.

(1) STAFF DIRECTOR'S ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The Staff Director is further empowered to provide for such additional measures, which he or she deems necessary, to protect such classified information authorized by the Committee to be provided to such other committee or non-Committee Member.

(2) NOTICE TO ORIGINATING AGENCY.—In the event that the Committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information provided to the Committee by an agency of the executive branch to a non-Committee Member or to another committee, the Chairman may notify the providing agency of the Committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.

15. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

(a) GENERALLY.—The Chief Clerk, under the direction of the Staff Director, shall maintain a printed calendar that lists:

(1) The legislative measures introduced and referred to the Committee;

(2) The status of such measures; and

(3) Such other matters that the Committee may require.

(b) REVISIONS TO THE CALENDAR.—The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of each such revision shall be furnished to each Member, upon request.

(d) CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.—Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, legislative measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chief Clerk to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

16. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chairman shall maintain an official Committee web site for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

17. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with clause 2(a) of House Rule XI, the Chairman is authorized and directed to offer a privileged motion to go to conference under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

18. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Chairman may authorize Members and Committee Staff to travel on Committee business.

(b) REQUESTS.

(1) MEMBER REQUESTS.—Members requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request directly to the Chairman.

(2) COMMITTEE STAFF REQUESTS.—Committee Staff requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request through their supervisors to the Staff Director and the Chairman.

(c) NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS.

(1) GENERALLY.—Members shall be notified of all foreign travel of Committee Staff not accompanying a Member.

(2) CONTENT.—All Members are to be advised, prior to the commencement of such travel, of its length, nature, and purpose.

(d) TRIP REPORTS.

(1) GENERALLY.—A full report of all issues discussed during any travel shall be submitted to the Chief Clerk of the Committee within a reasonable period of time following the completion of such trip.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—Such report shall be:

(A) Available for review by any Member or appropriately cleared Committee Staff; and

(B) Considered executive session material for purposes of these rules.

(e) LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL.

(I) GENERALLY.—The Chairman is not authorized to permit travel on Committee business of Committee Staff who have not satisfied the requirements of subsection (d) of this rule.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Chairman may authorize Committee Staff to travel on Committee business, notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of this rule,

(A) At the specific request of a Member of the Committee; or

(B) In the event there are circumstances beyond the control of the Committee Staff hindering compliance with such requirements.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this rule the term ''reasonable period of time'' means:

(1) No later than 60 days after returning from a foreign trip; and

(2) No later than 30 days after returning from a domestic trip.

19. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

(a) GENERALLY.—The Committee shall immediately consider whether disciplinary action shall be taken in the case of any member of the Committee Staff alleged to have failed to conform to any rule of the House of Representatives or to these rules.

(b) EXCEPTION.—In the event the House of Representatives is:

(1) In a recess period in excess of 3 days; or

(2) Has adjourned sine die; the Chairman of the full Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may take such immediate disciplinary actions deemed necessary.

(c) AVAILABLE ACTIONS.—Such disciplinary action may include immediate dismissal from the Committee Staff.

(d) NOTICE TO MEMBERS.—All Members shall be notified as soon as practicable, either by facsimile transmission or regular mail, of any disciplinary action taken by the Chairman pursuant to subsection (b).

(e) RECONSIDERATION OF CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.—A majority of the Members of the full Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chairman to take disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (b).

20. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House.

21. COMMITTEE RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(a) GENERALLY.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) NOTICE OF WITHHOLDING.—The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the full Committee for a determination of the question of public availability on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

22. CHANGES IN RULES

(a) GENERALLY.—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by vote of the full Committee.

(b) NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES.—A notice, in writing, of the proposed change shall be given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change is to be taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will lay to rest a truly gifted friend, colleague, and public servant, Representative from the California's 37th Congressional District, Juanita Millender-McDonald. So today I would like to pay tribute to her legacy.

In 1997 Glamour Magazine wisely named Congresswoman Millender-McDonald as ''one of 11 women who will change the world.'' And even though she has left us before her time, her very significant and meaningful impact on the world is known.

Although Congresswoman Millender-McDonald has crossed over, her actions will continue to reverberate for us and for generations yet unborn.

We both came to the Congress as a result of special elections in 1996. She came on March 25 and I was sworn in on April 26. As a close colleague, I was proud to see her take the helm of the House Administration Committee, which deemed her the ''Mayor of the House of Representatives.'' And, indeed, she was. In fact, she was the first African American woman to chair a House Committee.

Further, within this committee, she was a leader in addressing issues of voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement.

I also worked closely with her on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for 11 years. And most recently, as Congress worked with the passage of the SAFETEA–LU bill, a major piece of legislation addressing highways, transit, and other public legislation, she was indeed a strong advocate for her district and for her State.

When I served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I asked her to serve as the chairperson of the Annual Legislative Weekend, and she did with class.

2003, the year that she served as head of the Annual Legislative Weekend, was a very difficult year for all of us. The caucus had several issues to confront: Widespread unemployment, the war in Iraq, and coping with the negative effects of the Bush administration policies. Still, amidst these tough times, she led a 4-day conference entitled, ''Collective Leadership—Challenging a Bold New World.''

That conference reenergized our constituencies to fight for that better world that she fought for every day.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald changed the world by being a pioneer, and she paved a path for many to follow. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council. She was the first to hold the position of chairperson of two very powerful California State Assembly committees, Insurance and Revenue Taxation, in her first term.

Here in Washington she gave a voice to the voiceless by speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions of the world. She also addressed global HIV/AIDS, which was a major issue for her, and she conducted an annual march in her district.

During the 108th Congress, she drafted language that was incorporated into the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, which authorized funding to reduce mother-to-child transmissions of HIV/AIDS and gave priority in awarding of funds to organizations focused on family survival.

In the 109th Congress, she introduced legislation to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that would establish a network of pediatric centers in certain developing countries to provide treatment and care for children with HIV/AIDS. She fought tirelessly for women's rights and empowering women to be all that they can be.

As the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus for Women's Issues, she led the caucus on two groundbreaking meetings, the first with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally, and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

She also worked to give women who served our country in uniform during wartime the recognition which they richly deserved. In this regard, she initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, and led the fight to secure $15 million for the maintenance of that memorial.

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald did indeed change the world, and she will not be forgotten. My prayers go out to her husband and her family.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PLAN B

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, some years ago I heard someone say that the secret to life is how you handle plan B. That resonated with me because so few things in this world go exactly as planned. Tragically, for the 3,300 American soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq, there will never be a plan B. And for more than 20,000 other soldiers, plan B, sadly, will include a wheelchair, a prosthetic limb, a serious brain injury, or a lifetime of posttraumatic stress disorder. And the even greater tragedy is that the sacrifices of many of those courageous men and women could have been avoided had President Bush had a plan B in Iraq.

Many of us saw this coming back in 2002. It was evident that the President's team was either so brazenly self-confident or so badly misinformed that they never saw the need for an alternative strategy, and certainly not for an exit strategy. And now, 4 years after ''mission accomplished,'' there is still no plan B coming from the White House, only a transparent appeal to the national pride that we must win, without regard to cost or duration, and without the slightest understanding of what a victory might look like.

Last night, this body took an important step in the Iraq tragedy. We set a new direction for our effort because the President has refused to do so. We not only provided the resources requested by the President to ensure the safety of our troops, we added funding needed to fulfill our obligations to those troops who have been wounded in action, and to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for all of us. But more important, we have provided the framework for bringing our troops home.

Like many of my colleagues, I would have preferred a stronger measure. While I have never advocated a fund

cutoff as a way to end our combat activity in Iraq, I would have liked to have forced the redeployment of our troops out of harm's way as soon as reasonably possible. But as our extraordinary Speaker has said, we must not let our search for the perfect become the enemy of the good. And last night we passed a good and reasonable approach to ending the war in Iraq.

The President has said that he will veto this bill, and it is clear to me that after 4 years of refusing help or advice from anyone who has not bought into his policy, he is not about to welcome our assistance now. But he should. This bill provides President Bush with the exit strategy he has never had, but which the American people so desperately want. He would be foolish not to sign it.

POVERTY CRISIS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Last year, and I guess also nearly 2 years ago, and really for many of our lives, we have known that there is a poverty crisis in America, which is growing. I think what we saw after the terrible hurricanes was that this gap, of course, is widening between the haves and the have-nots, and it is not only in the gulf coast region, it is throughout our country.

While the hurricanes, especially Hurricane Katrina, exposed the disparity for all to see, the fact is, poverty is not just isolated to the gulf coast; it does exist throughout our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the fact and to remind the country that our land really should be a land of opportunity, but the sad reality is that income inequality continues to grow, and more people are falling into poverty than getting ahead. We are heading in the wrong direction, and we need a national commitment to address the growing poverty crisis in the Nation. That is why this week's release of a report by the Center for American Progress entitled, ''From Poverty to Prosperity'', a national strategy to cut poverty in half, this is a significant contribution to the efforts of anti-poverty activists, and it is a valuable roadmap for concerned lawmakers, like all of us are.

The report found that not only is poverty in the United States bad, it's getting worse. Just consider the fact that over 37 million Americans, more than the population of my home State, are in poverty, and the number has grown by 5 million since the Bush administration took office. One in eight Americans now live in poverty. Poverty in the United States is far higher than in many other developed nations, and poverty and inequality, of course, here is at an all-time high.

The richest 1 percent of Americans in 2005 held the largest share of the Nation's income since 1929, and at the same time, the poorest 20 percent held only 3.4 percent of the Nation's income.

The report's recommendations are based on four principles: promoting decent work, promoting opportunity for all; ensuring economic security; and helping people build wealth. Based on these principles, the report offered 12 steps, which include raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation, expanding the earned income and children's tax credits, promoting unionization by making it easier for employees to vote to join a union, offering child care assistance for low-income families, guaranteeing early education for all, and providing 2 million people with opportunity housing vouchers.

Madam Speaker, you may have noticed that the new Democratic Congress has taken steps toward enacting these recommendations. Additionally, many of my colleagues have been advocating for related poverty alleviation issues and ideas and strategies through the Out-of-Poverty Caucus that I founded, along with my colleagues, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, Congressman MIKE HONDA, and Congressman JOE BACA.

In the same vein, I have also introduced a comprehensive package of poverty elimination legislation. These three bills are designed to create leadership, accountability, and the national reevaluation of our economic priorities and developing policies to eliminate poverty in our Nation.

The first bill, H. Con. Res 19, calls on President Bush to submit to Congress a plan, this is just a plan, mind you, to eradicate poverty by 2015.

The second bill, H. Con. Res 10, requires accountability from Congress by requiring the Congressional Budget Office to report the poverty impact of legislation pending before Congress similar to environmental impact statements.

The final bill, H.R. 352, demands a reevaluation of our priorities by rolling back tax cuts for the wealthiest 5 percent and dedicating the funds to poverty elimination programs.

Madam Speaker, fighting poverty really isn't a mystery, it's just not a priority for us, and it's time to make it a national priority. It just requires us to make a commitment to the goal of eliminating poverty and then dedicate the resources to do that.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in this important fight by reading the report, first of all, and cosponsoring these bills and joining the Out-of-Poverty Caucus.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. SPRATT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mr. REYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 3.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1681. An act to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2007 at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1310. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

1311. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 05-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1312. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204 (f); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1313. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a critical breach in Average Procurment Unit Cost (APUC) for the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1314. A letter from the Directors, Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a joint report on the technical assumptions to be used in preparing estimates of National Defense Function (050) fiscal year 2008 outlay rates and prior year outlays, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 226; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1315. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Interim Report on the Recruiter Incentive Pay Pilot Program, pursuant to Section 681 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1316. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the specific amounts of staff years of technical effort to be allocated for each Federally Funded Research and Development Center during FY 2008, as required by section 8023(e) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 109-289; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1317. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for the Army for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the Adaptive Re-Use Study for the GSA Warehouse Area, Springfield, Virginia, as required by Section 2868 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1318. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the FY 2006 annual report on Military Assistance, Military Exports, and Military Imports, as required by Section 655 of the Forei gn Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1319. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report for 2006 on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Activities in countries described in Section 307 (a) of the Foreign Assistance Act, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2809(c)(2); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1320. A letter from the President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Report on the Development and U.S. Effects of the Corporation's FY 2006 projects, in accordance with Section 240A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1321. A letter from the Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2006 Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1322. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2006 Annual Report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1323. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2006 Annual Report on EEO Complaints Activity, in compliance with Section 203 of the No FEAR Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1324. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting the Office's FY 2006 Annual Report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1325. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting a copy of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1326. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's FY 2006 Annual Report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1327. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation 501-D Series Turboprop Engines. [Docket No. FAA-2006-26193; Directorate Identifier 2001-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-14853; AD 2006-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1328. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney PW4077D, PW4084D, PW4090, and PW4090-3 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-24034; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-05-AD; Amendment 39-14959; AD 2007-04-26] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1329. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320 and A321 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27360; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-026-AD; Amendment 39-14986; AD 2007-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1330. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Beech Models 45 (YT-34), A45 (T-34A, B-45), and D45 (T-34B) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25105; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-33-AD; Amendment 39-14982; AD 2007-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1331. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26231; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-61-AD; Amendment 39-14985; AD 2007-06-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1332. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-26834; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-235-AD; Amendment 39-14984; AD 2007-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1333. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26516; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-173-AD; Amendment 39-14983; AD 2007-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1334. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Microturbo Saphir 20 Models 095 Auxiliary Power Units (APU) [Docket No. FAA-2006-24846; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-21-AD; Amendment 39-14981; AD 2007-05-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1335. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Model MBB-BK 117 C-2 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2006-26721; Directorate Identifier 2006-SW-28-AD; Amendment 39-14961; AD 2006-26-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1336. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6-80C2 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-23871; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-14975; AD 2007-05-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1337. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Teledyne Continental Motors GTSIO-520 Series Reciprocating Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20850; Directorate Identifier 2005-NE-05-AD; Amendment 39-14976; AD 2007-05-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1338. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 Airplanes and Model A340-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26707; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-14973; AD 2007-05-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1339. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, and A321 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26706; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-14974; AD 2007-05-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1340. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Aircraft Engines (GE) CF34-3A1/-3B/-3B1 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2007-27308; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-06-AD; Amendment 39-14977; AD 2007-05-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1341. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Glasflugel Models H 301 ''Libelle,'' H301B ''Libelle,'' Standard ''Libelle,'' and Standard Libelle–201B Sailplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–24709; Directorate Identifier 2006–CE–28–AD; Amendment 39–14980; AD 2007–05–19] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1342. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA–2007–27023; Directorate Identifier 98–ANE–47–AD; Amendment 39–14978; AD 2007–05–17] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1343. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Alpha Aviation Design Limited (Type Certificate No. A48EU previously held by APEX Aircraft and AVIONS PIERRE ROBIN) Model R2160 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–26493; Directorate Identifier 2006–CE–78–AD; Amendment 39–14964; AD 2007–05–03] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1344. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Mooney Airplane Company, Inc., (Mooney) Models M20M and M20R Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–6071; Directorate Identifier 2006–CE–51–AD; Amendment 39–14965; AD 2007–05–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1345. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE Models M.S. 760, M.S. 760A, and M.S. 760B Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–26489; Directorate Identifier 2006–CE–74–AD; Amendment 39–14966; AD 2007–05–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1346. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 172R, 172S, 182S, 182T, T182T, 206H, and T206H Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–25261; Directorate Identifier 2006–CE–38–AD; Amendment 39–14971; AD 2007–05–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1347. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–600, –700, –700C, and –800 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2006–25000; Directorate Identifier 2006–NM–096–AD; Amendment 39–14955; AD 2005–24–03 R1] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1348. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Fremont, MI [Docket No. FAA–2006–23902; Airspace Docket No. 06–AGL–01] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1349. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D and E Airspace, Amendment of Class E Airspace; Leesburg, FL [Docket No. FAA–2006–23866; Airspace Docket No. 06–ASO–3] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1350. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class E2 Surface Area; Elko, NV [Docket No. FAA–2006–25252; Airspace Docket No. 06–AWP–12] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1351. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mooresville, NC [Docket No. FAA–2006–24858; Airspace Docket No. 06–ASO–8] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1352. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Pinedale, WY [Docket No. FAA–2005–23361; Airspace Docket No. 05–ANM–17] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1353. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Eagle, CO [Docket No. FAA–2006–24467; Airspace Docket No. 06–ANM–2] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1354. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Kalispell, MT [Docket No. FAA–2005–23157; Airspace Docket No. 05–ANM–15] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1355. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Provo, UT [Docket No. FAA–2006–24234; Airspace Docket No. 06–AWP–5] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1356. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class D Airspace; Elko, NV [Docket No. FAA–2006–24243; Airspace Docket No. 06–AWP–11] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1357. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Offshore Airspace Area 1485L and Revision of Control 1485H; Barrow, AK [Docket No. FAA–2006–23872; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–9] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1358. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Willow, AK [Docket No. FAA–2006–23709; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–02] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1359. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Kaiser/Lake Ozark, MO [Docket No. FAA–2006–25008; Airspace Docket No. 06–ACE–6] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1360. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Wellington Municipal Airport, KS [Docket No. FAA–2006–24869; Airspace Docket No. 06–ACE–4] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1361. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D Airspace; Broomfield, CO [Docket No. FAA–2006–25153; Airspace Docket No. 06–AWP–10] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1362. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Adak, AK [Docket No. FAA–2006–24003; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–12] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1363. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E5 Airspace; Potosi, MO [Docket No. FAA–2006–25944; Airspace Docket No. 06–ACE–14] received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1364. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the Norton Sound Low Offshore Airspace Area; AK [Docket No. FAA12006–23926; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–10] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1365. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Low Altitude Reporting Point; AK [Docket No. FAA–2005–225010; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–17] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1366. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Huslia, AK [Docket No. FAA–2006–24004; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–13] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

1367. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Legal Description of Class D and E Airspace; Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright Army Airfield, AK [Docket No. FAA–2006–24813; Airspace Docket No. 06–AAL–16] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1368. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch [Docket No. FAA–2000–7953; Amendment Nos. 401–4, 406–3,

413–7, 415–4, 417–0] (RIN: 2120–AG37) received April 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1369. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Review of Data Filed by Certified or Commuter Air Carriers To Support Continuing Fitness Determinations Involving Citizenship Issues [Docket No. OST–2003–15759] (RIN: 2105–AD25) received April 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1370. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Human Space Flight Requirements for Crew and Space Flight Participants [Docket No. FAA–2005–23449] (RIN: 2120–AI57) received April 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTED BILLS SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1873. A bill to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes, with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for a period ending not later than May 4, 2007, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(m), rule X (Rept. 110–111, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WATT, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 2046. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the licensing of Internet gambling facilities by the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DENT (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia):

H.R. 2047. A bill to remove the 18 or 36 month limitation on the period of COBRA continuation coverage; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 2048. A bill to facilitate the provision of care and services for members of the Armed Forces for traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HARE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. DOYLE):

H.R. 2049. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for certain violators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mrs. CUBIN):

H.R. 2050. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States to obtain reimbursement under the Medicaid Program for care or services required under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act that are provided in a nonpublicly owned or operated institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FARR, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 2051. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for the application of mandatory minimum maturity standards applicable to all domestic and imported Hass avocados; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2052. A bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 2053. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore financial stability to Medicare anesthesiology teaching programs for resident physicians; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUCHER (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAVES, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. RADANOVICH):

H.R. 2054. A bill to reform the universal service provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR:

H.R. 2055. A bill to improve children's access to health care coverage under the Medicaid Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 2056. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the Medicare part D prescription drug program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2057. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a rebuttable presumption that the use of a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 would apply with respect to actions by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to certain activities for the purpose of exploration or development of oil or gas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 2058. A bill to include costs incurred by the Indian Health Service, a federally qualified health center, an AIDS drug assistance program, certain hospitals, or a pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance program in providing prescription drugs toward the annual out of pocket threshold under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act and to provide a safe harbor for assistance provided under a pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOOLEY:

H.R. 2059. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to provide members of the National Guard additional time to transition to civilian life when they return from active duty in support of contingency operations or homeland defense missions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. INSLEE:

H.R. 2060. A bill to nullify the March 2, 2007, determination of the Copyright Royalty Judges with respect to webcasting, to modify the basis for making such a determination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 2061. A bill to protect home buyers from predatory lending practices; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 2062. A bill to set forth limitations on the United States military presence in Iraq and on United States aid to Iraq for security and reconstruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 2063. 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; to the

Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 2064. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require emergency contraception to be available at all military health care treatment facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a Medicare operated prescription drug plan option to deliver a meaningful drug benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OLVER (for himself, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 2066. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve access to advanced practice nurses and physician assistants under the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California):

H.R. 2067. A bill to provide construction, architectural, and engineering entities with qualified immunity from liability for negligence when providing services or equipment on a volunteer basis in response to a declared emergency or disaster; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REYES (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 2068. A bill to establish the Southwest Regional Border Authority; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STARK (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by imposing a tax on primary fossil fuels based on their carbon content; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

H.R. 2070. A bill to amend part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding adequate yearly progress and assessments; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico:

H.R. 2071. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding health care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 132. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Con. Res. 133. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Ms. GIFFORDS):

H. Res. 339. A resolution supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. POE, and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H. Res. 340. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. TANNER):

H. Res. 341. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''American Eagle Day'', and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 342. A resolution congratulating Berkeley College on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H. Res. 343. A resolution commemorating the marinas of the United States, expressing support for the designation of the sixth annual National Marina Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania introduced a bill (H.R. 2072) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Richard Gresko, of Newtown, Pennsylvania, for acts of valor in the Republic of Vietnam on March 11 and 12, 1970, while serving as a lance corporal in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. CARSON, Mr. STARK, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Ms. HOOLEY.

H.R. 111: Mr. KAGEN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 154: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 176: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 284: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 297: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 505: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 507: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. WU, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 531: Ms. NORTON and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 549: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 553: Mr. DONNELLY.

H.R. 562: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 592: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 601: Mr. FILNER and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 631: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 638: Mr. MCCARTHY of California.

H.R. 642: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 643: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. DENT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. COOPER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 677: Mr. LANTOS and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 721: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 741: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

H.R. 748: Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 757: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 758: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 805: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 819: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 894: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 989: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 1022: Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1023: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1092: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1123: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 1125: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 1142: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BACA, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. BEAN.

H.R. 1147: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1229: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 1236: Ms. LEE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1282: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1330: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1331: Ms. LEE and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1343: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DICKS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. DRAKE.

H.R. 1344: Ms. CARSON, Mr. BACA, and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1346: Mrs. JONES of Ohio and Mr. HODES.

H.R. 1365: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 1366: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1377: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1381: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1398: Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr.

GOODE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mrs. DRAKE, and Mr. CANNON.

H.R. 1407: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 1419: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1474: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1506: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1510: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1532: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1537: Mr. WELDON of Florida and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1576: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1584: Mr. WU, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1609: Ms. WATSON, Mr. LANTOS, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1610: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mrs. BONO, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 1647: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1649: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1688: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WYNN, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 1693: Mr. HOLT, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1728: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1735: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1740: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. FARR, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1762: Mr. MELANCON.

H.R. 1770: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 1773: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky and Mr. Shuler.

H.R. 1783: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1789: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 1810: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1835: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1870: Mr. GORDON, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1875: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1878: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1902: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 1907: Mr. FARR and Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 1909: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1930: Mr. PENCE and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1937: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DICKS, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1940: Mr. HAYES, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 1961: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1992: Mr. MOLLOHAN and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2015: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. LEE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2032: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.J. Res. 16: Mr. LINDER.

H. Con. Res. 25: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DINGELL, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 95: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 100: Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Res. 102: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 121: Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. DELAURO.

H. Res. 146: Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 171: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. Res. 189: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 223: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Res. 250: Mr. AKIN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H. Res. 257: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H. Res. 259: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. SKELTON.

H. Res. 264: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H. Res. 272: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 282: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. RUSH.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007 *No. 68*

Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. John Koski, Dearborn Assembly of God, Dearborn, MI.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Omnipotent God, thank You for our hand, which reminds us of our priorities in prayer. Our thumb reminds us to pray for those closest to us. Bless our Senators' loved ones, friends, and staff.

Our pointing finger reminds us to pray for our spiritual leaders and teachers. Show our Senators the straight way so that they will not go astray.

Our tallest finger reminds us to pray for our elected leaders. Give our Senators wisdom in dealing with people who oppose them.

Our ring finger reminds us to pray for the weak in our society. Empower our Senators to support children and future children, the fatherless and widows, the poor, the needy, the sick and elderly.

Our little finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last. Bring balance to our Senators' lives, spirit, soul, and body.

In the name of our all-powerful Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY 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, April 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to turn shortly to the senior Senator from Michigan to say a few words regarding the prayer.

Today, all time until 12:45 p.m. is equally divided between the two leaders, with a period for morning business extending only until 10 a.m.

At 10, the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental conference report. At that time, the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee are expected to be here to make their opening statements.

The vote on adoption of the conference report is expected to occur at 12:45 p.m. today.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the last 15 minutes prior to the vote be equally divided between the two leaders with the majority leader controlling the last half.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me indicate I probably will give some of that time to one of my colleagues on this side of the aisle and use the leader time. But I will have a very brief statement right before the vote.

I commend the majority leader and all of us for working together, frankly, to get this bill down to the President at the earliest possible time.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, are we under controlled time at this point?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield myself 8 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 8 minutes.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our opening prayer this morning was delivered by Rev. John Koski, an associate pastor at the Dearborn Assembly of God in Dearborn, MI. I am delighted that Chaplain Black was able to include him in our schedule of guest Chaplains.

Reverend Koski has served as a pastor on a Native American reservation in Montana, as a Christian school administrator in Colorado, and as a Bible College professor in Louisiana. He has conducted a bicycling ministry for 4 years in southeast Asia, traveling 20,000 miles on his bicycle.

I know my colleague Senator STABENOW joins me in thanking Reverend Koski for delivering our opening prayer this morning and wishing him all the best in his ministries in the future.

Printed on recycled paper.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, relative to the conference report that is before the Senate, this emergency supplemental appropriations bill includes $95 billion for the Department of Defense, primarily to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is approximately $4 billion more than the President requested for the Department of Defense, including $2.2 billion above the President's request for health care for our service men and women and their families.

When the military forces are in harm's way, it is our solemn duty to provide the equipment they need and the health care they deserve, and we are meeting that duty with this bill. We also owe it to our troops to give them the best chance to succeed. In the case of Iraq, a majority of the Members of the Congress and a majority of Americans believe a change in course in Iraq will provide the best chance of success. That is at the heart of the debate here in Washington.

There is at least a broad, if not universal, consensus that the war in Iraq will not be won militarily and that a political settlement by the Iraqi leaders is required to end the sectarian violence and defeat the insurgency. General Petraeus made that point in a press conference in Baghdad on March 8 when he said:

Any student of history recognizes that there is no military solution to a problem like Iraq.

Iraq's own Prime Minister Maliki noted 5 months ago that:

The crisis is political, and the ones who can stop the cycle of aggravation and bloodletting of innocents are the [Iraqi] politicians.

The debate, then, is how best to bring about the political settlement that must take place. There are some who say security, particularly in Baghdad, is the key, and if Baghdad can be made secure, the Iraqi politicians will have breathing room to reach the agreements and pass the legislation that will lead to reconciliation.

Others, including this Senator, believe the Iraqis must be pressured to take responsibility for their own future, and the best way to do that is to convince them our military presence is not open-ended.

The emergency supplemental before us is designed to do just that. It forces the Iraqi leaders to take responsibility for their own country by ending the open-ended commitment to provide a U.S. security blanket. Instead, it would require the beginning of a partial reduction of U.S. troops, leaving time for the Iraqis to make the political compromises they promised to make months ago.

The bill calls for a change in mission for our forces in Iraq, from policing a civil war to a limited support mission, so that the Iraqis can finally realize our military presence in Iraq is not open-ended; that the future of their country is in their hands, not ours.

The present course in Iraq is failing. The Iraqis are no closer to political reconciliation today than they were when the surge began. Instead of Prime Minister Maliki's government becoming stronger, it appears it is weaker. Disagreements in the Government have prevented proposals for debaathification and oil revenue sharing legislation from even being forwarded to the Council of Representatives for consideration.

The committee considering amendments to the Iraqi constitution appears to be as far from completing its work as it has always been. Meanwhile, the Iraqi Assembly is apparently planning to go on a 2-month recess at the end of June. Now, let me repeat that since it is so unbelievable. The Iraqi Council of Representatives is apparently planning to go on a 2-month recess at the end of June.

Incredibly enough, a man named Hasan Suneid, who is a lawmaker and the adviser to Prime Minister Maliki, was quoted in the paper the other day as saying, ''Time is irrelevant.''

Well, time is plenty relevant to us, to our troops, and to their families. Baghdad is burning while the politicians in Iraq avoid responsibility for their own country's future. Even the detonation of a suicide bomb within the Green Zone killing Iraqi parliamentarians has failed to change the political situation. It appears the Iraqi factions are content to seek vengeance rather than reconciliation.

Senior administration officials, including Secretary Gates, Secretary Rice, and Ambassador Khalilzad have, in fact, wisely used this debate in Congress in an attempt to pressure the Iraqis to achieve political reconciliation.

Secretary Gates said the week before last in Jordan:

The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited. The strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably has had a positive impact . . . in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that it is not an open-ended commitment.

Secretary Gates told a press conference just last Thursday:

I think one of the ancillary benefits of the debate on the Hill is that the Iraqis have to know that this isn't an open-ended commitment. The President has said that our patience is not unlimited. I don't think we've been very stubborn in communicating these messages to the Iraqis.

That is what Secretary Gates said: ''I don't think we've been very stubborn in communicating these messages to the Iraqis'' that our patience is not unlimited. Well, we need to change course in Iraq. We need to stubbornly communicate our message to the Iraqis. Voting for this bill will help to send that message.

I yield the floor.

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 therein.

Under the previous order, all time until 12:45 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I am glad we are ready to begin again, after we finished up on our bill yesterday.

Finally, we will be prepared to deal with the funding for our troops today. It has taken a very long time but, nevertheless, I am glad the time has arrived.

I just wanted to say that as often is the case, I have had the opportunity to visit with several students from my wife's class at Washington Lee High School. Each year I look forward to her bringing her class here because it is important for young people to understand this is their Government as much as yours and mine. So I am delighted at the number of young people who come here from Wyoming and, in this case, from Virginia.

To learn more about this Government is so important, and these young people are, of course, tomorrow's responsible leaders. I am just delighted to have them here. We talked about the American COMPETES Act. These students and opportunities for them is what it is all about. That is what we have been talking about and thinking about.

The American COMPETES Act has a good purpose and a good role. America must maintain its competitiveness to be able to continue to compete. We need to challenge our young people and encourage them to challenge themselves to be prepared to move into the future and be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities this country provides for all of us.

However, I do not believe the solution to keeping America in the forefront of technology simply lies in throwing money there, without any particular reason to expect results from it.

We have gotten in the position here in the Congress that when we hear of a problem—and there are problems—if we can pass a bill and send some money, then we have accomplished our job. I am sorry, I do not believe that is necessarily the case. I think we have to take a look at where we are on these issues. For instance, how many Federal educational programs are there now? What kind of a job have we done in trying to see how effectively those dollars have been spent and are being spent? So just having more programs and more money is not necessarily the answer.

Certainly, these students and these schools need more money, and they need to have programs, but they really need support from dedicated teachers,

from parents, from family members, and friends.

Having discussed this topic on the floor before, we have to be careful about the number of Federal programs we continue. We talk about the budget over here, about deficit spending, and yet at the same time: Well, let's have another bill, let's have another $60 billion and go forward with programs of that kind.

It is important that we try to concern ourselves about adding more programs and not knowing necessarily where and how effectively that money is going to be spent. Unfortunately, most of the programs we put out there are institutionalized. They suddenly become part of the permanent process and are there forever and become permanent fixtures, irrespective of whether there are objectives to be met and whether they are meeting them. I hope, as we go forward, as we are now in the process of doing, with appropriations and funding for the year 2008 and being concerned about the deficit, about the amount of spending the Federal Government finds itself in and, frankly, the role of the Federal Government in terms of what the States should be doing, what local schools should be doing, these kinds of things, we will reevaluate what is the role of the Federal Government and how we can be most effective. We have a role, there is no question, but there is a limit to that role.

It is a little easy for us, if we see a problem, to say: Let's just pass another bill. Let's put some more money out there and then just walk away from it and say: We have done our job. That is not necessarily the case.

I believe the America COMPETES Act has good intentions. Perhaps it will do some good. But I have to say again that in retrospect, it is important that we look at what is the role of the Federal Government. What programs are we doing and how do we measure their effectiveness and how do we measure how long they will be there and how can we measure their impact. We will find out soon how that works.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

A word or two about the supplemental bill that will come before us today. We have talked about this a number of times. I must say that I am not pleased with how we have gotten to where we are. It has absolutely taken too long. There is no question, as my friend from the other side of the aisle says, that we need to talk about this issue. We have talked about it. We need to take positions. We have taken positions. That is a good thing. But the idea of simply stalling the money that is necessary to support our troops who are already there is not a good idea. Funding is not the way to deal with our feelings about it.

In particular, the process has taken too long. Billions in nonemergency spending has been added to the bill, things that may have merit, some of them, and some of them do not. Fortunately, some of them have been taken out. But the idea of adding spending that is totally irrelevant to funding the troops just doesn't seem to be appropriate. It sort of indicates the way we keep spending money around here and finding ways to hook it onto something else. I am disappointed in that.

The majority has attached an increase in the minimum wage to this bill. How does that fit the funding for the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq? During the conference, additional measures not in either the House nor Senate bill were quietly tucked in. We are using this as a transportation system for a lot of things, when the challenge before us is that we have troops there who have to be funded. There is talk about: Well, they don't need to be funded until July because they can take their money from somewhere else. Then you are taking money away from the various kinds of health care that is available for veterans and other things that are equally important.

What is most frustrating is the majority has used the parliamentary maneuver to deny a vote that I had intended as an amendment on the most egregious spending. We didn't get a chance to put that on the floor. Certainly, if there is anything that is appropriate, that would have been the way.

At any rate, we seem to have lost our focus somewhat. We had a good report yesterday from the commanding general in Iraq. He indicated that while we are not experiencing runaway success, we are beginning to see success in a new approach with new leadership, and they need our support. I am optimistic the Senate will have another opportunity to get through this, get it right, and get the funding to the troops. I will do my part to ensure that we do.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I join with my colleague from Wyoming in rising to express my concerns about the budgetary problems the Army and Marine Corps are going to face because the Democratic majority has committed to staging a showdown with the White House instead of fulfilling our obligation to fund the military.

Over 2 months ago, the former Army Chief of Staff, General Schoomaker, testified before the Armed Services Committee that if the Army and Marine Corps do not get the supplemental funding by mid-April, the services will experience a serious cashflow problem and have to take extraordinary measures that will slow down the whole system. On April 11, the Secretary of Defense wrote Congress and stated:

> It is a simple fact of life that if the Fiscal Year 2007 supplemental legislation is not enacted soon, the Army faces a real and serious funding problem that will require increasingly disruptive and costly measures to be initiated—measures that will inevitably negatively impact readiness and Army personnel and their families.

Moreover, on April 19, the Associated Press reported that the $70 billion provided to fight the war has mostly run out. I want to say that again: The $70 billion that the Army needs to fight this war has mostly run out.

In order to stretch their remaining funds through June, the Army is slowing down the purchase of nonessential repair parts. I am not sure what repair parts during a war are nonessential. I guess we will have to leave it to our generals to inform their soldiers that their vehicles are not getting repaired because they are nonessential.

There is important funding in this supplemental. For example, Senator BIDEN offered an amendment to purchase more mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles for our soldiers in the field. I commend Senator BIDEN for offering this amendment. I commend his commitment to it. Senator BIDEN said two things with which I wholeheartedly agree. First, he said that providing funding for these vehicles is a moral imperative. Second, he said it was a matter of life and death. I agree. His amendment and the supplemental as a whole represent a moral imperative for every Senator. It is a matter of life and death for our soldiers serving in combat. Yet the Democratic leadership is not handling this issue as a matter of life and death because they are determined to send a bill to the President that he has said he will veto.

As we all know, the President's objection to this bill is the troop withdrawal language that ties our commanders' hands and telegraphs to our enemies the time and place of our surrender. Congress should not and Congress must not get into the habit of interjecting itself into the military chain of command. To do so invites disaster and moves the country from the premise of conducting our military operations with one Commander in Chief and not running it by committee.

I direct some of my comments to some of our colleagues on the other side, primarily the leadership. I have been very concerned and shocked recently to read statements of members of the majority stating that their strategy is to send the President bills he will veto because it is politically advantageous. Some of our colleagues on the other side were quoted as saying recently:

> We are going to pick up Senate seats because of this war.

Quoting again:

> We will break them, because they [the Republicans] are looking extinction in the eye.

I would say to my Democratic colleagues, we are not the enemy. If you want to break something, let's break the enemy. Let's break al-Qaida. I am concerned about where this debate is headed.

I have to tell my colleagues, as I have listened to our colleagues talk about this war particularly of late, we have had Democratic leadership saying that the war was lost. If that is true, then who won? Terrorism? Al-Qaida?

Religious extremists who murder the innocent? Or all of the above? If this is a true and accurate representation of the majority's position, it is not surprising that Congress has not sent an emergency supplemental to the President.

I serve on the Armed Services Committee. I have traveled several times to Iraq. I have visited, numerous times, Walter Reed Hospital and the military hospital in Germany. I have to say that I have not talked to one GI who says the war is lost. I have not talked to one injured soldier who says the war is lost. I have not talked to one officer who has said the war is lost. I have not talked to one commander who has said the war is lost. The only place I hear the statement that the war is lost is right here from the Halls of our Nation's Capitol or from news reports from Al-Jazeera or Iranian television quoting the majority leader of the Senate.

Our American soldiers believe they can win. Our American soldiers always believe they can win. That is why they are American soldiers. They are the best. It has to be very disturbing to our American soldiers to constantly hear politicians in Washington, DC, telling them they can't win. The Democratic leadership in Washington is playing a game of roulette with the administration where the only losers will be the American soldier.

We need to focus on providing our troops the equipment and resources they need to win this war. It is a global war. We have to quit acting as if short-term political gains are going to win this war for us. They will not. We need a unified and serious effort on the part of both parties in the Congress to win this war and to keep our Nation secure. History is going to judge us based on how we respond to the crisis of our generation.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, instead of this body appointing an accusatory finger across the partisan aisle, what this body ought to be doing is invoking the old principle that in the old days, at the water's edge, partisanship stops. We have seen on both sides of the aisle too much of that partisanship, particularly in matters of war and peace. There is a genuine disagreement not only over the conduct of the war but the very fact that we are in this war to begin with. We can't do anything about that now. We were given false information, massaged information, misinformation that caused us to enter this war and, after a quick and very decisive and very impressive victory, then set about the process of an occupation that was fraught with error and misinformation. But that was then, and now is now. What is in the interest of the United States? Clearly it is to stabilize Iraq, if that is possible.

A distinguished group of Americans, five Republicans and five Democrats in the Iraq study commission, unanimously came together last winter and said what they thought would be the plan, the best way we could stabilize Iraq, led by an eminent and distinguished Republican, former Secretary of State and a former Chief of Staff in the White House to President Reagan, Jim Baker, and led by the longtime and distinguished and equally as respected former Congressman and former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the House, Lee Hamilton.

Now, this is not a question about losing or winning a war; this is a question about, What is the best chance we have for stabilizing Iraq? Because clearly a stabilized Iraq in that part of the world is going to certainly help the neighbors in the region, and it is certainly going to help us, and clearly it is going to help the Iraqis.

So what did the Iraq study commission say? Well, they said it very clearly. I am reading from the Executive Summary:

> The primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq should evolve to one of supporting the Iraqi army, which would take over primary responsibility for combat operations. By the first quarter of 2008—

By the way, that is a year from now, that is April, that is the end of March—

> By the first quarter of 2008, subject to unexpected developments in the security situation on the ground, all combat brigades not necessary for force protection could be out of Iraq.

It is true, they did not say ''should be out of Iraq.'' They said ''could be out of Iraq.'' But they are giving a blueprint.

I continue with the quote:

> At that time, U.S. combat forces in Iraq could be deployed only in units embedded with Iraqi forces, in rapid-reaction and special operations teams, and in training, equipping, advising, force protection, and search and rescue.

I conclude this particular paragraph:

> Intelligence and support efforts would continue. A vital mission of those rapid reaction and special operations forces would be to undertake strikes against al Qaeda in Iraq.

That is the Iraq Study Group report. It said: Go after al-Qaida. It said: Continue to train the Iraqi forces. It specifically talked about, in that training, embedding with Iraqi forces. It said ''force protection,'' meaning force protection for our forces and for U.S. personnel. And it said ''search and rescue'' missions. That is exactly what we have in front of us today to vote on.

Now, there is additional language put in here about the President would have to certify and waive on this and that progress by the Iraqi Government. Clearly, you want to give some indicators to the Iraqi Government of what we expect. Again, what we are voting on today is a goal of having redeployed—basically, with the waiver by the President, we are talking about October 1. This is April—May, June, July, August, September—6 months from now is the goal of starting the redeployment. It does not say ''withdrawal,'' it says ''redeployment'' because ''redeployment'' is a term that is then defined by all of those things we just talked about. That is in this legislation we are going to vote on today.

Now, there are those in this body I certainly respect who would say they do not want any kind of conditions put on the President in order to conduct the war. I respect that. That is a difference of opinion that we have. But common sense would tell you that you cannot conduct a war if you do not have the support of the American people. The American people clearly want change. So it is time for us to start the process of the change.

Now, this Senator, along with most every Senator in this Senate, was in the meeting yesterday with General Petraeus. There was clearly a message that General Petraeus had hope, but seasoned with a great deal of reality, realizing the additional complexity. There were no clear-cut answers yesterday in us meeting with the top general over there in Iraq, a general whom we all admire and respect. Yes, there is still hope. But there is also the need for change. This document starts the process of the change.

Now, it is my hope that after we go through this exercise, it will pass today—narrowly, just like it passed a month ago narrowly—the legislation will go down to the President—and he has already said he is going to veto it—and then is the opportunity for cooler heads, as the Good Book says, to come let us reason together. That is my hope.

So I will be voting for this supplemental funding request that funds the troops, that funds other necessary emergencies.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

IRAQ

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the subject of the emergency war supplemental and the adverse impact this political theater is having on our efforts in Iraq.

For me, this political gamesmanship calls to mind a book written some 50 years ago about some very brave men in our Nation's history—not brave in the sense of today's marines and soldiers, who are doing the grunt work in Afghanistan and Iraq to ensure that the free world can sleep in peace at night. No, the men in this book were brave for a very different reason.

The book I am referring to is the 1956 classic, ''Profiles in Courage,'' written by a young U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy, who later became our 35th President. The book is an account of men of principle, integrity, and bravery in American politics.

Then-Senator Kennedy profiled eight exceptional U.S. Senators from throughout the Senate's history whom he considered to be models of virtue

and courage under pressure. These men defied the public opinion of the day in order to do what was right for the country even though they suffered severe criticism and losses in popularity because of these actions.

The Senators profiled included: Thomas Benton from Missouri, for staying in the Democratic Party despite his opposition to extending slavery into the territories; Sam Houston from Texas, for opposing Texas' secession from the Union—for refusing to support this secession, Houston was later deposed as Governor—and Edmund Ross from Kansas, for voting for acquittal in the Andrew Johnson impeachment trial. As a result of Ross' vote, Johnson's presidency was saved and the stature of the office was preserved.

In this definitive book on political courage, each of the eight Senators profiled is today considered a ''hero'' for having done the right thing, not the popular thing.

They are heroes today for having filtered out the political noise of the chattering classes of their day.

They are heroes for having done what was in the best interest of the United States and not in their own political best interest.

They are heroes for doing what was necessary instead of simply doing what was easy.

Today, each of us faces our own ''Profiles in Courage'' moment. A clash of visions regarding America's future has brought us to this point.

One vision has America defeating al-Qaida and the forces of Islamic fascism.

The other vision has America surrendering in Iraq and allowing jihadist forces to determine Iraq's future, making America and the rest of the world less safe.

These competing visions must be reconciled by each individual Senator.

But let's understand exactly what the majority party is attempting to accomplish by hijacking this legislation. I could speak at length about the ample amounts of unrelated pork that have somehow found their way into this emergency supplemental. Those embarrassments continue to be addressed by my colleagues.

What I would like to do is spend a few minutes specifically discussing the misguided efforts of the other side to revise, or more accurately restrict, this Nation's policy in Iraq.

Democrats are once again attempting to constrain this Nation's Commander in Chief in the execution of his constitutional duties; this time by inserting language in the emergency supplemental that would limit the use of force in Iraq to certain congressionally preapproved ends.

It would also provide a date certain for the surrender of U.S. forces in Iraq. This language within the emergency supplemental unconstitutionally micromanages the conduct of the war from the floor of the U.S. Senate. It does so by providing that Congress, and not the Commander in Chief, would determine just how our military is to be used. It inserts 535 ''commanders in chief'' into the decisionmaking process when it comes to the execution of military operations in Iraq.

This is not what our Founding Fathers intended.

This legislation, as it is currently written, directs the President to begin the surrender of our forces no later than October 1 of this year, and calls for all U.S. combat forces to be back in the United States 180 days after that.

As a matter of policy, even the bipartisan Baker-Hamilton Commission specifically considered and rejected setting a timetable for our withdrawal from Iraq.

But this current debate we are engaged in regarding the emergency supplemental affects more than politicians on Capitol Hill. It goes far beyond the political posturing taking place on Sunday talk shows. It is more than a mere power struggle between the Commander in Chief and a new majority in Congress asserting itself.

No, this debate directly affects the health and well being of our men and women in uniform; men and women that this Congress authorized the President to send to Iraq.

This is unconscionable.

Recently, the Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on overseas basing issues. Witnesses represented the Department of Defense and the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

As the ranking member, I asked these witnesses about the impact that delaying enactment of the emergency supplemental would have on Department of Defense operations, particularly those associated with Iraq and Afghanistan.

I learned from them that the Army has already started to feel the financial squeeze of our failure to pass the emergency supplemental and has begun to limit certain functions.

They have had to curtail the training of Army Guard and Reserve units within the United States, thus reducing their readiness levels.

They have had to reprioritize predeployment training and eliminate anything that is not Iraq specific. No longer will units deploy to Iraq capable of handling the full spectrum of possible military scenarios.

The Army has begun reducing quality of life initiatives, including the routine upgrade of barracks and other facilities.

They have stopped the repair and maintenance of hundreds of tanks, Bradleys, and other vehicles necessary for deployment training.

The impact only gets worse with time.

If the emergency supplemental funding is not received by May 15—less than a month from now—the Army will undertake further actions.

These include:

reducing the pace of equipment overhaul work at Army depots, which will worsen the equipment availability problems facing stateside units;

curtailing training rotations for brigade combat teams scheduled for deployment to Iraq. This will also slow the arrival of more brigades which are needed to expand the Army's rotational pool and reduce stress on existing units.

This smaller rotational pool will result in the further extension of those currently deployed until their replacements are judged to be ready for deployment.

The Army would be forced to implement a civilian hiring freeze.

They would have to prohibit the execution of new contracts and service orders.

They would have to hold or cancel repair parts orders in the nondeployed Army, directly impacting the units' ability to deploy with mission capable equipment and fully trained soldiers.

I shudder to think of what additional steps the military will need to take if Democrats remain as stubborn and irresponsible regarding the emergency supplemental as they have proven to be up to this point.

Before we consider voting on any emergency supplemental legislation which includes the offending surrender language, we need to seriously ask ourselves: in 20, or 50, or even 100 years, will those generations that follow us look upon us as the heroes of our time for having done the courageous thing?

Will we be admired for having chosen to do what was in the best interest of the Nation, in the best interest of the world, regardless of the political costs?

Or will this body be viewed with disdain for having cast our vote to set certain a date for our surrender to the forces of al-Qaida?

Will we be viewed as inhumane for condemning some 25 million Iraqis to a living hell on earth?

It is my opinion that this misguided effort by my Democratic colleagues is a surrender strategy for Iraq; a surrender that will take us at least a year to complete, but a surrender strategy nonetheless.

I join today with the President in refusing to surrender to the likes of al-Qaida.

Calling this surrender a ''withdrawal,'' or a ''redeployment,'' is like putting lipstick on a pig. No matter what you call it, it is still a pig. And no matter what you call this surrender, it is still a ''surrender''.

Now, there might have been a time in our history when we could have hidden behind our own borders and not had to worry about what was happening in the Middle East or any place else across the ocean. Those days haven't existed for some time.

Remember the consequences of our abandonment of Afghanistan in the 1980s. We supported the Mujahedin against the Soviets until the Soviets surrendered, or ''withdrew'' as my Democratic friends would call it, in

1989. Then we left the Afghans to fend for themselves. In short order, they had a civil war. The Taliban rose to power and provided a safe haven for al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden established training camps where he trained some 20,000 terrorists in the late 1990s; graduates of those camps came here and killed 3,000 of our fellow citizens on 9/11.

Perhaps, at the end of the Cold War, it was difficult to imagine the impact of the U.S. leaving Afghanistan. The same cannot be said about leaving Iraq. We have to prevail in Iraq, and we can if we don't choose to surrender.

In closing, I have a question for those on the other side.

If my Democratic colleagues believe our current struggle against Islamic jihadists in Iraq is such a mistake; if you honestly believe that you were lied to or misled into initially supporting this war and that there is no useful purpose for continuing; if you believe that the lives of those in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice were truly wasted; if you believe that al-Qaida and the threat of Islamic fascism confronting America is merely something invented by a small band of neoconservatives, or; if Islamic fascism is simply an ideological movement that can be appeased and reasoned with; then why are you seeking to continue funding our fight in Iraq for even another day?

If you believe that Iraq is simply a mistake gone bad, then you should at least have the courage of your convictions and act accordingly. Vote to end the funding now.

Don't string along those putting their lives on the line for you to make some sort of weak political statement.

This may well be our ''Profiles in Courage'' moment. I implore you to do the right thing, not the currently popular thing. Support our men and women in uniform, and do it now.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time on the Republican side be allocated as the sheet I will send to the desk indicates, and I further ask that quorum calls be charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OBAMA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the conference report on H.R. 1591, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1591), ''making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes,'' having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of Tuesday, April 24, 2007.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak just for a few moments, not about the pending business, which I know is extremely important and that debate will go on throughout the day and perhaps over the next several days as we try to make decisions about supplemental spending for the Gulf of Mexico and the importance of the emergency that is still underway there, and as we try to debate the best way to find success in Iraq.

I wanted to take a moment to speak about another issue that is important today to many Americans. In fact, we are celebrating that day on Capitol Hill. It is called Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

I have been honored over the many years with my cochair, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, who is on the floor of the Senate today, to cohost this event for the Senate. We have many colleagues and staff members who participate in bringing their children and grandchildren and friends and neighbors to the Capitol to work to see the work of the Senate and the Capitol—how it happens, who makes it happen, and the significance of it. These children come from all over our country and take this experience back to their classrooms and into their homes and neighborhoods and share with their friends throughout the year.

I thank Ms. Magazine for starting this. Over 35 million adults and children will participate today. So in skyscrapers all over America, and on farms out in our rural areas, in small businesses and restaurants and small little boutique hotels, and even in home offices, children will be working with their parents or with their grandparents understanding the value of work, understanding and exploring options for themselves as they grow, and trying to make choices about how they can contribute significantly to this economy and to being part of the world community.

So I am pleased today to be able to submit for the RECORD the names of 14 young ladies who are with me today. I am not going to take the time to read their names, but I will submit them for the RECORD. They are from New Orleans, LA, and some from Manderville; some are from Washington, DC, friends of the family who are here; and others are from outlying areas such as Maryland and Virginia who have joined us today to be part of the Senate.

Already this morning some of these girls have participated in closing the gap with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation that met on Capitol Hill out on the west lawn of our Capitol this morning to talk about the great effort that is being made to address breast cancer, particularly in this country, and to not only find cures but to offer preventive measures to help women and families stay healthy in our country. They have already participated in a press conference and will be joining us later today as we work through our offices in and around the Senate complex.

I wanted to welcome them to the Senate. I will submit their names to be printed in the RECORD, and I encourage anyone in the Capitol complex, if you are not participating today, to think about next year and what you could do to contribute to make this day a special day for some child in either your family or in your community who could use an extra boost or some insight into a possible career for themselves.

I thank Senator REID for making the tour of the Senate possible today for the young girls and boys who got to spend some time on the floor earlier this morning, and I thank minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL for arranging the special tours for that as well.

Mr. President, I again thank Ms. Magazine for an extraordinary effort. I know the children enjoy getting a day off from school, but it is more than that, and I have enjoyed participating these many years.

I ask unanimous consent that the list to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

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

Morgan Daigle, 11, New Orleans, LA, St. Dominic.
Christine Evans, 10, Washington, DC, National Cathedral School.
Katherine Evans, 10, Washington, DC, National Cathedral School.
Charlotte Ganucheau, 13, Mandeville, LA, Our Lady of the Lake.
Sofia Gonzales, 13, New Orleans, LA, Metarie Park Country Day School.
Jamie Hauptmann, 11, Mandeville, LA, Lake Harbor, Middle.
Lena Jones, 12, Washington, DC, St. Peter's Inter-parish School Capitol Hill.
Gabrielle Kehoe, 11, New Orleans, LA, St. Pius X.
Kristen Landrieu, 12, New Orleans, LA, St. Dominic.
Natalie Mufson, 13, Washington, DC, Georgetown Day School.
Selin Odabas-Geldiay, 13, Washington, DC, Georgetown Day School.
Erica Sensenbrenner, 14, New Orleans, LA, Dominican High School.
Hannah Sensenbrenner, 12, New Orleans, LA, St. Dominic.
Eliza Matthews

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Iraqi supplemental. I want to discuss this briefly with my colleagues. I will vote against the conference report with a deadline in it. A conference report with a deadline in it, if it passes, and sending it to the President to sign—he is not going to sign it, but if he does sign it, if he would sign it—would be the day al-Qaida would declare victory. The day the deadline is set would be the day they would declare victory. I think it is the wrong way for us to go, and that is why I will be voting against the supplemental.

I am very pleased to support the President in his efforts not to set a deadline. I want to take the brief time I have to talk about a way forward because I think there is a bipartisan way forward. Once we get through this, and once this is forced upon the President, once he vetoes it, and once the veto is upheld—and I think these are motions we should not be going through because they take away precious time from focusing on a way forward, on a political solution that involves both sides of the aisle—we should focus on federalism in Iraq. It is something Senator BIDEN has spoken often about on the Democratic side, and I have spoke about on this side: federalism that will require a longtime presence by the United States in Iraq.

I have spoken several times on this floor about how Iraq is more than three groups in one country: a Kurdish group, a Sunni group, and a Shia group. It has been held together for much of its history—not altogether but in much of its history—by exterior forces that have not wanted it to fly apart, who still don't want it to fly apart. I think we should recognize these realities as we did in the former Yugoslavia, as we are today in Sudan where the south is going to vote to secede, and recognize these political forces and put in place a federated system: one country, three states, Baghdad as a Federal city where powers devolve to the states, and recognize that it will require a long-term U.S. military presence to ensure that it will work. It is a route forward, and it is a route forward that we can agree upon as a body. It is a route forward that has allowed for the Iraqi Constitution, with a distribution of oil revenues equally distributed throughout the country, to be able to help hold things together. It is a route forward that can get us to a political equilibrium, that can get the violence down, that can give each of the groups their area, their region, and allow us to move forward. It requires a long-term U.S. military presence such as what happened in Bosnia and the Dayton Accords, where 15 years later we are still there and we are going to be there for some period of time because if we are not, they are going to go back to the violent ways they have had, and they have done previously.

This is a realistic route that both sides of the aisle, that both parties, and the executive and legislative branches, could embrace.

I met last week with the Vice President about it. I talked with the National Security Adviser about it. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying: What is the plan? What is the exit plan? How do we get out? Here is a route to be able to deal with this. But they have to admit, as well, on their side that a timeline, a deadline will not work. We cannot do that. We cannot hoist it upon the President, and it will not work in that region. As soon as you set that deadline, as I said, al-Qaida will declare victory and people in the region will start looking for security in other places. They will be going to militias and different groups, and it will further fragment the country.

If we would just set our partisanship aside for a little while and think about this, we would recognize that this is the situation we are in and this is the only viable solution forward. We don't want to bring back a dictator or allow one back into Iraq. We don't want Iraq to devolve into a full-scale civil war with a terrorist state taking place in that country. We don't want to turn it over and just have the Shia run the whole place and run over the Kurds and run over the Sunni in the region. That is not realistic.

The other options are not viable and will not work. This is a route forward. I urge my colleagues that this prospect, this federalism that is enshrined in the Iraqi Constitution—the Iraqi Parliament passed a federalism law last year—the Kurdish regions in northern Iraq show that it is possible for Iraq and deepens its commitment to a Federal system. I urge my colleagues to embrace this after this is vetoed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, could I ask the Senator from West Virginia to yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. BYRD. Yes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized immediately following the remarks of Senator BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas.

It has been 4 years since the President sent our troops into Iraq, 4 long years. That is longer than it took to win World War II. More than 3,300 troops have sacrificed their lives in Iraq, and nearly 25,000 have been wounded—many severely.

With passage of this conference agreement, Congress will have appropriated more than $450 billion for the war in Iraq. Did my colleagues hear that? Four hundred and fifty billion dollars. That compares with the $296 billion which the United States spent on World War II. Yet in the 4 years since our troops succeeded in removing Saddam Hussein from power, the President has failed—and I say this with all due respect when I speak about the President—the President has failed in his mission to bring peace and stability to the people of Iraq. The troops had the courage and the strength to win the war, but the President has not had the wisdom to win the peace. It is time—past time—for a new direction in Iraq.

The agreement before us today provides that new direction. But rather than admit the need to change course, the President—and I say this with all due respect—continues to try to mislead the American public about the war in Iraq.

He recently asked Congress to ''put partisanship on hold.'' But then he, the President, voiced the incredible assertion that the attacks on 9/11 are linked to the war in Iraq. That is not true, and the American people know it.

The President complained that Congress is holding funding for the troops hostage to funding for domestic needs. President Bush claims that Democrats are adding porkbarrel spending to a bill intended for the troops. The President has charged that Democrats are ''legislating defeat'' in Iraq.

President Bush has tried to scare the pants off the public by suggesting that our bill could result in death and destruction in America. What utter nonsense. What hogwash. This Senate must not be a rubberstamp for this or any President. Under the Constitution, Congress has a duty to question the war policies of this or any President. We must listen to the voices of the people, and the American people have sent a very clear message to Washington: It is time to start to bring our troops home from Iraq.

The Congress has responded, crafting a new direction that will spur the Iraqi Government to pursue real political reconciliation in that country. The American people do not support an open-ended U.S. military occupation in Iraq. It is time for the truth; it is time for the White House to stop the fear mongering and face the truth.

In the book of John, chapter 8, verse 32 of the King James version of the Holy Bible are these words:

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

The Congress is not holding funding for the troops hostage to domestic porkbarrel spending. The $6.9 billion for rebuilding the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina is not pork barrel spending. Ask the citizens of New Orleans. The $1.8 billion for the VA to provide first-class health care to our wounded veterans is not porkbarrel spending. Ask the troops who are waiting for care, and ask their families. I know $20 million to repair Walter Reed Hospital is not pork barrel spending. The $650 million for the SCHIP child health program to deal with the shortfall in 14 States is not porkbarrel

spending. Ask the parents with sick children. The $2.25 billion for securing the country from terrorist attack, including port and border security, transit security, funds to improve screening for explosives at airports, and/or screening cargo on passenger aircraft is not porkbarrel spending. It is homeland security to prevent the death and destruction which President Bush warns about.

This country must not forsake critical domestic needs because of this President's single-minded obsession with his failed mission. Congress has appropriated more than $38 billion for rebuilding Iraq, and this agreement adds another $3 billion. I simply do not understand why this President—our President—is eager to commit billions of dollars to rebuild Baghdad but absolutely opposes additional money to rebuild the gulf coast here in America. Why does President Bush decry needed funds for the Veterans' Administration to build a first-class health care system for our brave troops?

Porkbarrel spending? I think not. The conference agreement that is before the Senate today totals $124 billion. It is lower than the House bill. Yet essential funding for gulf coast recovery, veterans medical care, homeland security, and agricultural disaster relief remains.

The conference report also includes an increase in the minimum wage—the first increase since 1997. It is needed, it is fair, and it is long overdue.

There is also $4.9 billion in tax incentives for small businesses that are fully paid for in the bill. Small business is the backbone of our economy and these incentives will help economic growth.

This bill includes more than $100 billion for the Department of Defense—nearly $4 billion above the President's inadequate request. It protects the troops by including $1.2 billion above the President's low number for mine-resistant vehicles.

This bill cares for the troops by providing $2.1 billion more than the President for health care, including more resources for troops with traumatic brain injury. Porkbarrel? I think not.

The President—our President—claims this is a partisan bill. The President claims Congress is trying to micromanage the war, substituting our judgment for the judgment of our generals. The President knows better.

The Constitution says that ''the Congress shall have power''—do you know what that means? The Congress, that is us—''the Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the common Defence.'' It is the Congress—yes, it is the Congress—that is given the sole power to declare war. The Congress is sworn to ''raise and support Armies.'' The Congress has heard the voices of the people, and we have responded as we are elected to do.

This conference agreement provides a new directive for the war in Iraq. It is patriotic, not partisan, to help the President to see the truth—the truth. It is our duty. It is a duty born of love for this great country, the Constitution, and the American people.

If the President decides to veto the bill, he will be holding funding for the troops hostage to his stubborn insistence on going into Iraq and the resulting disaster caused by his, the President's, war policies.

I encourage all Members to vote for this conference report. We can send a strong message to the White House. We can help this President face the truth. Four years after our troops removed Saddam Hussein from power, the President's policies simply are not working. They must change. We must come together as a country to repair the damage caused by this horrendous war—this horrendous war—and chart a new direction in Iraq.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Texas is to be recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I will be happy to yield.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the majority side, including time reserved for the leader, there is 53 minutes. And on the minority side, including the time of the leader, there is 74 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the speakers be in the following order: that following Senator HUTCHISON, I be recognized for 5 minutes, then Senator LIEBERMAN, then to Senator DURBIN for 5 minutes, to Senator INHOFE, and then to Senator KENNEDY for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Reserving the right to object, and I won't object, I am wondering why we are confining the time to 5 minutes if we have that many minutes remaining. If the Senator wishes to expand the time—

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I inform the Senator that I was limiting the Senators on our side to 5 minutes. The Senator from Oklahoma has unlimited time. I did not give time to speak on the Senator's side.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Parliamentary inquiry: There is a unanimous consent agreement already on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. What is the amount allocated for Senator INHOFE?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous agreement, Senator INHOFE is provided 5 minutes.

Is there objection to the request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, does the time start now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, when Tom Brokaw wrote the book ''The Greatest Generation,'' it reminded America what is great about our country. It reminded us that men and women have sacrificed through the years for our country to make sure it was free for the next generation.

Can you imagine in the middle of World War II the Congress mandating the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe and the Pacific, oblivious to the facts on the ground or the absolute necessity to win? Can you even imagine in the middle of the Cold War if Congress had required the withdrawal of troops from the same parts of the world, thinking that if we withdrew our troops, the Communists would do the same and peace would prevail?

If earlier Congresses had done what it appears this Congress is trying to do, freedom would have died in Europe, it would have died where it was in Asia, and who knows what would have happened in the future in America.

Today we have to ask ourselves: Are we worthy of the sacrifices so many have made in the past? Are we going to stand for freedom and fight for future Americans to have the same opportunities we have had because so many brave men and women have sacrificed?

There are those who say this isn't a world war; it is a civil war; it is over there, and we can't do anything about it. This is a tough time, there is no question. Every one of us grieves when we see the killing of innocent people, Iraqis or Americans. But make no mistake about it, this is a world war. Al-Qaida is in Iraq. General Petraeus said that yesterday. They have all the evidence. They know what al-Qaida is doing there. They are attacking Americans. They are attacking Iraqis. They are trying to take over Iraq so they will have the capability to spread their terrorism throughout the world.

Does that mean they are in a civil war or are they an enemy we must face? If we don't face it there, we will face it in our own country. General Abizaid, the former Commander of U.S. CENTCOM, said to the Armed Services Committee: If we leave, they will follow us home. If we don't stand for freedom against this enemy, we will see it again. We will see it on our own shores, and we will see it in other parts of the world.

It would be unimaginable to me for Congress not to fund our troops and to send the mixed message out of Washington to the enemy, to our allies in such an important conflict that Congress isn't sure if America has the will to stand and fight for freedom. And make no mistake about it, that is what is at stake in these votes that are happening on Capitol Hill.

I have heard people say: Oh, we are going to vote on this every month because it is good for politics. They may think it is good for politics, but I say the American people are going to get it. They are going to understand if we look weak in the Congress on standing and fighting the enemy wherever it is to keep Americans secure, they will see what happens and they will question if

we are worthy of the sacrifices of the greatest generation.

I wondered when that book came out: If America were ever attacked, would we stand and fight for freedom? I hope the answer is yes. I hope the Congress will wake up and see that setting deadlines and sending the signal to the enemy that we are weak is not worthy of the sacrifices of the past.

I hope Congress will do the right thing, strip this language, send the money to the troops, and show that we, too, will stand for freedom for our children.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of this supplemental appropriations conference report, and let me begin by thanking Senator BYRD, the chairman of our Appropriations Committee, who has worked diligently throughout the process to bring us to this point today where we are addressing the critical infrastructure needs of this country as well as moving forward and changing course in Iraq.

I also thank and commend our majority leader, Senator REID, for his courage and his diligence in speaking out to get us to a point where we will be sending a message to the President and to the country that we are willing to be courageous and change course in Iraq.

The agreement before us takes us on a responsible path on many of the most pressing issues of the day—the war in Iraq, as we have talked about and I spoke about on the floor yesterday, moving forward with the needs of our veterans and our injured servicemembers, homeland security, and the needs of our hard-hit communities here at home.

I realize my colleagues across the aisle would prefer that Congress obediently approve the President's request, but we are not. Instead, we are providing a funding bill that meets the needs of the American people and those bravely serving for us overseas and all of those here at home.

Last November, on November 7, the American people called for an end to the rubberstamp Congress, and today we are here to deliver. This is not, as some have tried to say, simply a war-funding bill. Instead, it provides funding for critical needs here at home in addition to the $100 billion in funding that is directed to our troops who are serving us so honorably overseas.

In recent weeks, there has been a lot of heated rhetoric and plenty of mischaracterizations about this important bill. Much of that has focused on the critically necessary language that is included in this bill that will transition our mission in Iraq and begin to redeploy our troops.

As Senator BYRD stated, there is much more in this bill. We need to pass this legislation because we need a new direction in Iraq, but we also need to pass this bill because it provides everything our troops need to complete their mission. It provides billions of dollars more to take care of them when they come home, and it will, finally, help American communities recover and rebuild.

In addition to funding for the troops overseas, this conference agreement provides more than $5 billion to ensure that our returning troops and veterans get the critically important healthcare they have earned and deserve and which we now so vividly see is needed.

It provides $6.9 million for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Senator LANDRIEU has been on the floor many times to talk about those families who have been forgotten on the gulf coast. We have not forgotten them in this bill, and this must get to the President and be signed to take care of those families.

We provide $2.25 billion in homeland security investments, including funds for port security and mass-transit security, for explosives detection equipment at our airports, and for initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed here in the Senate. These are needs which we cannot forget, and we include them in this bill.

We provide $3½ billion to provide relief for our farmers and our ranchers across the country. There are many families who are struggling and who have suffered from drought and agricultural disasters. For too long, we have forgotten them in this country or ignored them or blocked their needs. The Senate today is saying we have not forgotten.

Finally, this conference agreement includes emergency funding for forest firefighting, a critical need throughout the West; low-income energy assistance, drastically needed in many of our communities; and pandemic flu preparations that all of us know we cannot forget.

I was on the floor yesterday to talk about much of the funding, but critically important is the funding for our troops and our veterans when they come home. We all vividly saw the Walter Reed scandal just a few weeks ago. We provide the funding to make sure our soldiers, whether they are at Walter Reed or any of our facilities across the country, get the best of care, from traumatic brain injury to post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Of course, again, we do have the Iraq language, which is so critical. I hope our colleagues, as we move this bill to the President, will remind him and the country that this bill is essential for our troops, for those of us here at home, and for the future of this country. We urge him to read the bill and to sign it.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

The Senator said it well. The Senator could not have said it better. Senator MURRAY is right.

I thank Senator MURRAY, and I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut has 10 minutes allocated in his own right.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the supplemental appropriations bill we are debating today contains language that would have Congress take control of the direction of our military strategy in Iraq. Like most Senators of both parties, I support the appropriations in this bill. But because I strongly oppose its language on Iraq, I will vote no.

Earlier this week, the Senate majority leader spoke at the Woodrow Wilson Center and laid out the case for why the bill now before this Chamber, in his view, offers a viable alternative strategy for Iraq. It was the most comprehensive recent argument in support of this position, and so I wish to address myself to its content respectfully and point by point.

I have great respect for my friend from Nevada. I believe he has offered this proposal in good faith, and therefore I wish to take it up in good faith and examine its arguments and ideas carefully and in-depth because this is a very serious discussion we are having this morning for America and its future security.

In his speech Monday, the Senate majority leader described the several steps this new strategy for Iraq would entail. The first step, he said, is to:

> . . . transition the U.S. mission away from policing a civil war . . . to training and equipping Iraqi security forces, protecting U.S. forces, and conducting targeted counter-terror operations.

I ask my colleagues to step back for a moment and consider this plan. When we say that U.S. troops shouldn't be policing a civil war, that their operation should be restricted to the narrow list of missions, what does this actually mean? To begin with, it means our troops will not be allowed to protect the Iraqi people from the insurgents and militias and terrorists who are trying to terrorize and kill them. Instead of restoring basic security, which General Petraeus has effectively argued should be the focus of any counterinsurgency campaign, it means our soldiers would, instead, be ordered, by force of this proposed law, not to stop the sectarian violence happening all around them no matter how vicious or horrific it becomes. I fear if we begin to withdraw, it will become both vicious and horrific.

In short, it means telling our troops to deliberately and consciously turn their backs on ethnic cleansing, to turn their backs on the slaughter of innocent civilians—men, women, and children singled out and killed on the basis of their religion alone or their ethnicity. It means turning our backs on the policies that led us correctly to intervene in the civil war in Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the principles that today lead many of us to cry out and demand intervention in Darfur. To me, this makes no moral sense at all.

It also makes no strategic or military sense. Al-Qaida's own leaders have

repeatedly said that one of the ways they intend to achieve victory in Iraq is to provoke civil war. They are trying to kill as many people as possible, precisely in the hope of igniting sectarian violence because they know this is their best way to collapse Iraq's political center, overthrow Iraq's elected Government, radicalize its population, and create a failed state in the heart of the Middle East that they can use as a base. That is why al-Qaida blew up the Golden Mosque in Samarra last February, and that is why we are seeing mass-casualty suicide bombings by al-Qaida in Baghdad today. The sectarian violence the majority leader says he wants to order American troops to stop policing, in other words, is the very same sectarian violence al-Qaida hopes will take it to victory. The suggestion that we can draw a bright legislative line between stopping terrorists in Iraq and stopping civil war in Iraq flies in the face of this reality. I don't know how to say it any more plainly. It is al-Qaida that is trying to inflame a full-fledged civil war in Iraq. So we cannot both fight al-Qaida and get out of the civil war. They are one.

The majority leader said on Monday that he believes U.S. troops will still be able to conduct targeted counterterror operations under his plan. Even if we stop trying to protect civilians in Iraq, in other words, we can still go after the bad guys. But, again, I ask my colleagues, how would this translate into reality on the ground? How would we find these terrorists, who do not gather on conventional military bases or fight in conventional formations?

By definition, targeted counterterrorism requires our forces to know where, when, and against whom to strike, and that, in turn, requires accurate, actionable, real-time intelligence. This is the kind of intelligence which can only come from ordinary Iraqis—the sea of people among whom the terrorists hide. That, in turn, requires interacting with the Iraqi people on a close, personal, daily basis. It requires winning individual Iraqis to our side because they conclude we are there on their side, gaining their trust, and convincing them they can count on us to keep them safe from the terrorists if they share valuable information about them. This is no great secret. It is at the heart of what is happening in Iraq today and is part of the Petraeus plan.

In sum, on this point, you can't have it both ways. You can't withdraw combat troops from Iraq and still say you are going to fight al-Qaida there. If you believe that there is no hope of winning in Iraq or that the cost of victory there is not worth it, then you should be for complete withdrawal as soon as possible.

There is another irony in the Iraq language in this bill. For most of the past 4 years, under former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, the United States did not try to establish basic security in Iraq. Rather than deploying enough troops necessary to protect the Iraqi people, the focus of our military has been on training and equipping Iraqi forces, protecting our own forces, and conducting targeted antiterrorist sweeps and raids—in other words, the very same missions proposed by the proponents of the legislation before us.

That Rumsfeld strategy failed, and we know why it failed. It failed because we didn't have enough troops doing the right things to ensure security, which in turn created an opening for al-Qaida and its allies to exploit and allowed sectarian violence to begin to run rampant. Al-Qaida stepped into the security vacuum, as did the sectarian militias, and through horrific violence created a climate of fear and insecurity in which political and economic progress became impossible.

For years, many Members of Congress saw this and spoke to it. We talked about it. We called for more troops and a new strategy—and, for that matter, a new Secretary of Defense. Yet now, when President Bush has come around, when he has acknowledged the mistakes that have been made and the need to focus on basic security in Iraq and to install a new Secretary of Defense and a new commander in Iraq, now his critics in Congress have changed their minds and decided that the old failed strategy—the Rumsfeld strategy—wasn't so bad after all, because that is what would be adopted in the language on Iraq in this bill. What is going on here? What has changed so that the strategy we criticized and rejected in 2006 suddenly makes sense in 2007?

The second element in the plan outlined by the majority leader on Monday is the phased redeployment of our troops no later than October 1, 2007. Let us be absolutely clear what this means. The legislation would impose a binding deadline for U.S. troops to begin retreating from Iraq. That withdrawal would happen regardless of conditions on the ground, regardless of the recommendations of General Petraeus—in short, regardless of reality, on October 1, 2007. As far as I can tell, none of the supporters of withdrawal have attempted to explain why October 1 is the magic date, what strategic or military significance this date holds. Why not September 1? Why not January 1 or April 1? October 1, 2007, is a date as arbitrary as it is inflexible. It is, I contend, a deadline for defeat.

How do proponents of this deadline defend it? On Monday, Senator REID gave several reasons. First he said a date for withdrawal puts ''pressure on the Iraqis to make desperately needed political compromises.''

But will it? According to the legislation now before us, the withdrawal will happen, regardless of what the Iraqi Government does. How, then, if you are an Iraqi Government official, does this give you any incentive to make the right choices? On the contrary, there is compelling reason to think a legislatively directed withdrawal of American troops will have exactly the opposite effect than its sponsors intend.

I ask the Chair, how much time have I used?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Connecticut has consumed the 10 minutes he was allocated.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I gather Senator CORNYN has yielded his 5 minutes to me?

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

This, in fact, is exactly what the most recent National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq predicted. A withdrawal of American troops in the months ahead would ''almost certainly lead to a significant increase in the scale and scope of sectarian conflict, intensify Sunni resistance, and have adverse effects on national reconciliation.''

That is the NIE, broadly supported and embraced by proponents of the Iraq language in this legislation.

Second, the majority leader said withdrawing our troops will ''reduce the specter of the U.S. occupation which gives fuel to the insurgency.''

My colleague from Nevada, in other words, is saying the insurgency is in some measure being provoked by the very presence of American troops. By diminishing that presence, presumably the insurgency will diminish.

But I ask my colleagues, where is the evidence to support this theory? I find none. In fact, all the evidence I find supports the opposite conclusion. Since 2003, and before General Petraeus took command and began implementing our new strategy there, American forces were ordered on several occasions to pull back from Iraqi cities and regions, including Mosul, Fallujah, Tel'Afar, and Baghdad. What happened in these places? Did they stabilize when the American troops left? Did the insurgency go away? Of course not.

On the contrary, in each of these places where U.S. forces pulled back, al-Qaida and sectarian warriors rushed in. Rather than becoming islands of peace, they became safe havens for terrorists, islands of fear and violence.

So I ask advocates of withdrawal, on what evidence, on what data have you concluded that pulling U.S. troops out will weaken the insurgency there when every single experience we have had since 2003 suggests that withdrawal, the kind of withdrawal mandated by this legislation, will strengthen the terrorists and insurgents and increase violence?

I ask my colleagues to consider the words of Sheikh Abdul Sattar, one of the leading tribal leaders in Anbar Province, who is now fighting on our side against al-Qaida because he is convinced we are on his side. This is what he told the New York Times when asked last month what would happen if U.S. troops withdraw? He said:

> In my personal opinion, and in the opinion of most of the wise men of Anbar, if the American forces leave right now, there will be civil war and the area will fall into total chaos.

This is a man whose father was killed by al-Qaida, who risks his life every day to work with us, a man who was described by one Army officer as ''the most effective local leader in Ramadi I believe the coalition has worked with . . . since 2003.''

In his remarks earlier this week, Senator REID also observed there is ''a large and growing population of millions—who sit precariously on the fence. They will either condemn or contribute to terrorism in the years ahead. We must convince them of the goodness of America and Americans. We must win them over.''

On this I completely agree with my friend from Nevada. But my question to him and others supporting this language is this: How does this strategy you propose in this bill possibly help win over this population of millions in Iraq who sit precariously on the fence?

What message, I ask, does this legislation announce to these people who are the majority in Iraq? How will they respond when we tell them we are not longer going to make an effort to protect them and their families against insurgents and death squads? How will they respond when we declare we will be withdrawing our forces, regardless of whether they are making progress in the next few months toward political reconciliation? Where will their hopes be for a better life when we withdraw the troops that are the necessary precondition for the security and stability and opportunity for a better life that the majority of Iraqis clearly yearn for?

Do my friends believe this is the way to convince Iraqis and the world of the goodness of America and Americans? Does anyone in this Chamber believe that by announcing a date certain for withdrawal we will empower Iraqi moderates, the mainstream, or enable Iraq's reconstruction, or open more schools for their children or more hospitals for their families or provide more freedom for everyone? With all due respect, this is a fantasy.

The third step the majority leader proposes is to impose ''tangible, measurable, and achievable benchmarks on the Iraqi government.''

I am all for such benchmarks. In fact, Senator MCCAIN and I were among the first to propose legislation to apply such benchmarks on the Iraqi government.

But I don't see how this plan will encourage Iraqis to meet these or any other benchmarks, given its ironclad commitment to abandon them—regardless of how they behave.

We should of course be making every effort to encourage reconciliation in Iraq and the development of a decent political order that Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds can agree on.

But even if today that political solution was found, we cannot rationally think that our terrorist enemies like al-Qaida in Iraq will simply vanish.

Al-Qaida is not mass murdering civilians on the streets of Baghdad because it wants a more equitable distribution of oil revenues. Its aim in Iraq is not to get a seat at the political table.

It wants to blow up the table—along with everyone seated at it. Al-Qaida wants to destroy any prospect for democracy in Iraq, and it will not be negotiated or reasoned out of existence. It must be fought and defeated through force of arms. And there can be no withdrawal, no redeployment from this reality.

The fourth step that the majority leader proposed on Monday is a ''diplomatic, economic, and political offensive . . . starting with a regional conference working toward a long-term framework for stability in the region.''

I understand why we are drawn to ideas such as those that are in this legislation on Iraq. All of us are aware of the justified frustration, fatigue, and disappointment of the American people with Iraq. All of us would like to believe there is a better solution—quicker, easier—to the challenges we face in Iraq. But none of this gives us an excuse to paper over hard truths of which I have tried to speak. We delude ourselves if we think we can wave a legislative wand and suddenly our troops in the field will be able to distinguish between al-Qaida terrorism and sectarian violence or that Iraqis will suddenly settle their political differences because our troops are leaving or that sweet reason alone will suddenly convince Iraq and Syria to stop destabilizing Iraq, stop enabling the terrorists and insurgents who are killing too many Americans and Iraqis there today.

What we need now is a sober assessment of the progress we are beginning to make and a recognition of the significant challenges we still face. There are many uncertainties before us, many complexities, many challenges. Barely half of the new troops General Petraeus requested have even arrived in Iraq.

In following General Petraeus's path, there is no guarantee of success, but there is hope and a new plan for success. In rejecting General Petraeus's path, as this legislation would do, there is a guarantee of failure and, I fear, disaster. The plan embedded in this language contains no reasonable prospects for success. It is a strategy based on catch phrases and bromides rather than military realities and all that is on the line for us in Iraq.

It does not learn from the many mistakes that have been made in Iraq. Rather, it promises to repeat them. Let me be absolutely clear. In my opinion, Iraq is not yet lost, but if we follow the plan in this legislation, it will be lost and so, I fear, will much of our hope for stability in the Middle East and security from terrorism here at home. That is why I will vote no.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, we are now in our fifth year of this conflict in Iraq, and throughout that time I have met with commanders of our Armed Forces, listened to their experiences and recommendations, and after much consideration I have come to the conclusion that we are not on the right path. While some of my colleagues believe that we should support President George W. Bush, who continues to make decisions that place our men and women in the Armed Forces in harm's way, I disagree.

The past few months have been among the deadliest for our military personnel. We have seen 79 U.S. soldiers killed in February, 82 in March, and 85 so far this month. To the more than 3,300 U.S. soldiers that have been killed and the over 24,000 wounded since the conflict began, to our men and women in the Armed Forces and their families who are valiantly serving our country and to the American people, I say to all of you, we must change our course.

To stay the course is to welcome disaster. Iraq lies like the proverbial clay pot broken in shards on the ground. It is shattered into the fragments of warring factions, clans, and religious groups. Afghanistan, still the center of the war on al-Qaida, is becoming progressively more dangerous as our attention remains focused on Iraq. Al-Qaida and the Taliban are rebuilding their forces and terrorists have extended their attacks to North Africa and Western Europe. We are facing, as our military leaders tells us again and again, a ''thinking enemy,'' one that learns and adapts. Should we not also learn and adapt? Can anyone doubt that our strategy needs to change?

Some have painted this conflict as simply a war against al-Qaida in Iraq. Let us not make the mistake of fooling ourselves. Al-Qaida is stoking the flames but it is the internal divisions among the Iraqis themselves which has made it the bonfire it is today. If the Iraqis unite, they can defeat al-Qaida as they have demonstrated in some provinces already. But as everyone, including the President and our military leaders, have observed, the Iraqis themselves must form a reconciliation government. American soldiers are not a thread that can permanently stitch together the broken parts of Iraq. The Iraqis themselves are the masters of their own fate.

The legislation before us today is a call for a new strategy. It requires that we change our present course. It makes clear that the war in Iraq can only be won by Iraqis. It is their will and their will alone that must determine the fate of their country. Americans cannot do the fighting for them. A democratic Iraq will not be established unless the Iraqis do it for themselves. We cannot put the shattered pieces of Iraq together. Only the Iraqis can do that.

Today, with the Senate passage of H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, we will be providing $100 billion for the Department of Defense, primarily for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also

includes a $1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve equipment and $1.1 billion for military housing. Mr. President, $1.789 billion would be provided for the Department of Veterans Affairs to specifically target treatment for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, reduce the backlog of benefit claims, and ensure that facilities are maintained at the highest level. In addition, $6.9 billion would be appropriated for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, $650 million would be provided for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, $2.25 billion in homeland security investments, including funds for port security and mass transit security, and $3.5 billion to help relieve pressures that farmers and ranchers experienced due to severe drought and agricultural disasters.

In addition to funding these important efforts, the legislation includes an important step in setting the proper course in Iraq for our military servicemembers and their families by providing them with a road map to success. By outlining the benchmarks that must be met by the Iraqi government and clarifies our military involvement in Iraq. It defines our mission in Iraq by steering our military away from policing a civil war to training and equipping Iraqi security forces, protecting U.S. forces, and conducting targeted counterterror operations. A phased redeployment of our troops would begin no later than October 1, 2007, with a goal of removing all combat forces by April 1, 2008, except for those carrying out security, training, and counterterror operations. This bill holds the Iraqi government accountable by setting benchmarks that must be met for security, political reconciliation, and improving the lives of the Iraqi people. It is no longer acceptable for this Administration to set arbitrary benchmarks that have no consequences attached to it. It is time for the Iraqi government and regional leaders to work together to promote democracy in Iraq. It is time for the United States to take the necessary steps that illustrates our willingness to relinquish control and allow the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people to control their own destiny. And it is time for the Iraqi people to set their own path to victory and democracy.

The American people and more importantly, our servicemembers and their families, deserve to have the administration define our mission in Iraq. The President must also give a clear directive to the Iraqi government that it must demonstrate the will to overcome the civil unrest that is taking control of their country. Unfortunately, the President has indicated that he will veto this important legislation. By vetoing this legislation, this administration is sending the wrong message. It is preventing our troops from receiving the funds they need to continue their mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is preventing victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita from rebuilding their lives and farmers and ranchers from receiving relief due to severe drought and agricultural disasters. Moreover, it is preventing our veterans from receiving the health care and benefits that they deserve.

It is time for this administration, this President, to lead us out of the morass in Iraq. This legislation sends the right message to our servicemembers, to the Iraqi government and its people, and to the American people. I urge the President to do the right thing and enact H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I will vote for the Iraq-Afghanistan emergency supplemental bill. I believe that this bill supports our troops, our veterans and their families, and should be signed by the President.

But first I would like to say that as we continue the debate on this legislation and on the best way forward in Iraq, I come to the floor today with two key principles in mind.

One, we should honor the bravery and courage of our troops. America's finest men and women have done an extraordinary job—too often without the needed equipment and support. But honoring our troops means more than just singing their praise. It means making sure that every American in Iraq is adequately trained and equipped; it means guaranteeing every veteran access to all available benefits and services; and it means setting a policy that is as wise as our soldiers are brave.

And two, we should work to heal the deep divisions which this war has caused at home. Not since Vietnam has the American public been so divided. I am concerned that the bitterness and the harshness of the debate clouds good judgment on the future direction in Iraq.

It is important for us to remember that, no matter how contentious this debate may become, every Senator shares the same goal: peace and stability in the Middle East and a safe return home for our troops. While we may disagree on the best path to that end, we must continue to work together for a constructive change in our policy. It is important to remember what binds us together—so that we will not be torn too far apart.

I would now like to comment on the bill before us today.

Specifically, the bill includes: More than $100 billion for our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan; more than $5 billion to help ensure that our veterans and their families can receive the health care they need and deserve when they return home; nearly $7 billion to rebuild the gulf coast and help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita so that they can finally rebuild their homes, communities and livelihoods; and $3.5 billion in disaster assistance to help our farmers and ranchers across the Nation recover from 7 years of drought capped by this winter's devastating blizzards.

The bill sends a direct message to the Iraqis that our military commitment is not open-ended. We hold the Iraqi government accountable through measurable and achievable benchmarks for security, political reconciliation and improving the lives of ordinary Iraqis.

The bill also launches a new diplomatic, economic and political offensive and takes steps to begin to rebuild our military.

Finally, it sets an April, 1, 2008, goal of redeploying U.S. troops not engaged in carrying out security, training and counterterror operations in Iraq.

I support this new direction for Iraq. This new direction recognizes the reality that success in Iraq is contingent upon a strategy of military, political and diplomatic progress.

I am disappointed that the President has said he intends to veto this legislation. But I remain hopeful. I believe that we must continue to seek a new course in Iraq. I believe we can and should do that by achieving a bipartisan consensus on the best path to success.

I know most of my Republican colleagues do not support this bill. But I believe they sincerely want to join in finding a solution to the difficult problem that confronts us in Iraq. The Iraq Study Group provides a model for how we can work in good faith, across party lines. And I believe that the group's recommendations can and should be our blueprint for a compromise that can gain broad support here in the Senate.

So next week, I will be back on the floor to discuss with my colleagues how we can implement those recommendations, working with the President.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr President, this morning I had the honor of saluting members of the Maryland Army National Guard as they departed to begin training for their upcoming deployment to Iraq. The 58th Brigade Combat Team, including the Headquarters Company from Pikesville, MD, the 1st Battalion of the 175th Infantry from Dundalk, MD, and the 1st Squadron of the 158th Cavalry Regiment, are leaving their families and communities to answer our Nation's call. As the Senator from Maryland and the Senator for Maryland, I have promised them that I will do everything I can to support them while they are on the battlefield, help care for their families while they are gone, and ensure they have the medical care, education, and job training benefits they need when they return.

I support the conference report on the fiscal year 2007 emergency supplemental appropriations bill because it will help us keep our promises to America's citizen soldiers and their families. Unfortunately, President Bush continues to threaten to veto this bill. I hope it will not come to that. I

urge the President to work with this Congress to meet the pressing needs of our men and women in uniform.

I support this emergency supplemental bill because it: Fully funds the needs of our warfighters on the battlefield; adds $466 million to ensure veterans get health care they need when they come home; and requires the President to immediately change our mission in Iraq; and sets the goal of bringing our troops home by no later than April 1, 2008.

This bill states clearly that Congress and the American people will continue to support and protect our troops. Our troops must understand that Congress will never abandon them, not while they are fighting on the battlefield and not when they come home. The best way to support our troops is to bring them home—swiftly and safely.

I am not new to this position. I never wanted to go to war in the first place. I was one of the 23 who voted against this war, 4 years ago, on October 11, 2002. I opposed giving the President unilateral authority to launch a preemptive attack. I said the United States had to exhaust our diplomatic options. I encouraged the administration to stick with the United Nations U.N., to let the U.N. meet its responsibility to deal with the threat from Saddam. The day of the vote, I said, we don't know if we will be greeted with flowers or landmines. Well, now we know: When we got to Iraq, there were no weapons of mass destruction, but the destruction happened, and it happened fast.

The United States went to war with Iraq, but today, we are at war within Iraq. Saddam is gone, but we are still there, mired in a civil war. No one could ask more of our troops. They are brave and courageous and have fought valiantly. And it is time to bring them home.

We need a way forward in Iraq. The Iraq Study Group gives us 79 recommendations as a way to go forward, but the President has completely ignored this report. Surely out of 79 recommendations, there are 50 we can agree on. The Iraq Study Group report calls for new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and a change in the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq to enable the United States to begin to move our forces out of Iraq responsibly. It provides a direction for the U.S. and Iraqi Governments to follow that could lead to withdrawal of American forces by the first quarter of 2008.

This is exactly the approach called for by this supplemental bill, which will have most of our troops out of Iraq by March 31, 2008. What are we voting for? This bill contains a binding resolution that directs the President to promptly transition the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq and begin a phased redeployment within 120 days. It sets a goal of bringing U.S. combat forces home by April 1, 2008, except for a limited number of troops essential for force protection, training, and equipping Iraqi troops, and targeted counter terror operations.

This resolution also says success in Iraq depends on the Iraqi Government's ability to meet important benchmarks, including the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces so they can control the capitol city of Baghdad; giving Iraqi military commanders the authority to conduct operations without political interference; disarming sectarian militias and ensuring that Iraqi security forces are loyal to Iraq's Government; drafting and implementing legislation to ensure the equal division of Iraqi oil revenues; drafting and implementing legislation to reform the debaathification process; implementing a fair process for amending the Iraqi constitution to ensure minority rights are protected; and implementing new rules to protect minority rights in the Iraqi Parliament.

I support this Iraq resolution. It says what the Iraq Study Group has already told us: the problems in Iraq cannot be solved by the U.S. military—they require a political solution by the Iraqis and diplomatic engagement with Iraq's neighbors. It says Congress and the American people will not only support the troops but continue to protect them as well.

I want to end this war, and the resolution in this bill will do just that. Yet in ending the war, it is my responsibility as a Senator to ensure that our troops are brought home not only swiftly but safely. I will not vote to end funding for the pay that supports military spouses and children, body armor and armored humvees our troops need for survival, tourniquets and surgical hospitals on the battlefield, jet fuel for the airplanes that take injured troops from Baghdad to Germany and then home, or the medical care they need when they get here.

In the last few weeks, we have all been shocked and awed by the conditions facing our wounded warriors. We know that more than 22,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded in Iraq. Yet our troops are being twice wounded. We know that acute care for our injured troops has been astounding, with historic rates of survival from even the most brutal battlefield injuries. Yet, while we have saved their lives, we are failing to give them their life back. Outpatient care, facilities, social work, case workers, disability benefits—the whole system is dysfunctional.

This supplemental includes an additional $20 million to improve conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and an additional $900 million for research and treatment of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other physical and mental trauma. It also adds $466 million for veterans' health care, including $53 million for new polytrauma facilities and services, $10 million for 100 additional caseworkers to aid troops and their families as they transition from active duty, $25 million for prosthetic research and $120 million for mental health treatment.

We know this is only a downpayment for our troops and veterans. We need to overhaul the disability benefits system that is outdated and adversarial. We need a better system for transitioning our troops from active duty to the Veterans' Administration, to ensure they get the health care, job training, and educational benefits they deserve. We need to hear the recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission on how to fix the problems in our military and veterans hospitals. And I look forward to working with Senator MURRAY, Senator LEVIN, and Senator INOUYE on a comprehensive reform package that will ensure our troops have the medical care they will need for the rest of their lives.

This supplemental supports our troops, follows the will of the American people, and follows the advice of the Iraq Study Group. It is time to change our direction in Iraq and bring our forces home. Let's send in the diplomats and bring our troops home safely and soon.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I offer for the record, the Budget Committee's official scoring of the conference report to H.R. 1591, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

The conference report includes $124.153 billion in net, new discretionary budget authority for 2007, of which $100.681 billion is for defense activities and $23.472 billion is for nondefense activities. The additional budget authority will increase outlays by $31.935 billion in 2007. Of the total spending authority provided, H.R. 1591 designates $124.789 billion in budget authority as emergency spending, which will increase outlays by $31.926 billion.

The conference report to H.R. 1591 is subject to several points of order. First, the conference report includes emergency funding that would cause the $86.3 billion cap on 2007 emergency funding to be exceeded. This cap was included in S. Con. Res. 83, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2007, and was made applicable by the deeming resolution included in section 7035 of P.L. 109–234. Funding above the cap counts against the subcommittees' allocations and would cause them to exceed their allocations. As a result, the conference report is subject to a point of order under 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act. Second, the small business tax relief provisions included in the conference report reduce revenues by $4.465 billion over the 2006–2010 period. Because the Congress is over the revenue aggregates under the 2006 budget resolution, the conference report is subject to a point of order under section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act. It should be noted that the tax provisions are fully offset over the 2007–2012 and 2007–2017 periods. Finally, the conference report is subject to a point of order under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the concurrent resolution

on the budget for fiscal year 2006, for including a number of emergency designations for spending on nondefense activities.

I commend the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee for bringing this legislation before the Senate. I ask unanimous consent that the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

HR. 1591, THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 1591, MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

[Fiscal year 2007; $ millions]

	Defense	Non-defense	Total
Conference Report:			
Emergency:			
Budget Authority	$100,681	24,108	124,789
Outlays	26,665	5,261	31,926
Nonemergency:			
Budget Authority	0	−636	−636
Outlays	0	9	9
Total:			
Budget Authority	100,681	23,472	124,153
Outlays	26,665	5,270	31,935

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is irresponsible for Congress to operate this way.

With the provisions in this bill, Congress is deserting our commitments to our military leaders and telling them that none of it matters, the war is over and your mission is done. Congress, with this bill, is reneging on the war and sending our men and women in uniform a demoralizing message.

I am committed to giving our military, led by General Petraeus, time and resources to try to calm Baghdad.

I understand the deep national unrest over the course of the war. I do not support an open-ended commitment in Iraq. The Iraqi government must do more.

But effectively abandoning our military effort at this time poses a treacherous threat to the United States and the region.

We should do right by our troops, give them the resources they need and work with the Iraqis toward solutions that will bring our Armed Forces home at an appropriate time.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have performed valiantly in Iraq in the face of great adversity. The costs of this war have been great to them and our Nation. Over 3,300 brave American servicemembers have been killed in Iraq over 30 from my own State of Connecticut.

To date, over $500 billion has been approved by Congress for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, not including the $95.5 billion included in the conference agreement being debated today or the $141.7 billion in additional funding already requested by the administration for fiscal year 2008.

In addition, because of the war, our forces have been drained of critical combat gear and training time, adding another element to the costs of this war—our military's combat readiness. Two-thirds of the Army in the United States and 88 percent of our National Guard are reporting 'not ready' for duty, largely due to equipment and training shortfalls.

Now, as we have entered the fifth year of the Iraq war, it is long past time for a course correction. Rather than continue abetting the administration's efforts to escalate our entanglement in Iraq's civil war, it is time for Congress to assert itself and heed the American people's call for change.

The conference report before us today takes the first steps toward that change. While I wish it would have included stronger language to immediately begin withdrawing combat troops from Iraq and limiting the mission there to counterterrorism, training and equipping Iraqi troops and force protection for remaining U.S. personnel, it does for the first time set some new goals for this administration and the Iraqi Government that will mandate a change of course. For the first time it demands real accountability from the President to take action to restore our military's readiness which has been hollowed out as a result of his policies. And this bill finally provides critical resources for combat gear and protective equipment that the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld administration has consistently shortchanged in their budget proposals.

Regrettably, as my colleagues know, the President has already said that he will refuse to sign this legislation into law. He has announced his intention to veto this bill because after 4 years of a disastrous war policy, escalating combat deaths, and growing instability in the region, he insists that his is the only way. It is disheartening that President Bush does not see or will not admit that his policy in Iraq is a failure.

In plowing ahead on the current course in Iraq, the President has rejected the advice of experts from across the political spectrum, from the Baker-Hamilton Report, and from members of Congress, all of whom have urged him to change the course in Iraq, to diminish our military footprint there, and to start a surge of diplomacy in the region. Like all my colleagues, I want to see success in Iraq. I wish that the President's policies were working. I wish that U.S. combat forces were able to restore security to Baghdad and to other parts of Iraq. I wish that the President had not mismanaged this war from day one. I wish that we had deployed enough troops on the ground to secure the peace at the outset. I wish that Secretary Rumsfeld hadn't run the Coalition Provisional Authority like a staffing agency for Republican political operatives, displacing countless U.S. Foreign Service professionals in the beginning of the war. I wish we hadn't disbanded the Iraqi Army and that we hadn't allowed looting. And I wish that our surge of 30,000 more men and women in uniform into Iraq could be successful in stabilizing that country.

But now is not the time for wishful thinking. Now is the time to address the real facts on the ground. This conflict cannot be resolved by increased military action. It requires a coherent, broad-based strategy to promote the political reconciliation necessary to secure the future for Iraq.

The bill before us begins that process. If the President determines that the Iraqis are not making progress on key political, security, and economic benchmarks, then, under this legislation, the redeployment of American troops would begin this summer. If, on the other hand, the President determines that the Iraqis are complying with the benchmarks set forth in the legislation, then the redeployment of American forces would begin later in the fall of 2007. These reasonable and responsible timetables and benchmarks will force the President to change his strategy and will incentivize the Iraqi Government to take difficult but necessary steps toward reconciliation, power sharing, and security.

This bill also allows for a limited ongoing presence of U.S. forces in Iraq for the specific purposes of training and equipping reliable Iraqi security forces, carrying out counterterrorism operations within Iraq, and providing force protection, because we understand that these vital components will be necessary to ensure a stable and secure Iraq even after our combat troops have been redeployed. Iraqis will continue to need some limited American assistance, and it is in our and Iraq's national interests for that limited support to continue.

Exactly 1 day after President Bush disingenuously charged the Democratic Congress for causing what he called ''unacceptable'' delays in troops returning home, Secretary Gates announced that he was immediately extending the tour lengths of those units sent to Iraq to 15 months—3 months longer than before. In addition, 13,000 National Guard troops from Arkansas, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Ohio, as well as other States, were recently told to prepare to be deployed to Iraq.

As a result of 4 years of war in Iraq, our Army has been stretched to its breaking point.

It is time to say, ''enough is enough.'' And with this supplemental bill, Congress is taking a big step in that direction. This bill holds the President directly responsible for units being deployed who are not ''fully mission capable'', by requiring him to waive requirements that mandate that units fully restock their depleted equipment inventories and restore their mission readiness prior to deployment. It includes funding for critical equipment, including mine-resistant, ambush-protection vehicles which would dramatically lower the number of injuries and casualties sustained by our troops. And it includes billions of dollars for health care for our wounded veterans, many of

whom return home with debilitating and life-altering injuries. They have sacrificed everything for this Nation, and at the very least we owe them the best health care available.

Sadly, there is no magic formula for fixing the myriad problems in Iraq, as the Baker-Hamilton Commission rightly pointed out. But it is critical that Iraqis make progress on reconciliation and security and that the Government improves the living conditions of its citizens. Iraq's neighbors and regional leaders must also play a role in finding such a solution. The United States and Iraq's neighbors all have long-term interests in the region, and a broken Iraq does not advance those interests.

With this supplemental bill, Congress is offering the President an opportunity to change our course in Iraq, to listen and respond to the will of the American people, to support the men and women sacrificing their lives there, and to provide for a responsible change in strategy in Iraq.

It is also vital that we make America more resilient here at home. This bill begins to do just that, in providing $325 million to protect the millions of Americans who ride public transportation each day.

Our Nation's public transit systems are inadequately prepared to minimize the threat and impact of potential terrorist attacks. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Federal Government has invested nearly $24 billion in aviation security—protecting the 1.8 million people who fly on an average day. At the same time, our National Government has invested only $386 million, before the 110th Congress began, in transit security to protect the 14 million people who ride transit on an average workday. Put another way, since 2001, our Nation has spent over $7.50 per passenger on aviation security but less than one penny per transit rider on transit security. I am not suggesting that we ought to be investing equally, but clearly this is not the appropriate balance.

As chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, I have made improving our national security a top priority. The very first hearing that I held as chairman focused on increasing the security of our Nation's 14 million daily transit passengers. The very first legislation that the committee considered during my chairmanship was the Public Transportation Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007, which was reported by the Banking Committee unanimously on February 8. The legislation authorizes the distribution of $3.5 billion in security funds, over the next 3 fiscal years, on the basis of risk directly to transit agencies.

The Public Transportation Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007 was included as title XV of the 9/11 bill, which the Senate passed on March 13. Senator SHELBY and I worked with Senator BYRD and Senator COCHRAN to include language in the legislation to allow for such sums as necessary to be appropriated in this fiscal year to address the critical needs of our Nation's transit systems. The $325 million included in this appropriations act is a significant investment toward our goal of better securing our Nation's rail and transit systems. This investment builds on the $175 million that was included in the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution. I once again thank all of the members of the Banking and Appropriations Committees who have worked so hard to advance us to where we are today.

This bill also continues congressional efforts to help the citizens of Mississippi and Louisiana rebuild their lives after the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Katrina by including more than $1.3 billion to fund flood and storm damage reduction projects in affected areas.

Finally, I want to take a few brief moments to discuss the minimum wage increase provision included in this bill. It has been nearly 10 years since millions of hard-working men and women have seen their wages go up. During that time, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of families being paid the minimum wage. In fact, the real value of the minimum wage has declined $4 below what it was nearly 40 years ago, in 1968. It is currently at its lowest inflation-adjusted level in more than 50 years. During the past 10 years, while the minimum wage remained unchanged, the cost of housing, food, health care, education, transportation, and energy has increased.

We cannot reduce poverty if we don't tackle raising the minimum wage. It is simply outrageous that so many Americans live in poverty, and it is long overdue that we take action to reduce the inexcusable and unconscionably high levels of poverty in this country. The language of the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which is included in this bill, will provide a three-step increase in wages over 26 months from the current level of $5.15 per hour to $7.25 per hour. This additional $4,400 per year would allow a low-income family of three to buy 8 months of rent, 15 months of groceries, 19 months of utilities, 20 months of childcare, or more than 24 months of health insurance.

I urge the President to seize this opportunity to make America and Iraq stronger and safer. I sincerely hope he will reconsider his decision to veto this bill when it arrives on his desk. Such a veto would be an affirmation of the status quo in America, a status which this Nation can simply no longer afford.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the pending emergency supplemental appropriations bill includes a number of items within the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee. I would have preferred that the Senate had considered these matters on legislation that the Finance Committee had reported. I believe in the committee process. In the future, I will try to minimize the occasions on which Finance Committee legislation travels on legislation reported by other committees.

But the House of Representatives included the minimum wage and small business tax provisions in the House-passed version of this supplemental appropriations bill. So it was only appropriate that the full Senate respond. The Senate Appropriations Committee added matters related to health care, so it was only appropriate that the conference committee on this supplemental appropriations bill address those issues, as well.

I appreciate that the conference committee on this supplemental appropriations bill deferred to members of the Finance Committee in the formulation of these Finance Committee tax and health matters in the conference report on this bill. I particularly thank Chairman BYRD for his assistance in this regard.

Some have been concerned that an increase in the minimum wage would burden small businesses. Small businesses are a vital source of job creation, economic opportunity, and technological innovation.

There are about 23 million small businesses in America. Businesses with fewer than 500 employees represent more than 99 percent of all businesses in America. They pay more than 45 percent of American private payroll. They have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade. They employ 41 percent of high-tech workers.

Small business is particularly important in my home State of Montana. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities.

We have the opportunity to help small businesses through tax incentives that stimulate their rates of formation and growth. That is why Chairman RANGEL and I worked together to combine the House and Senate small business tax packages to achieve a comprehensive small business tax package.

This is a responsible package that will help small businesses in the context of an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has made available to the public a technical explanation of the bill. The technical explanation expresses the committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation.

The small business tax package provided a more than 3-year extension of the work opportunity tax credit, or WOTC. WOTC allows employers a tax credit for wages that they pay to economically disadvantaged employees. The final small business tax package also expands WOTC to allow the credit for employers who hire disabled veterans, a proposal that was part of both the Senate and House packages. The package includes the Senate's proposed expansion to allow the credit for employers who hire employees in a county

that has suffered significant population loss.

The small business tax package also includes a 1-year extension of section 179 expensing. Section 179 allows small business owners to purchase and write off more equipment each year for use in their trade or business. Section 179 expensing was included in both the Senate and House small business tax packages. The final small business tax package also increases the amount allowed to be expensed in 2007 from $112,000 to $125,000, a proposal in the House version.

Enhancement of the tip credit, family business tax simplification, and waiver of limitations under the alternative minimum tax on WOTC and tip credits are three other House proposals included in the final small business tax package.

Enhancement of the tip credit for certain small businesses will prevent a decrease in the amount of business tax credit that restaurant and other service-oriented business owners may claim for the Social Security taxes that they pay on their employee's tips despite an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

The family business tax simplification proposal ensures that when a married couple jointly owns a small business, both spouses will receive credit for paying Social Security and Medicare taxes.

The waiver of individual and corporate AMT limitations on WOTC and tip credits would allow business owners to take the WOTC and tip credits under AMT.

The Senate's S corporation package is also included in the final small business tax package. The S corporation package includes several simplifications and modifications to rules governing community banks and other small businesses that operate as S corporations.

The small business tax package includes several tax incentives included in both the Senate and House small business tax packages to help recovery of small business and low-income housing in areas hit by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

The small business tax package is a responsible package that is completely offset. The package includes offsets that were included in both the Senate and the House small business tax packages, such as modification to the interest suspension rules for IRS and a proposal to discourage the practice of transferring investments to one's child for the purpose of avoiding higher tax rates.

The package also includes modifications to the collection due process for employment taxes, an expansion of preparer penalties, and a new penalty on erroneous refund claims. These offsets were part of the administration's fiscal year 2008 budget proposal to improve tax compliance.

The small business tax package does not include the Senate's 15-year depreciation proposal for improvements made to leaseholds, retailer-owned businesses, and restaurants. Nor does this final package include the Senate's proposal to expand availability of the cash method of accounting.

These proposals both have merit. They were included in the chairman's mark when the Finance Committee wrote the Senate's small business tax package. These proposals enjoy the support of many Senators, including Senators KERRY and SNOWE. But there simply was not enough room in a $4.8 billion conference package to include the 15-year depreciation and cash method of accounting proposals, as they have a combined estimated pricetag of nearly $7.4 billion. But this will not be the last bill in which the Senate can address these important proposals.

If and when the President vetoes this bill, and it comes back again, we need to preserve the integrity of this balanced compromise. Congress should not litigate this tax package over again. I urge my colleagues to support this package.

This bill also accomplishes key urgent health priorities.

The bill includes emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. This fiscal year, 14 States will run short in their Federal CHIP funds by a total of about $624 million. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 700,000 children will lose CHIP coverage unless Congress acts.

This bill fills the gap in Federal CHIP funds. It ensures that all States can meet the demand for CHIP coverage for all those now eligible for coverage this year.

I thank Chairman BYRD and Chairman HARKIN for their help on this provision. Keeping children from losing their health coverage is a critical national priority. I will work with my colleagues to ensure that the final supplemental bill includes this provision.

Another provision originally offered by Senator DURBIN puts a 1-year hold on rulemaking relating to Medicaid payment rates for public hospitals and nursing homes. In January, the Secretary of Health and Human Services proposed a rule that would make sweeping changes to reimbursement rates for public facilities. The rule also proposed major changes to how States can define which governmental facilities can pay a State's Medicaid share.

The Nation's Governors have weighed in against the Medicaid rule, as have many hospitals and nursing homes. They are concerned that this rule would do immediate harm to our Nation's safety net by cutting Medicaid reimbursement for publicly owned facilities that serve our most vulnerable citizens.

I am concerned this rule goes too far in implementing new policy, making changes that are better made by Congress.

It is Congress's job to make major changes to the law. A 1-year moratorium will give the Finance Committee enough time to study this issue and determine the right approach in legislation to limit opportunities for fraud and abuse of Medicaid, while protecting the vulnerable individuals and vital safety net providers who rely on Medicaid payments.

Some have raised concerns about the original Durbin amendment moratorium. They said that it should not have been included in an appropriations bill and that it could undermine oversight of Medicaid at the Department of Health and Human Services. I agree that we should keep Finance Committee issues within the committee. In this case, however, the Department is poised to act before July of this year. We need to take action now, before it is too late.

I also agree that protecting against fraud and abuse in Medicaid is a priority. Not one taxpayer dollar should be misspent. That is why the revised version of this amendment clarifies that the moratorium has no affect on all other Medicaid integrity enforcement activity at the Department of Health and Human Services.

This final version also removes the increase in the Medicaid prescription drug rebate that was used to offset the cost and replaces it with other Medicaid policies that will save Federal dollars. The new version includes provisions that will lower the incidence of fraud in Medicaid drug prescribing and preserve access to affordable prescriptions for 100,000 seniors covered by Wisconsin's Pharmacy Plus program.

I think this is the right approach. It provides a shorter moratorium that allows the Finance Committee to act and preserves oversight on fraud and abuse at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I will work with Senator DURBIN and members of the Appropriations Committee to ensure that this version stays in the final bill.

Once again, I thank Chairman BYRD for his help in reaching this good outcome. And I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RETAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to followup on the comments Chairman BAUCUS made about the depreciation of retail improvements and engage in a colloquy with Senators SNOWE and BAUCUS. Under current law, improvements made to rented retail property are depreciated over 15 years. Improvements made to owned property are depreciated over 39 years. The current tax treatment of improvements to retail property results in an inequity. There is no justification to treat these improvements differently for tax purposes based on whether the property is owned or rented. Unfortunately, this provision was not included in the small business tax package.

Ms. SNOWE. I join Senator KERRY in my disappointment that this provision that would benefit retail operations

like Greenacres Kennel Shop in Bangor, ME, was not included in the conference agreement of the supplemental appropriations bill. The provision originated from legislation, S. 271, that I introduced with Senators LINCOLN, HUTCHISON, and KERRY to provide relief and equity to our Nation's 1.5 million retail establishments, most of which have less than five employees. This bill will simply conform the Tax Code to the realities that retailers on Main Street face. Despite the fact that small businesses are the real job-creators in our Nation's economy, the current tax system is placing an entirely unreasonable burden on them when trying to satisfy their tax obligations. What is most troubling is that companies that employ fewer than 20 employees spend nearly $1,304 per employee in tax compliance costs, an amount that is nearly 67 percent more than larger firms. As a result, I was most pleased when the chairman and ranking member included this modest proposal as part of the small business tax relief package. Unfortunately, the provision did not survive conference negotiations with the House.

Mr. KERRY. I agree with the comments made by Senator SNOWE, and we have heard first hand how important this provision is to small businesses. During the January Finance Committee hearing on small business tax issues, Mr. Dave Ratner, owner of Dave's Soda and Pet City of western Massachusetts, testified about the need for retail owners to be able to depreciate improvements over 15 years instead of 39 years. He eloquently explained why owners and renters should be treated in the same manner and how difficult it is for small businesses to compete with large retail chains. Senator SNOWE and I would like to work with you to address this inequity.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I understand and share the concerns expressed by Senator KERRY and Senator SNOWE. I agree that owners and renters should receive the same tax treatment for improvements.

There are many small businesses in Montana in which the owners would like to make improvements. And this provision would be extremely helpful.

Just this week, I received an e-mail message from Scott Brown, the owner of The Base Camp in Helena, MT. Scott told me how this provision would help him and other Montana retailers to be more competitive.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to find additional opportunities to address this important provision.

Mr. KERRY. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important provision which helps small businesses. We need to provide equal tax treatment for depreciated property regardless of whether it is owned or rented.

Ms. SNOWE. I concur with Senator KERRY and appreciate his support for this proposal that simply would bring equity between retail operations. Frankly, this provision should have been included when Congress first extended accelerated depreciation for leasehold improvements. This is not a new provision but, rather, it simply perfects current law. Though disappointed by the absence of the provision in the conference agreement, I appreciate the chairman's commitment to this issue and hope he will continue to work with Senator KERRY and me, as well as the other cosponsors of S. 271, to see that the provision receives full and fair consideration as the process to finally enact small business relief continues to move forward

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent in the order that has already been placed, following Senator KENNEDY, Senator ISAKSON be recognized, and then the following Senators be recognized on our side, alternating with Republicans, for 4 minutes each Senator: CARDIN, MENENDEZ, WEBB, SCHUMER, FEINSTEIN, JACK REED, and Senator INOUYE.

Mr. INHOFE. Parliamentary inquiry, please: I ask the Senator from Washington, that takes place after the Senator from Illinois and I are recognized, is that correct?

Mrs. MURRAY. That is correct.

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

The assistant majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this is a war which never should have started and on this President's watch may never end. But the face of this war is not the face of President George W. Bush, nor is it the face of any Member of Congress. The face of this war can be found in the grief of children, wives, mothers, in 3,333 homes across America where a folded American flag and fading photograph are daily reminders of a fallen soldier.

The face of this war can be found in a hospital room in the Midwest where a 22-year-old soldier sits in a wheelchair. When you walk in the room he notices you and watches you, but he cannot speak. He is a victim of traumatic brain injury, the signature injury of this war. His powers of communication are very limited. We hope that will change, but it may not.

Seated next to this 22-year-old soldier in the hospital room is a 21-year-old wife, holding the picture of a 2-year-old daughter. For 10—20—30—or 40 years, this may be his life and her life. The face of this war can be found in hundreds of counseling sessions that are now treating thousands of soldiers who returned, haunted by the demons of this war or fighting post-traumatic stress disorder. The face of this war can be found in the wives and mothers at home, anxiously awaiting the return of their soldier, paying the bills, caring for the kids, hoping their marriage will survive.

Today we send the President a chance to change the course of this war, a chance to finally demand accountability from the Iraqis, and a chance to honor our great men and women in uniform by bringing them home in an orderly, sensible, safe way.

When the President receives this bill early next week, I hope he will ask himself some basic questions. How many lives? How many wounds? How many soldiers must America sacrifice, waiting for the Iraqis to accept their responsibility?

Time and again the Iraqis have failed to shoulder the burden of leadership. They have set their own timetables and deadlines to finally bring political order to their country, and have failed time and time and time again. Instead of being held to the task of governing their own country, some in this Government make excuses and say let's send in some more soldiers and buy them some more time. As the Iraqis fail, brave Americans fall—victims of IEDs, victims of car bombs, victims of a civil war that has its roots in an Islamic battle that has gone on for 14 centuries; victims of Iraqi politicians who delay making the hard political decisions which might bring stability to their country.

The law we send the President will give him a chance to start anew, an opportunity to finally accept change—a moment in history where he can accept the reality of this grim and deteriorating war in Iraq.

The President has already predicted he is going to take this bill and veto it. But we hope there will be 1 moment—1 moment of prayerful reflection before he puts that pen to paper. In that moment, if he closes his eyes in prayer, I hope he sees the faces I have spoken of, of these fallen soldiers, of these battered warriors, of these men and women and families who have given more than we can ever ask of anyone in this country, and I hope he will realize, with that pen in his hand, he can honor them, honor this country, and bring this war to an end.

I reserve the remainder of my time and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is very difficult for me to believe some of the things I am actually hearing right now. In fact, I don't believe them after General Petraeus has made such a fine presentation to us. There are a few things in the closed session that we cannot talk about, but I have taken those out. The things we can talk about—in answer to a question, you said: Can you talk about some of the positive things that have happened?

He is talking about Anbar. I am now quoting: Anbar has gone from being assessed as being lost to a situation that now is quite heartening because of the decision by a number of Sunni Arab tribes to join the fight against al-Qaida; the reduction of sectarian murders in Baghdad, that is down by approximately a third; progress in Anbar is almost something that is breathtaking—the killing of the security

Amir of al-Qaida in eastern Anbar Province; the detention of the Khazali network; we have picked up the Shabani network head in Iraq. That is the explosively-formed projectile element in Iraq that gets them from others in Iraq, these are the explosively-formed projectiles.

It goes on and on. He talks about the progress in Ramadi.

My only wish is that so many of those who are detractors would have had the opportunity and had taken the opportunity to go and spend the time in the area of operations, in the whole area out there. But I can recall so many things that people just are not aware of here.

I remember being in Tikrit. Tikrit is where they had the Iraqi security forces building that was blown up. Forty of them were either—these are Iraqi security trainees—40 either were killed or were injured so that they would not be able to go back to the fields. You know, the families—you do not hear about this—of all 40 of these supplied the one who had died with another member of the family. In other words, they have this commitment that is so strong.

I asked the general yesterday, I said: Are you still getting the family support that I witnessed when I was over there?

He said: It is even stronger now. They are lined up and talking about it.

The Iraqi security forces in Fallujah—now, that was a great experience that I had, having the honor of being there during two of their elections. The Iraqi security forces go out and vote the day before the rest of the public votes for two reasons: one, so they can provide security for the public when they vote, and the second reason is that they go out there knowing that is the risky time. They are willing to risk their lives, and several of them in the Fallujah area died just in the process of voting.

I remember sitting down with the general—his name is General Mahdi—and he was one, I have to say—he was the brigade commander for Saddam Hussein. He hated Americans. He was the one who said—when they came in there after the fall of Saddam Hussein—he was still the brigade commander for the Iraqis until the marines came to Fallujah and started training with the Iraqi security forces. He made the statement—he said: We became so close to the marines—this is the general who had been Saddam Hussein's brigade commander. He said: We became so close to the marines that when they rotated out, we got together and we all cried.

We went from there on up, flew in a Black Hawk, and the easiest way to get around there is to fly low and fast over the Triangle, only to see the little kids down there waving American flags. I just wonder, if something like this is passed and we are telling all of those kids down there and we are telling the Iraqi security forces that are doing so well right now in their advanced training, that they are now on the point of these invasions that are taking place, the defenses that are taking place all throughout Iraq, that we are saying that we are the cut-and-run guys, we built up your hopes, we now see an improved Iraq, we see hospitals are opened, we see manufacturers that are making clothing, we see girls who are going to school when this has never happened in the history of Iraq, we have seen all of this progress, but we are going to dump on you now.

So I just hope that we can stand back from the politics and do the right thing and get a good resolution—defeat this bill, get it vetoed, get a good resolution so we can finish what we started and give General Petraeus a chance to finish what he has started so successfully.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, will the Chair notify me when I have 15 seconds remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will notify the Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, first of all, I wish to congratulate our Democratic leader for his bold and decisive leadership and his determination to bring our troops home from Iraq in an orderly, responsible, and safe way. Those who are disparaging him are engaged in nothing more than a ploy to change the focus of the debate.

HARRY REID is an effective and capable leader. What the American people and our soldiers in Iraq need is new leadership from the White House and a new policy in Iraq that requires the Iraqis to take responsibilities and our troops to begin to come home.

A timeline for the withdrawal of combat troops is the only realistic way to encourage the Iraqis to take responsibility for their future. The Bush administration supported deadlines for three Iraqi elections and for writing of the Constitution as part of its strategy to ensure that Iraqis would make essential decisions. Yet the administration remains emphatically opposed to any timeline for the withdrawal of our military. The administration should follow the logic of its past action and embrace, rather than reject, a timeline. It should stop defying the will of the American people who want to bring our troops home to the heroes' welcome they have earned.

The President is wrong to threaten to veto this legislation, he was wrong to get us into this war, wrong to conduct it so poorly, wrong to ignore the views of the American people, and wrong to accuse those of us who are working to change course as harming our troops. Now he is wrong to threaten to veto this bill, delaying funds and keeping our troops in a civil war with no end in sight to our commitment. Instead, President Bush should be listening to the American people and working with Congress to bring this tragic war to an end.

Instead of continuing to defy the will of the American people and Congress by threatening to veto the legislation, he should be putting the Iraqis on notice. He must make it clear to the Iraqi Government that it is time for them to take responsibility for their country and resolve their political differences. The American military will not police Iraq's civil war indefinitely. It is time to end the loss of American lives and to begin to bring our soldiers home. For the sake of our troops, we cannot repeat the mistakes of Vietnam and allow this to drag on long after the American people know it is a mistake.

We have Presidents who make mistakes. President Johnson was wrong in escalating in Vietnam. President Nixon was wrong to continue that escalation, and we saw the loss of 58,000 American lives. Presidents make mistakes.

This President has made this mistake. The American people were right in Vietnam and brought that war to an end, and the American people are right now. No one in the administration can tell the American people in good faith and in good conscience that we are making progress in Iraq. Iraq is sliding deeper into civil war, and our military cannot solve their problems. It is time the President listen to the Iraq Study Group, the Congress, and the American people and work with us to bring our troops home.

Mr. President, yesterday the United Nations issued a progress report on the progress of violence in Iraq. I ask unanimous consent that sections of that report be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

SUMMARY

1. The Government of Iraq continued to face immense security challenges in the face of growing violence and armed opposition to its authority and the rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis. A number of large-scale insurgency attacks had devastating effects on both the civilian population and Iraqi law enforcement personnel, and continued to claim lives among Multinational Force (MNF) personnel. Civilian casualties of the daily violence between January and March remained high, concentrated in and around Baghdad. Violent deaths were also a regular feature of several other cities in the governorates of Nineveh, Salahuddin, Diyala and Babel. The implementation of the Iraqi-led Baghdad Security Plan (Khittat Fardh al-Qanun) on 14 February saw an increase in Iraqi and MNF troop levels and checkpoints on the streets of Baghdad, expanded curfew hours and intensified security operations and raids. The challenge facing the Government of Iraq is not limited to addressing the level of violence in the country, but the longer term maintenance of stability and security in an environment characterized by impunity and a breakdown in law and order. In this context, the intimidation of a large segment of the Iraqi population, among them professional groups and law enforcement personnel, and political interference in the affairs of the judiciary, were rife and in need of urgent attention.

2. In its previous reports on the human rights situation in Iraq, UNAMI regularly cited the Iraqi Government's official data,

including the Ministry of Higher Education's statistics on killings among academics and the Ministry of Interior's statistics on killings among police officers. It is therefore a matter of regret that the Iraqi Government did not provide UNAMI access to the Ministry of Health's overall mortality figures for this reporting period. UNAMI emphasizes again the utmost need for the Iraqi Government to operate in a transparent manner, and does not accept the government's suggestion that UNAMI used the mortality figures in an inappropriate fashion.

3. Evidence which cannot be numerically substantiated in this report nonetheless show that the high level of violence continued throughout the reporting period, attributable to large-scale indiscriminate killings and targeted assassinations perpetrated by insurgency groups, militias and other armed groups. In February and March, sectarian violence claimed the lives of large numbers of civilians, including women and children, in both Shi'a and Sunni neighborhoods. One of the most devastating attacks occurred on 3 February when a truck packed with a ton of explosives detonated, killing an estimated 135 people and injuring 339 others in a busy market in the predominantly Shi'a district of al-Sadriyya of Baghdad. While government officials claimed an initial drop in the number of killings in the latter half of February following the launch of the Baghdad Security Plan, the number of reported casualties rose again in March.

4. In its previous reports, UNAMI expressed its concern that many Baghdad neighborhoods had become divided along Sunni and Shi'a lines and were increasingly controlled by armed groups purporting to act as protectors and defenders of these areas. Efforts to find a long-term and durable solution to mass displacement will necessitate a reversal of this trend, enabling civilians to return to their homes safely and voluntarily. According to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 736,422 persons were forced to flee their homes due to sectarian violence and military operations since the bombing of the al-Askari shrine in Samarra' on 22 February 2006. Of these, more than 200,000 were displaced since December 2006. Together with 1.2 million IDPs displaced prior to 22 February 2006, they are in need of continuous assistance, including shelter and improved access to the Public Distribution System (PDS). Additionally, Palestinian refugees residing in several neighborhoods in Baghdad continued to be victims of the deteriorating security situation. According to a Palestinian human rights organization and other Palestinian sources, 198 Palestinians were killed in targeted assassinations or attacks on their residential compounds since 4 April 2003. Many Palestinians responded to continuing threats and attacks by leaving their homes and seeking refuge in camps along the Iraq-Syria border.

5. UNAMI notes again the serious trend of growing intolerance towards minorities, whose representatives continued to lodge complaints about discrimination, intimidation and individual targeting on religious and political grounds. The 2005 Iraqi Constitution protects the ''religious freedoms'' of all of its citizens. Of equal concern are ongoing attempts to suppress freedom of expression through tighter control of the broadcast media and printed press. UNAMI noted several incidents of harassment, legal action and intimidation against journalists addressing issues of corruption and mismanagement of public services in the Region of Kurdistan. Across the country, attacks against journalists and media outlets continued, resulting in a high number of casualties among media workers.

6. UNAMI remained concerned at the apparent lack of judicial guarantees in the handling of suspects arrested in the context of the Baghdad Security Plan. While in his public statements Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged that the government would respect human rights and ensure due process within a reasonable time for those under arrest, there were no references to any mechanisms for monitoring the conduct of arresting and detaining officials. The new emergency procedures announced on 13 February contained no explicit measures guaranteeing minimum due process rights. Rather, they authorized arrests without warrants and the interrogation of suspects without placing a time limit on how long they could be held in pre-trial detention. The use of torture and other inhumane treatment in detention centers under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense continues to be of utmost concern. UNAMI reemphasizes the urgent need to establish an effective tracking mechanism to account for the location and treatment of all detainees from the point of arrest.

7. During this reporting period, UNAMI further expanded its monitoring and reporting activities in the three northern governorates under the authority of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), where the security situation remained stable. Infringements to freedom of expression, including press and media freedoms, were of serious concern. Equally serious was the lack of due process with regard to detainees held by Kurdish security forces (Asayish), the majority on suspicion of involvement in acts of terrorism and other serious crimes. Hundreds have been held for prolonged periods without referral to an investigative judge or charges brought against them. UNAMI also noted the absence of serious measures by the KRG authorities to address the growing level of violence against women, including prompt investigations and criminal prosecution of perpetrators.

''Civilian casualties of the daily violence between January and March remained high concentrated in and around Baghdad.'' [page 3 of U.N. report.]

''By late February, government officials announced that the number of such killings had decreased, which they attributed to the success of the Baghdad Security Plan. Despite this announced decrease, the number of victims was nevertheless high, with up to 25 bodies still being found on some days during this period in Baghdad. March again witnessed a rise in the number of casualties, with reports of large number of bodies found in Baghdad, al-Ramadi, al-Hilla, Kirkuk, Mosul, Khalis, Tikrit and Himreen.'' [page 8 of U.N. report.]

''Despite reports from Iraqis in late February that security had somewhat improved, there were a series of indiscriminate attacks targeting civilians, and the rate of kidnappings remained high.'' [page 7 of U.N. report.]

Large-scale suicide and car bomb attacks were carried out between January and March, with several incidents claiming the lives of more than 50 people each [page 6 of U.N. report].

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 200,000 Iraqis have been displaced since last December. [page 4 of U.N. report.]

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am very pleased that this conference report includes the minimum wage bill. After 10 long years, we will finally be able to send a minimum wage increase to the President. It's long overdue, and it's yet another reason why the President should sign this important bill.

The minimum wage bill passed the House and Senate by overwhelming margins in January and February of this year. Under it, minimum wage workers will get a raise of $2.10 per hour. Those who work full time will earn an additional $4,400 a year.

That's enough to pay for utilities that might otherwise be shut off, to put gas in the car so you can get to work, or to pay for after-school care for a son or daughter who might otherwise be left home alone.

In many ways, including the minimum wage increase in this bill on Iraq couldn't be more appropriate. The minimum wage represents the values our troops are fighting for—basic fairness. It's about what we stand for as a Nation.

Americans believe that hard work should help you build a better life for your family. They believe that a job should keep you out of poverty, not force you to live in poverty.

Our troops are away fighting to provide a better future for the people of Iraq. We'd like to think that our men and women in uniform don't have to worry about the economic security of their families here at home. But many of our fighting forces have husbands or wives back at home who are struggling to make ends meet.

Ten percent of military spouses earn between $5.15 and $7.25 per hour. 50,000 military families will benefit from an increase in the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour. Our troops are overseas putting their lives on the line for their country, and we should provide fair opportunities for their spouses who are working hard here at home.

I hope we can provide these families—and all other struggling families across the country—with the fair wages they deserve as soon as possible. I hope the President will do the right thing for our troops and for America's minimum wage workers by signing this important bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, at the beginning of my remarks, I wish to associate my remarks with the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN. I think his point-by-point rebuttals to previous declarations were appropriate and were right on point.

I will not talk long, but I rise to explain precisely why I will vote against this supplemental. In fact, there are a number of reasons I will vote against it—140,000 reasons are the men and women deployed right now on behalf of the United States of America and the civilized world.

It is right for the Senate to debate this war. It is right for us to ask questions. But it is wrong to hold hostage the money that supports those troops. We should separate the money from the debate. We should never hold hostage the money for our troops who are, on order of the President of the United States, defending our country and what we stand for.

There are almost 3,300 reasons I will vote no; that is, the sacrifices that have already been made on behalf of the United States of America, those troops who have fought and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, troops like Diego Rincon, the first soldier from Georgia to die in Iraq, and LT Noah Harris, a famous Georgian who sacrificed his life as well. I have known those families. I have gone to those services. I understand the sacrifice, and I know how they feel of the pride of their sons who fought on behalf of this noble cause.

There are six additional reasons—my grandchildren. This is the ultimate war between good and evil. This is but one battle in a war that will determine the future security of the world. Make no mistake, there have been mistakes made, but it would be a horrible mistake to not confront terror or the agents of terror, because if we do, they have won.

Unlike any other war ever fought by the United States, we are fighting a group of people who don't want what we have, they don't want us to have what we have: the Bill of Rights; the right for me to express myself and Senator KENNEDY to do the same without fear or without cowering; the right for the press to call it as they see it; the right to worship as you see fit; the right to bear arms. The 10 basic rights of the Bill of Rights are precisely what they want to take away, not only from us but from the rest of the world.

Terrorists want us to cower in fear and want to run the world based on that principle. To pass a supplemental appropriations bill that couches the support of our troops based on arbitrary deadlines that only serve to benefit the very people we fight is just plain wrong.

I relish debate of this war every day on the floor and hope we will continue. The way you avoid making mistakes in the future is debating those things which have happened in the past. But it would be the worst of mistakes to withhold funding from our troops or condition it upon arbitrary deadlines and circumstances in another country, at another time, at another place.

Mr. President, I end my remarks by thanking those brave men and women who have sacrificed and those who are sacrificing now and the families of those troops, many of them families who live in my State of Georgia. I will vote for the supplemental appropriations of our troops unconditionally and separate our debate of other issues to another document. But I will not support holding hostage our troops or their money.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, 2½ hours ago, along with Senator MIKULSKI, I attended a mobilization ceremony for members of the Maryland National Guard who are being deployed to Iraq. All Marylanders are proud of the service of our members of the National Guard who have been called up and have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and are now being called up. It was an emotional morning as these soldiers said goodbye to their families.

I can tell you, they are ready. They are ready to serve our country. They will serve with great distinction. I told our soldiers and their families I would do everything I could as a Senator to make sure they had all of the resources so they can carry out the mission that has been assigned to them as safely and as effectively as possible. That is one reason I will vote for this conference report. I told their families I would do everything I could to help support their needs and to support the needs of military families around this Nation and to support the needs of veterans around this Nation, to take care of their support services, including their health care needs. That is another reason I will be voting for this conference report.

We need a change in our mission in Iraq so our soldiers can achieve a mission that is in the best interest of this country. That is another reason I am supporting this conference report. It spells out a mission that is in the best interest of this Nation and can be achieved. We need to change our role in Iraq. We need to get our soldiers out of the middle of a civil war, to focus on the war against terror, to help the Iraqi people take care of their own needs, to bring our troops home. That is another reason I will be supporting this conference report.

We need measurable and achievable benchmarks for the Iraqi Government so they can secure their own country to undertake political reconciliation and to provide basic needs for ordinary Iraqi citizens, another reason I will be supporting this conference report.

We need a political framework to include all the Iraqi stakeholders in order to provide a political answer to the problems of that country, another reason I support this conference report.

The President of the United States has threatened a veto. That would only delay the delivery of much needed funds to our forces, delay a change in direction in Iraq, and undermine the need for political reform in Iraq itself. We have our responsibility. Our first responsibility is to act and to pass this supplemental appropriations bill.

I urge colleagues to support this appropriation. It is in the best interest of the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, a lot has been said about this bill. Let's get the facts straight before we cast a vote. This administration has said: If you vote for this bill, you don't support the troops. Nothing could be further from the truth. This bill is the ultimate definition of supporting the troops. The truth is, a ''yes'' vote ensures our troops are equipped and prepared to defend themselves, moves them out of another country's civil war, and provides health care that has been lacking for those who return home injured. This is not about surrender, this is about our best chance for success.

A vote against this $124 billion spending bill is a vote against the $100 billion for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A vote against this bill is a vote against a billion-dollar increase to get desperately needed equipment to our National Guard and Reserve who fight abroad and protect us at home. A vote against this bill is a vote against $3 billion for the purchase of 8,500 mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles to protect our soldiers from deadly roadside bombs. A vote against this bill is a vote against nearly $3 billion to help reform an overburdened veterans health system struggling to take care of our returning wounded. A vote against this bill is a vote against $900 million to research and treat posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, two of the most critical issues facing wounded soldiers. A vote against this bill is a vote against more than $650 million in emergency funding for children's health care coverage. Without this funding, we are closing our doctors' doors to our Nation's children. A vote against this bill is a vote against $6.9 billion for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita who are still struggling to rebuild their homes and their lives more than a year after the storms hit.

A vote against this bill is a vote against allowing States to have stronger standards to protect chemical security plants. A vote against this bill is a vote against over $2 billion in homeland security initiatives, including mass transit, port security, and other measures that passed in the 9/11 bill in the Senate.

Quite frankly, I don't have faith in President Bush's escalation, a plan with benchmarks but no real consequences. I have said again and again, benchmarks without consequences are just aspirations. We have seen countless misguided plans from this administration, but the Iraqis have never been held accountable.

We were told that by the end of 2006 a provincial election law would be approved. That benchmark has not been met. We were told the Iraqis would approve a law for debaathification, but that benchmark has not been met. We were told the Iraqis would create a law to help restrain sectarian militias. That benchmark has not been met. We were told that Iraqis would establish a law to regulate the oil industry and share revenues, but that benchmark has not been met. We were told that by March the Iraqi Government was supposed to hold a referendum on constitutional amendments, but that benchmark has not been met.

Time and time again, the Iraqi Government has fallen short, and time and

again this administration has looked the other way, basing their plans on the hope that the Iraqi Government will step up.

Continuing this failed policy in Iraq based on the mere hope that things will improve is not good enough. The broken promises must stop.

Some on the other side of the aisle point out that the President is the Commander in Chief. I remind my friends that the Constitution puts the Congress in charge of appropriating funds. Congress has the power, the right, and the obligation to make sure we spend the taxpayers' money wisely. What we are saying today with this bill is no more blank check for the Iraq war.

This bill sends a strong message to the Iraqis that it is their responsibility to take control of their own country and that our involvement in Iraq is not indefinite. As Thomas Friedman has written: It is time to decide ''we will no longer play host to a war where we are everyone's protector and target.''

We must put in motion a plan to bring a responsible end to this war. I urge all colleagues to vote for the supplemental, a vote that takes care of our troops, a vote to responsibly bring our troops home, and a vote for a new direction in Iraq and here at home.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the title of this bill, ''The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act,'' doesn't say much for the contents of this legislation because it has gone way beyond that with a lot of material that has nothing to do with the title. The Finance Committee matters definitely don't fit into this bill.

As the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator BYRD has said on so many occasions the Founding Fathers vested the great power of the purse in the Congress. Likewise, the other great power, the power to raise taxes, is vested in Congress. The power of the purse, appropriations, is our power. We are directly accountable to our constituents for our spending actions. In that vein, I deeply respect the deep traditions of the Appropriations Committee.

As former chairman and now ranking member of the Finance Committee, I also deeply respect the division of power. The power to tax is our power as a committee, and we are directly accountable to our constituents for our taxing actions. We should mix the jurisdiction of the two great money committees—Finance and Appropriations—rarely, if at all. It should only occur if at all when the senior members of the tax writing and appropriations committees agree. Mixing tax writing and appropriations jurisdiction should not occur. As a leadership power play, those kinds of actions demean the committees.

Fortunately, the leadership respected this division of jurisdiction between the tax writers and appropriators over the last 6 years. Unfortunately, early on in the tenure of this new Democratic majority and their leadership, we have seen a dramatically different course of action for purely partisan reasons.

The Democratic leadership inserted into this sensitive supplemental appropriations bill two major matters that involve Finance Committee jurisdiction. So the first lesson we have learned is that the line between the tax writing committee jurisdiction and appropriations jurisdiction will not be observed. That will only undermine each committee and break down the committee process. The second lesson is the ''I told you so.'' Shortly after the Senate acted on the minimum wage and small business tax relief bill, I said I had learned something from the Democratic leadership, as they were in the minority over the last 6 years. It was a lesson the Democrats taught us while they were in the minority. That lesson is, get a preconference agreement. Put another way, if you are in the Senate minority, as we are now, don't agree to a conference unless you secure an agreement for fair treatment in advance. That is something that worked well for the Democrats while they were in the minority, something we ought to have learned, and we have learned.

Now let me say I appreciate all the consultation and courtesy that Chairman BAUCUS has given me. He worked with me and I worked with him to get the minimum wage, small business tax relief bill through the committee. But the composition of the final package that is before us is heavily weighted toward an extension and modification of the work opportunity tax credit—and I support that credit—and the benefits of that policy are delayed. Small businesses need tax relief to be in sync with the time of the minimum wage kicking in. Both of these outcomes do not reflect a proportionate agreement between the House and Senate bills. The arbitrary ceiling on the amount of tax relief was not a fair balance. This agreement confirms that a preconference process—learning that from the Democratic minority of the last 4 years—is necessary to ensure that a conference agreement will reflect the priorities of both bodies. I will reiterate my point to the Republican leadership again on that. This process proves that we need a preconference agreement before agreeing to go to conference in the first place.

Now I will return to the substance of the deal, Mr. President. I am hearing from a lot of small business folks who are going to be paying the minimum wage. They want to retain their current workforces, hey have to look to the bottome line. They are very disappointed that the arbitrary $5 billion limit meant that important tax relief measures were tossed out. I am referring to a simplification of the cash method of accounting. That proposal would cut down on a lot of paperwork small businesses currently have to do. I'm also referring to faster depreciation rules for new restaurant buildings, and I am referring to faster depreciation rules for retailers and owner-financed building improvements. All of these proposals would help with the coming cash crunch that these small businesses will be facing.

I am not hearing from a lot of the big business folks who were targeted by the loophole closers and antitax shelter measures. Because of House opposition and fealty to the $5 billion number, those reasonable revenue raisers were tossed out the window.

This was a missed opportunity. It was a missed opportunity for a Congress that started with a supposed reform mission to send a message to K Street in DC and Wall Street in New York City. That message would've been simple. Don't engage in tax shelters like the so-called ''SILO'' transactions. Don't move your company headquarters offshore to minimize your American tax responsibilities like the so-called ''inversion'' transactions. For high-paid CEOS, don't rely too much on non-qualified deferred compensation arrangements. Nope, you can kiss that opportunity goodbye.

When it came to the small business tax relief package, K Street and Wall Street big business won and Main Street small business lost. Not a good outcome. Hopefully, once this bill is vetoed and we return to the minimum wage/small business tax relief package, Main Street small business will come out on top.

Now I am going to turn to the other Finance Committee material in this time-sensitive appropriations bill. I am referring to Medicaid proposals in the conference agreement. There is a provision in the conference agreement that would prevent CMS from implementing the cost-limitation rule.

Certainly, a one-year moratorium is an improvement over the two-year moratorium that was in the bill as passed by the Senate, but the language in the bill still encourages states to push the envelope on payment schemes.

If CMS gets a waiver or state plan amendment that has authority to do with the rule, I don't think CMS has the authority to turn it down. Neither does CMS.

And after trying to work it out with the sponsors of the provision for the last couple of weeks, I don't think they want CMS to have any authority either.

Why? This is a provision written for the benefit of a special interests so they can avoid real scrutiny of their financing arrangements.

This provision will encourage states to offer payment schemes that CMS has previously disallowed as being inappropriate.

It will encourage litigation if CMS tries to assert that they do still maintain jurisdiction.

This is just bad public policy.

The inspector general has investigated and reported to congress on why there are problems in the areas the rule addresses.

We have not had the first hearing on why the rule doesn't work and must be stopped.

This is a tremendous mistake and should not be in the bill.

The way that this provision is paid for is equally noxious.

The extension of the Wisconsin pharmacy plus waiver is an unnecessary earmark. Every State but Wisconsin has changed their pharmacy assistance program as the MMA required.

But why hasn't Wisconsin? It's very simple. They want the Federal dollars that Medicaid provides and the rebates they get from drug companies.

That it is an earmark is bad. But the way the language is written is really offensive. The language is written in a way that games Medicaid's budget neutrality test. It's written to guarantee that it appears to save money.

The reality is that Wisconsin will be providing many poor seniors with less of a benefit than they could get through part d. Wisconsin charges greater cost-sharing than Medicare for low income seniors.

It truly is another missed opportunity. They could have paid for this with a provision we would have gladly supported.

But again, the special interest won out. We could have struck a provision that the House Rules Committee stuck in the tax bill in the middle of the night last December that creates an unfair advantage for certain private fee-for-service Medicare Advantage plans.

Senator Baucus and I thought this was terrible policy, we said so on the floor, and have wanted to change it. Plans based in Illinois and Nevada are among the plans it advantages most. So for some reason, striking the provision didn't make it into the bill. It's a corporate giveaway that should be eliminated.

Legislating to prevent CMS from cleaning up intergovernmental transfers scams on this appropriation bill sets a bad precedent. That is clear. It's legislation on Medicaid and, that is a basic part of the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

If the Senate proceeds in this manner, then nothing then would prevent the Senate legislating changes on other Medicaid and Medicare issues on appropriation bills without the benefit of hearings or committee action on those subjects.

Invading the Medicaid and Medicare jurisdiction of the Finance Committee is a mistake.

It is almost impossible to cope with Medicaid and Medicare legislation on appropriation bills. These are complex issues that are best dealt with by the committee of jurisdiction.

This bill is going to be vetoed. The Appropriations Committee will return to its work to fund the troops in the field. We ought to focus on that. On minimum wage/small business tax relief, we need to go to regular order. Let's arrive at a pre-conference agreement on the House and Senate bills and go to conference and hash it out with a real conference. Unlike this situation, the chairmen and ranking members of both tax writing committees should be conferees. In that setting, we can arrive at a bipartisan agreement that passes the House, Senate, and be signed by the President. On the Medicaid provision, it ought to be crafted by the committees of jurisdiction and incorporated in a vehicle controlled by those committees.

After the veto, let's get this right. I would ask the leadership to get out of the way of the tax writing committees and let us do our work on our schedule in line with our committees' objectives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, there is a lot of emotion in the Congress today, as there is in the country, on this issue. There is a lot of rhetoric flying back and forth. Some of it is inaccurate. The first thing we need to say is that this is not an issue of the Congress denying anything to the people of the Armed Forces. We are exercising our constitutional power to appropriate. We are sending the President a $100 billion check. If he chooses not to cash that check, it is up to him to come up with the reasons why, not us.

There is also a lot of rhetoric going around over the past couple of days about defeatism and surrender and accusations of betraying the troops. We need to calm down a bit. There is no one in this Congress who wants anything more than to support those people who have been put into harm's way. I believe people should be very careful on this floor to discuss political motivations of our military which reflect very closely the political views of the country at large. Poll after poll shows that.

In respect to accusations about defeatism and surrender, the question becomes: Defeat by whom and surrender to whom? We won this war 4 years ago. The question is, When do we end the occupation? Iraq has been in turmoil for thousands of years. It will be in turmoil of one kind or another long after we leave. The U.S. military is not going to change the societal makeup of Iraq. The Maliki government is not going to bring peace among Iraq's competing factions without the strong, over diplomatic cooperation of other countries in the region. Despite the rhetoric to the contrary, these other countries, all of them, do have an incentive in seeing a stable Iraq.

This administration claims that our deciding to withdraw from the internal problems of Iraq will embolden the enemy. Then the question becomes: Just which enemy? Do they mean the enemy that attacked us on 9/11? We all know that was Osama bin Laden. He not only was not in Iraq, but he was opposed to the continuation of Saddam Hussein's regime because it was a secular government.

Do they mean Saddam Hussein, whose ouster was their justification for beginning this war? Do they mean the remnants of the old regime, which was their catch phrase when the occupation began? Do they mean al-Qaida? Let's remember, there were no al-Qaida operations in Iraq before we invaded, and there will be very little motivation for al-Qaida to continue in Iraq once we have left. Not only that, but the Iraqis themselves are quite capable of standing up to al-Qaida without our help. They do not want al-Qaida in Iraq. That is why they are cooperating with our forces in Anbar Province right now. And they kept al-Qaida out of Iraq before we got there. Or do they mean what this administration continually calls the insurgency, as if there were a monolithic group of defeatable guerrilla forces? We keep hearing about this insurgency. Well, which one? The Sunnis? The Shia? Ask yourselves again, against whom are the insurgents operating? Some are operating against us. Why? Because we are there and they want us to leave, as a vast majority of the Iraqis say in poll after poll. Some are operating against other ethnic factions in Iraq. But to what extent is that the responsibility of the United States military, to try to end ethnic rivalries that go back hundreds of years? Or perhaps, as defined by this administration, we are talking about the factions within the factions that are busily trying to kill each other, just as the factions in Lebanon were trying to kill each other more than 20 years ago, when we put the marines in the middle of that violence.

Some say our withdrawal from Iraq would create chaos in the region. I have long advocated a withdrawal that should be accomplished under the umbrella of a strong diplomatic effort that involves regional cooperation. But I must regrettably say, for those of us who warned against invading Iraq and decapitating that existing Government, the chaos the administration is now predicting is exactly the chaos their invasion has brought us in the first place—instability in the region, a loss of American prestige, a rise in the influence of Iran, an increase in terrorist activity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

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

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I wish to say I am very disappointed in some of the provisions in this report. I must say that candidly. At the same time, I believe, very strongly, the reservations

I have pale in comparison with my disappointment in the failure of leadership that has brought us into Iraq in the first place—a leadership that refuses to find a suitable turning point which will bring us out.

This administration must be confronted. It must understand the American people have grown tired of this disastrous, one-dimensional approach to a crisis that demands innovative answers. It is for that reason I support this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Utah is recognized for 8 minutes.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on a question that continues to weigh rather heavily on my heart. I am reluctant to ask it since such a question would never have been asked, or even contemplated, by previous generations of Americans. But it is a question that now must be asked since it is central to our future: Do we, as Americans, have the resolve to see our commitments through? It is a question we must confront in a number of policy arenas that will directly affect the way we, our children, and our grandchildren will live in this new century. Do we have the resolve and the courage to meet our commitments and confront the looming crisis of Social Security?

Do we have the resolve to balance our Nation's budget? Do we have the resolve to endow our children with a proper education so they can master and push the limits of science, thereby providing our Nation the means to compete in an increasingly competitive world economy?

However, at this point in our Nation's history, the crucial question concerning our resolve as a nation does not relate to matters of domestic policy. It relates to our commitments beyond our borders. It is the central and critical component in determining who will prevail in the global war on terrorism. Will we, our coalition allies, the people of Iraq and their elected Government, emerge victorious? Or will we renounce and abdicate our commitments and responsibilities to the Iraqi people—leaving them to a fate controlled by terrorists and leaving our future security as a nation in peril?

Generations ago that, unto itself, would be a stain on the honor of this country; but these are different times.

Turning our back now will only provide our enemies with a new base of operations, and unlike Afghanistan, this base contains vast oil wealth. Imagine al-Qaida with billions of dollars to do with as Osama bin Laden wishes. I wonder what they will buy with all that money. Remember, shortly after the liberation of Kabul, there were numerous media reports that al-Qaida was working on chemical weapons.

So, with that in mind, I again ask: Do we have the resolve to see our commitments through?

As we seek to answer this question, I am reminded of events that occurred during the summer of 1940. The Nazi armies, seemingly invincible, had conquered Western Europe. France, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Norway, and Belgium had all fallen.

The British Army, after its rescue from Dunkirk, no longer possessed sufficient numbers of artillery and tanks to defend against the blitzkrieg. All that stood between Hitler and complete victory was the English Channel and 650 fighters of the Royal Air Force.

Then Hitler offered a deal. In exchange for a ''free hand in Europe,'' the Nazis would provide ''guarantees'' that they would not invade Great Britain.

Despite the fact that the British Army lacked sufficient equipment to effectively repulse an invasion, Prime Minister Churchill resolved to keep his nation's commitment to the people of Europe. He would not abandon them.

His words, which I will paraphrase, still echo today:

> The Battle of France is over . . . the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of . . . Western civilization. . . .The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us . . . or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free. . . . But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States . . . and all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us, therefore, brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that . . . men will say—This Was Their Finest Hour.

This is the lesson that history teaches us: that resolution to see your commitments through is what great statesmen and nations are made of—that peace and justice can only be restored through bold action.

So what do my colleagues on the other side of the aisle offer, knowing full well this lesson of history? In a word: defeat. In his own words, the Democratic leader said on the floor of the Senate, on April 19, the ''war is lost.'' To be fair, the leader did attempt to temper his words by saying:

> As long as we follow the President's path, the war is lost. But there is still a chance to change course and we must change course. No one wants us to succeed in the Middle East more than I do. But there must be a change of course.

So what plan, or new course, does the Democratic leader or other Democrats offer? How can we, in his words, ''succeed in the Middle East''?

His answer can be found in the conference report to this bill. But I warn anyone who attempts to read this legislation, first you must wade through billions in spending allocated to projects and programs that have nothing to do with the war before you learn how our Democratic colleagues plan to ''succeed in the Middle East.''

What is their plan for victory? Well, their legislation states that no matter what happens, the bulk of our forces will begin to withdraw after July 1, or if the President makes certain certifications, after October 1.

So what is their strategy? I believe Winston Churchill would have characterized the Democratic strategy as: guaranteed defeat.

Is this resolve?

Is this determination to see our commitments through?

No.

This is the worst case of capitulation to appeasement since Neville Chamberlain spoke the words ''peace in our time.''

What is needed now is leadership. Now, at this critical moment in history, great nations need to follow Churchill's advice, yet the Democrats offer us only Chamberlain's.

The Democratic leaders previously stated, in 2005:

> [A]s far as setting a timeline . . . that's not a wise decision because it only empowers those who don't want us there, and it doesn't work well to do it.

Wise and sound words. That was real leadership. Unfortunately, that was when the polls supported their position to stand firm. Now the Democratic leaders have reversed themselves because the polls have told them that is what they should do.

Two days ago, during an interview on CNN, the Senator from Nevada was asked if he would believe the words of our new commander General Petraeus ''that there is progress going on in Iraq, that the so-called surge is working. Will you believe him when he says that?''

What was his response? ''No, I don't believe him, because it's not happening.''

Now, I find this to be an incredible remark. Less than 3 months ago, the majority leader had joined a unanimous Senate and voted in favor of General Petraeus. But this was more than just another confirmation vote. The major subject of his confirmation hearing and the subsequent debate on the Senate floor was the new strategy the general had outlined.

So what is the new strategy? Simply put, General Petraeus is executing one of the tenets of a classic counterinsurgency strategy by providing and maintaining security to the local population and neighborhoods in Baghdad. Only when this is achieved will the Iraqi Government be able to continually offer basic services such as clean water and electricity, which are the backbone of any modern society.

This, in turn, creates conditions where the Iraqi people can begin to develop a growing economy and where families feel safe to send their kids to school. As these goals are achieved, more and more of the population will desire even greater stability and will support and work toward creating Iraqi Government institutions and security services that maintain and enhance this new, secure environment.

How is this different from the past? Previously, U.S. forces would clear an area of insurgents, but, unfortunately, soon thereafter, our forces would leave and the insurgents would return. Now, under General Petraeus's plan, American and Iraqi security forces will

maintain security in the cleared neighborhoods of Baghdad. To date, over 50 security force units, based in what are called garrisons, can be found in the neighborhoods of the city, and even more are planned.

That is why the additional forces that we are sending to Iraq are vital. It is not more for more's sake, but to maintain a secure environment for the Iraqi people and to help them stand up for themselves.

Based upon the briefing that the Senate received yesterday from General Petraeus, and information I have examined as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I can report that we are seeing signs of progress.

Frankly, I believe the changes that have been made in the last 3 months are remarkable and need our full support, and it is readily apparent we do not yet have all the promised forces deployed and in Iraq.

So let us return to the question that I asked when I began my remarks: Do we, as Americans, have the resolve to see our commitments through? Or will we falter?

That is what the vote on this conference report will demonstrate. Will we stand with firm resolve behind our commitments and see our new strategy through? Or do we adopt a policy of appeasement and hope that al-Qaida, and those who wish us harm and seek to destroy the values that we hold so dear, do not follow us home to our country?

What side of history do you wish to be on? Based on America's history and our resolve that has seen us through so many difficulties in the past, I believe the American people do not want retreat, they want success and security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from New York is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, we can do both: fund the troops and change our mission in Iraq. That is what this supplemental does, and we urge you, Mr. President, to look into your heart, reconsider, and sign it.

The American people, bipartisan majorities in both Houses of Congress, military experts, and the Iraq Study Group all agree the only way to succeed is to change our mission. Only President Bush and his small band of advisers think we should stay the course.

What is more, the President wrongly thinks the only way to support our troops is for everyone to rubberstamp his policies. That is not what the American people want. The American people want a change in mission. They want a new direction, not more of the same failed policies.

I have talked to generals and to NCOs. They do not want us to rubberstamp the President's policies. They want a debate because everyone knows the present direction is failing. Everyone knows we need a change of mission—except the President and his small group of advisers who are clustered down there at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and refuse to listen—stubbornly refuse to listen—to the experts, to the American people, and to so many others.

First, let me tell you what this supplemental does. The first thing it does is fund our troops. It fully supports our troops. It allocates more dollars for them than the President has asked for.

Second, it provides reasonable and meaningful guidelines to protect our troops by ensuring that all units that are sent overseas to fight are ready, trained, and equipped to fight. It will require the Department of Defense to adhere to its own guidelines to ensure that every unit that is deployed is ''fully mission capable.''

Why would President Bush want to send our troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, into fierce battles, without the training and equipment needed to get the job done and come home safely? But when he says he will veto this bill, he will veto that provision.

Third, this legislation shows both the United States and Iraq how to change the failing strategy.

What has happened is simple. Our mission in Iraq has devolved so that most of what we do is patrol, police, and stand in the middle of a civil war. The Sunnis and the Shiites have hated each other for centuries. Their enmity goes way back. They will continue to not like each other, not work with each other, fight with each other long after we are gone—whether it is 3 months or 3 years. Yet most of the time our troops—our brave men and women—are simply caught in the middle of a civil war. We have not chosen a side; we are just in the middle.

The original purpose in Iraq was to fight terrorism. Our supplemental says, let's go back to that original purpose: counterterrorism, as well as force protection, and training the Iraqis. But to continue to spend most of our time, effort, and lives—lives—patrolling a civil war makes no sense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield the Senator 30 additional seconds.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in conclusion, again, there is a simple answer to our problems in Iraq, which is mission change. We can both support the troops and change the mission. That is what the American people want. That is what the experts tell us. I believe that is what most of our soldiers want. I urge support of this supplemental and again urge the President to reconsider and sign it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, our job in this body right now for all of us is to fight and win the war that radical Islam terrorists have declared upon us.

As I see it, Congress has three choices. First, Congress can and should provide the money it needs to support the troops. That is the only proper choice. There is money in this supplemental for additional mine-resistant armored protection vehicles—vehicles the Army reports will reduce casualties by 70 percent. Each day this Congress neglects to fund the troops and pass a bill that can be signed into law is an additional day our troops are without that protection.

Second, if you want to stop this war, Congress can vote to cut off funding. However, doing so would tell the troops that even though 77 Members of this body said we should fight this war to keep America safe, we would now be telling all of our brave men and women in Iraq, their families, and the families of those who gave their lives, we did not mean it, that we did not want to finish this job, and that when the going gets tough, America gets going—out. We will tell America we are no longer concerned about keeping our homeland safe from a new 9/11, about denying al-Qaida the safe haven it has declared it is seeking in Iraq to prepare for new attacks on America. While that choice is deadly wrong, it is an honest choice under the constitutional power given to the Congress.

Third, and most deplorable, Congress is delaying the funds by forcing vote after vote, while attempting to score political points, and trying to micromanage the war, even though war management is the President's constitutional responsibility.

Most sadly, this is the course of action the Democratic leadership has chosen—a course that will result in ''death by a thousand cuts.''

Those who are attempting to end the war precipitously, politically, because they think it will score them seats in Congress or perhaps even the White House, are putting polls and politics ahead of our national security. Democratic leaders have stated they intend to pick up seats as a result of what they have referred to as a lost war. These comments were not just broadcast here in the United States; this talk about war loss was picked up and broadcast gleefully by al-Jazeera to our enemies and the world.

The Los Angeles Times has reported a top House Democrat has said: Our goal is to keep giving them—Republicans—votes on Iraq.

The article goes on to say:

> Democratic strategists also believe that repeated votes on the war will allow the party to expand its congressional majorities in next year's elections by continuing to link GOP lawmakers with the President and his war policies.

I am sure our troops in the field appreciate very much that some of the Democratic leadership are working to win the war—not the war against our sworn enemies blowing up our troops and killing Iraqi children who rely on

our protection but against fellow Americans in coming elections. Where is their strategy to win, to leave Iraq a stable and safe country?

As I have said, the other side's leadership, by embracing a policy of repeated votes and delaying funding, is denying our troops the resources they need. Their enemy should be al-Qaida and its murderous insurgents, not the President and Republican opponents.

Substituting Congress for General Petraeus's leadership and telling him how to run a war from 8,000 miles away is a disaster. General Petraeus is executing a new plan, a plan essentially recommended by the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group, which last fall our colleagues on the other side of the aisle said we should follow. But now even if some generals in Congress think they are smarter than General Petraeus and can devise in legislation a better plan, which I strongly doubt, I am very doubtful they can adjust that plan to conditions on the battlefield. This is a sad reflection of how vested the Democratic leaders are in defeat—defeat for President Bush but defeat for our troops and our safety in Iraq.

Congress attempts to put artificial political timetables on the management of the war and does nothing to accomplish the mission. The Baker-Hamilton commission explicitly rejected timetables for withdrawal, because they recognized—the bipartisan group recognized—it was a disaster, and many Democratic leaders have previously stated a legislative timetable, laying out this strategy in legislation, is absolutely unacceptable. What the political timetable does is give al-Qaida the encouragement and information it needs to know when and where and how to attack our troops.

This January, in open session, leaders of our intelligence community came before the Senate Intelligence Committee to answer questions about establishing a political withdrawal and the consensus was alarming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BOND. I understand I had 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator did. He is down to 1 minute.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, the intelligence community said withdrawing forces before we can provide security will result in chaos: more killing among Iraqis, an al-Qaida safe haven, and a possible regionwide declaration of war.

We need a political solution in Iraq, not in Washington, to allow the leaders in the national unity government to come together, but to get that, we need to repel the terrorists, we need to rebuild the Iraqi security forces. What won't help General Petraeus is direction from armchair generals in Congress.

What I would say to those who want to direct the war is: If you want to run it, you will own it. When a newly revitalized al-Qaida carries out a renewed 9/11 scale attack, you will own that one, too.

Mr. President, hundreds of thousands of soldiers and their families at home will remember that. I suggest we support our troops.

As my colleagues know, I hail proudly from the Show-Me-State.

If all of the rhetoric in Washington about supporting the troops is true and I suspect it is, then I suggest that the Congress show our troops that we do support them, get them the funds and give them a chance to succeed.

Comments like ''The war is lost'' do not help our troops, but they do embolden the enemy.

Our actions should inspire our troops and the millions of Iraqi citizens who actually trust that Americans will not embrace defeat.

Our action should not be one that inspires al-Qaida and the murderous insurgents.

We should not pass legislation that provides our enemy the clear path to their victory, a victory which some in this body have already awarded them.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator BOND for his remarks. As the senior Republican on the Intelligence Committee, I know he has knowledge and information and passion maybe some of the rest of us don't have the benefit of.

Mr. President, I rise today to oppose final passage of the emergency supplemental funding bill.

It troubles me to oppose this bill because our troops need this money right now to continue operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the globe.

But there are so many things I find objectionable in this final bill that I cannot support it.

The bill still includes over $21 billion in unrequested items—$425 million for rural schools, $3.5 billion for agricultural assistance, and even an additional $910 million more than the President requested in FEMA disaster relief for communities impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

It is not that these programs are bad or wrong, because many of them aren't—in fact, most of this assistance is very valid. We desperately need that FEMA money on the gulf coast to repair our communities as many communities are still struggling to get back on their feet.

But this is an emergency supplemental that is supposed to focus on the urgent needs of our military in fighting the war on terror. We should not be including money for a multitude of requirements that may be important, but are not urgent.

I'm also very troubled that this bill micromanages the President's ability and constitutional mandate to serve as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Through this bill, the Congress says to General Petraeus: ''Thank you very much, General. We unanimously think that you're the right man for the job—we just don't believe you when you tell us what you need to do that job, or when you tell us how things are actually going on the ground.''

It tells our enemies: Just wait a few months, and the place is yours.

It tells our friends: When the going gets tough, don't count on America to stick around.

And it tells President Malaki: Good luck with that democracy and freedom thing you are working on. Let us know how it turns out.

This is exactly the wrong message at the wrong time to send—not only to the terrorists in Iraq, but to terrorists and rogue states around the globe.

The stakes only get higher from here. I'm convinced that surrender in Iraq will embolden these terrorists and ultimately threaten the security of our shores.

Don't get me wrong—I, too, want our servicemen and women to come home as soon as possible. I pray that not 1 more American has to pay the ultimate price in this struggle.

I agree that the Iraqi Government must step up to the plate as soon as possible, and take responsibility for the security of their county.

I have always supported the establishment of benchmarks to ensure that expectations are clear, and progress against those expectations can be measured.

What I don't agree with is telling the President and the Generals on the ground how to do their job.

But this bill is even worse then that—this bill is like a bait and switch: we'll give the money today for operations in Iraq, but you need to come home tomorrow because we don't support operations in Iraq.

Which one is it? Do we support our troops and their mission, or not?

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want our troops to come home tomorrow, they can make that happen. It is easy. The Constitution of the United States gives the legislative branch the power of the purse.

You can cut off money today—you can vote against this bill today.

When you start marking up the fiscal year 2008 Defense appropriation, you can cut off Iraq funding there as well.

But what we have here is political theatre. This is a ''do nothing'' Congress at its worst.

The President has been very clear many times—he is going to veto this bill because of the withdrawal timeline and all the excess projects. And in the Congress, there will not be enough votes to overturn that veto. Then what?

I guess we'll get to talk about this matter again next week or the week after. But at some point, very soon, our inaction is going to cause some real harm—and I hope that the real harm doesn't include the loss of more American lives around the world.

If we can't get moving and fund our troops with no strings attached, we are eventually going to impact the safety and capability of our military, not just in Iraq, but around the globe.

This should not be about the President. It should not be about the Congress. This is about funds for our troops—the men and women in uniform—who are in Afghanistan and Iraq right now, doing the job they were directed to do. They need this money. They need the equipment the money would provide to do the job, and that should be our focus.

This funding was requested by the President on February 6, almost 3 months ago, and through this political theater we are fixed to embark upon a vote we know will not become law, one that will surely be vetoed by the President. This legislation is dead before arrival. Why don't we acknowledge that and find a way to get the job done without delaying even more, forcing our military to move funds around, to borrow from Peter to pay for Paul. It will have a negative effect on our men and women in the Navy and the Air Force and the rest of the military.

We could have turned this over to our senior members of the Appropriations Committee, my colleague from Mississippi and the other appropriators, including the Senator from Washington State, and said: Look, work through this. Let's get something we can support in good conscience.

There are more problems with this than just artificial deadlines. The $21 billion in domestic spending was added beyond—I believe that is approximately right—what the President asked for. Some of it is needed and justified. I know my colleague from Mississippi and the Appropriations Committees on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol could have worked through that and come up with a bill to get the job done. It is not that some of these adds are not good and justified. The President asked for funds for Katrina recovery, and I think maybe some funds have been added to that beyond what he asked for. This is important to me and my State, but I refuse to be trying to get funds that may be immediately needed for a disaster on the back of our troops and to delay it even more. Surely there is a way we can come to an agreement on how to achieve this result.

This is an emergency supplemental. Some of the things that have been added—not just money but language—don't relate to an emergency domestically or in terms of what our troops need. That language should be stricken. We make grand speeches here on the floor about how we should not legislate on appropriations, yet things have been added in a number of categories, not just the minimum wage and small business tax cuts that don't get the job done.

This is a classic case of micromanagement where the Congress is trying to set dates. We have an alternative. If we want to use the power of the purse to stop the war on terror and our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, vote no. Vote no. Vote against this. Don't provide the troops the funds they need or any of this other money. If you want to do that, go right ahead. There is a procedure. But here we are trying to set ourselves up as the final judges.

General Petraeus was here yesterday telling us what is going on. He was honest. He didn't say it is perfect. There was a change in strategy. It is being implemented and carried forward. We voted 100 percent for General Petraeus, and now we are saying: Oh, well, sorry about that, General. We are going to try to tell you when to do what, not wait until we get more reports from you. Wait months, our enemies are told, and the place is yours. When the going gets tough, can you count on the Americans to see it through in a responsible way? This is the wrong message at the wrong time.

Mr. President, I am an incurable optimist. Let's get it done. Let's let it go on through. The President will veto it. But next week, can we get together and do the right thing for our country and for our troops? I beg my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We have made our political points, our political statements. Then let's get our job done. Let's do the right thing for America, not the right thing for Republicans or Democrats but the right thing for our troops.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on our side the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, be recognized; following her, going back and forth, then Senator FEINSTEIN for 4 minutes, and then Senator JACK REED for 4 minutes.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have a book which is a poignant and wonderful account of life in Louisiana after the storms. It is called ''1 Dead in Attic,'' written by Chris Rose, a reporter for the Times Picayune. The title refers to the unique system for identifying what happened in people's homes during the storm. The notation, sprayed on the wall for everyone to see, would explain whether there were pets or people or, in this case, someone no longer living. This symbol—this information—remains spray painted on the sides of many houses to this day.

In this book, Mr. Rose describes 2005:

> This was the year that defines our city, our lives, our destiny. Nothing comparable has ever happened in modem times in America, and there is no blueprint for how we do this. We just wing it. Do good works. Save someone or something.
>
> * * *
>
> If there was no New Orleans, America would just be a bunch of free people dying of boredom.

A photographer for from England noted:

> I witnessed the destruction of one of the finest cities in America, her soul bared and exposed, her inequality and inefficiency laid out for all to see. And through it all I saw the grace, courage and dignity of her citizens, forced to flee their homes, their lives, their history. I trust her soul will be repaired.

I want to thank Chairman BYRD for his many courtesies and assistance in this bill. I also want to thank his staff for all of their hard work and long hours. I also want to thank Senator COCHRAN, who has done so much for the people of the gulf and who shares so much of the hard work on the recovery with me and the other gulf coast Senators. In fact, the entire Senate appropriations Committee—my fellow Senators and their staff—have been so supportive of us through this process—and I thank them.

There are many provisions that will help the ongoing recovery efforts in my state and along the rest of the gulf coast included in this bill.

I intend to vote for this bill because it provides critical resources and removes obstacles to the recovery of the gulf coast. In addition, the bill provides funding necessary to support our troops in Iraq.

Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast in August of 2005 and Hurricane Rita followed on its heels just a few weeks later. While a great deal of time has passed, and a lot of progress has been made, this recovery will take many, many years.

As you have heard me say on many occasions, the damage to the gulf coast is unimaginable. Sometimes I think that people forget just how unimaginable the damage was. Mr. President, 1,836 people were killed. To put this in perspective, this means that 1 out of every 3 people who work here in the Senate would have lost their lives 6008 people work for the Senate. Mr. President, 650,000 people were displaced. It would be as if every single solitary person in the District of Columbia were displaced from their homes and neighborhood.

Over 275,000 homes were damaged, with over 205,000 of those in Louisiana alone—again, this is the equivalent of every home in the District of Columbia being flooded, damaged, or destroyed, and 240,000 jobs were lost. Here in DC, we are lucky, there are more jobs than there are residents. However, were a similar disaster to strike DC., every other person employed in the District would have lost their job. Also, 875 schools were destroyed and there was $82 billion in property damage.

If you want to try an experiment at home, paint a chalk line at a point 3 feet from the floor and imagine that everything below that line submerged in water.

But we are coming back from that aweful year. It is a long, hard struggle but there are signs of hope. Our people are rebuilding their homes. There are now over 223,000 people living in Orleans Parish—about 43 percent of the pre-storm population—and over 450,000 in Jefferson. Our businesses are reopening. Visitors are returning. Our schools are rebuilding—better than before. We are creating a new health care system for the 21st century in Louisiana.

However, much work remains. This bill will help so very much with those

ongoing efforts. I want to thank all of you for supporting these measures.

Some out there have taken issue with this funding. This assistance to the gulf coast is not ''extraneous''. It is necessary. However, the President has called this spending ''excessive non-emergency spending''. This is simply untrue.

This bill provides about $3 billion in additional direct aid to the gulf coast. We spend $8.6 billion per month in Iraq, which is $286 million per day. So, we are providing the people of the Gulf Coast with the equivalent of 10 days of the funding for the war. To date; we have spend $470 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq only, we have spent $379 billion.

Mr. President, you tell Cameron Parish where all 6 of their grade schools were closed until October 31, 2005 and 62 percent of all school facilities were destroyed that their teachers don't deserve a little extra money and that providing $30 million for bonuses and incentives for the grade schools in Mississippi and Louisiana is too much.

You tell Dillard University, which had $115 million dollars in physical damage and lost $26 million in revenues—which counts Ellis Marsalis and Reavis Ortiz among its alumni—whose campus is not far from the lower levee breach of the London Avenue Canal and which suffered extensive flood damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and whose main hall, Nelson Hall, was destroyed by a fire, during the flood, whose students took their normal classes at The New Orleans World Trade Center and The New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel until this fall, that $30 million in assistance—to be divided among the 27 universities that were closed in Louisiana and Mississippi—is ''excessive''.

You tell small businesses in St. Bernard—where there were 1,400 businesses before the storm and only about 400 have re-opened and less than 70 percent of the population has returned—that $25 million for economic injury loans is ''extraneous'' or unnecessary. Even Wal-Mart has not reopened in this Parish.

You tell the people of Jefferson Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and Orleans Parish that their levees should not be repaired and that their homes and businesses will remain vulnerable to the next storm and that an additional $1.3 billion for their safety is too much.

What is included in the Emergency Supplemental is FAIR funding, waiver of the 10 percent match. This bill eliminates the red-tape associated with so much of the Federal money. This supplemental includes the FAIR Funding Act language which will waive the local cost share for FEMA public assistance. This is FAIR. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were the first and third most costly disasters in the history of this country and the Federal Government has waived this local share requirement in 32 different disasters since 1985, including Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki.

Forgiveability of CDLs is included. This bill will also correct a grave inequity and allow for our community Disaster loans to have the same treatment as all others.

Levee money is included. In addition, this bill will shore up a shortfall that has been identified by the Army Corp of Engineers. They have estimated that they will be short $1.3 billion dollars this year for necessary levee work in Louisiana. However, instead of asking for money to alleviate this shortfall, the administration merely wanted to rob Peter to pay Paul. However, this committee has wisely decided to provide additional money for this necessary work. Unfortunately, I do not believe that this will be sufficient to meet the ongoing needs—or will be enough to restore, repair and rebuild our levee system.

There is support for our education system. The Universities in Louisiana have been critical to our rebuilding efforts. They have fought to come back and about 80 percent of the students have returned. More importantly, the universities have provided resources and leadership during the rebuilding of the region. In Louisiana, they are also helping our grade schools stand up—forging new and stronger partnerships with our new school system.

Our universities suffered over a billion dollars in damages as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In the 4th supplemental passed last Congress, we provided $40 million dollars for higher ed assistance—of which $33 million went to Louisiana universities. In this bill, we appropriate another $30 million, every penny of which is necessary.

We also provide $30 million in order to reward the teachers who give their hearts out trying to bring normalcy to our children and prepare them for the future.

I appreciate the continued assistance that this committee and my colleagues in the Seanate have given to the people of the Gulf Coast—and the hope that this legislation provides to them.

Mr. President, it is not often I disagree with my good friend from Mississippi, but I will say the people of the gulf coast don't think they are riding on the backs of the troops; they think they are the troops. The Guard and National Reserve who were in Iraq who are from Louisiana, 3,000 fighting in Iraq, only to come home to have their homes destroyed, have their jobs lost. They don't think it is too much to ask of the President to include $3 billion in a $24 billion bill—$3 billion for the gulf coast recovery, which is domestic emergency funding that has been included in every supplemental, even when the Republicans drafted a bill where there was money for domestic emergencies. The people of the gulf coast don't believe $3 billion is too much to ask.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. We are spending $8.6 billion a month in Iraq, which is $286 million a day. In this bill, we are asking the gulf coast to have 10 days—10 days of funding for the troops who are fighting in Iraq who lost their homes in the gulf coast. I don't think it is excessive. I ask the President to rethink his veto policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, in 1999, when George Bush was a candidate for the Presidency and President Clinton was Commander in Chief, George Bush had this to say about American troops in Bosnia:

> Victory means exit strategy, and it's important for the President to explain what the exit strategy is.

Well, the Congress has been asking for an exit strategy year after year for 4 years now. In fact, President Bush has no exit strategy. So the United States is bogged down in an impossible situation: ''Shock and awe,'' followed by ineffective follow-on efforts. Today, in the fifth year of this war, the United States is enmeshed in what has become a vicious and terrifying civil war. It cannot be won through the use of American military force. This war can only be won through political accommodation between Sunni and Shia, which means only the Iraqis can settle it, which means only the Iraqi Government can settle it. To this date, they appear to be unable to do what needs to be done to stop this conflict.

So without an exit strategy, the war goes on, the killings continue, and the casualties rise. Nearly 25,000 Americans injured, with tens of thousands of Iraqis killed and injured, and hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes by this war. Estimates put Iraqi civilian deaths in the first 3 months of this year at more than 5,500 in the Baghdad area alone.

On Monday, two truck bombs killed nine members of the 82nd Airborne Division and wounded 20 more. It was the deadliest day of combat in the division's history since the Vietnam war.

I fear that unless Congress acts and puts forward that exit strategy, this bloodshed will continue year after year. That is intolerable.

Today, we have before us a measure that offers a solution and a strategy to fill the void left by the administration. The Iraqi supplemental spending bill responsibly funds our troops and changes the course in Iraq.

Most importantly, it sends a message to the Iraqi Government that the U.S. commitment is not open-ended, that benchmarks will measure the progress, and that political accommodation is crucial.

Under this legislation, the Iraqi Government would be judged on how it disarms militias, pursues Sunni-Shia reconciliation initiatives, establishes fair

oil-sharing laws, reforms debaathification laws, and protects the rights of minorities. This is as it should be.

This legislation ensures that our troops have sufficient rest and training and are provided well-maintained equipment. This is as it should be.

It allows for a redefined mission for American forces limited to antiterrorism operations, training Iraqi forces, and protecting American civilians and members of the Armed Forces. This is as it should be.

It begins the process of bringing our troops home. Into the fifth year of a war, this, too, is as it should be.

The American people spoke in a clear voice. Today, the United States Senate will as well.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong opposition to this measure before the Senate, and I will cast my vote against it.

This measure places undue constraints on the utilization of our brave military, together with our allies working with us and, indeed, constraints on the utilization of the Iraqi military, which likewise has followed through with a brave performance with our forces.

This is a very complex situation on the battlefield, and in the government, with respect to Iraq. Last fall, with other Senators, I returned from my eighth visit to Iraq and I said the complexity of the battlefield has forced the sovereign nation of Iraq to ''drift sideways.'' Regrettably, it continues, in my judgment, to drift. Our forces, and indeed our allies in that country, have fought bravely and are following through on their mission to try and bring about a greater degree of security in Baghdad.

While I expressed some concerns about the ''surge'' operation when it was announced on January 10, it is an ongoing operation now. We are losing life and limb daily, and we must allow our troops to be properly funded to carry out their missions.

Now, we heard yesterday from General Petraeus, and in my judgment, he gave a very factual, pragmatic, professional military opinion, showing objectivity. He is to be commended and our forces bravely fighting under his command should likewise be commended as well.

I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a comment made by our distinguished Secretary of Defense, Secretary Gates, during his trip. He said, ''our commitment to Iraq is long-term, but it is not a commitment to have our young men and women patrolling Iraqi streets open-endedly.'' In no way does he question the long-term need for our Nation to show its resolve and commitment to give security to this region of the world. But he clearly says it is not open-ended.

We cannot ask our forces, nor the Iraqi forces, to risk life and limb during their missions, unless the Iraqi legislature and the government of Iraq begins to give an equal or greater measure of commitment to perform their responsibility to achieve political solutions. A military solution, we all acknowledge, will not alone achieve a strong, survivable, sovereign Iraq. A political solution and a framework of legal reconciliation is essential.

And we must, at this point in time, bring to light a serious potential problem, which I have been told, that the Iraqi legislature might possibly take a 2-month recess during July and August. That is not acceptable. An action of that consequence would severely hinder those of us, myself and others, who are looking at the greater issue beyond Iraq as to the impact on this region if the combined efforts of our country and other nations fail.

We are seeing some progress as it relates to the international group of nations coming together, the border nations are scheduled to meet a second time. It is through only political reconciliation measures and bold leadership by the Prime Minister and each and every Member of the Iraqi Legislature, that this conflict can bring forth a stable, sovereign government, that is fully functioning, and is capable of providing for its own security. In so doing, Iraq will then be able to play an integral role in the security of this region.

Further, we must again, and again, signal to Prime Minister Maliki and to each of the Members of the Iraqi Legislature that they must do their job in a timely manner because every day Iraqi and American lives are being lost in their heroic effort to provide the security for the Iraqi government to function.

Finally, while I will vote against this report, I pledge to work with other Senators on how to rewrite the next bill, following the veto process, for these funds are essential for our troops and as we draft the next bill, we must we must assure the world of our resolve and commitment to the region.

I yield the floor so that others may speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we must change the mission of our military forces in Iraq. We have to concentrate on training Iraqi forces so they can assume the burden of this hostility. We have to continue our efforts in counterterrorism to strike those international terrorists wherever they may be. And we have to protect our forces at all times. But we cannot continue an open-ended commitment and involvement in a civil war. That is essentially what the President is urging us to do.

This appropriations bill provides more resources for our military than was requested. It also funds extremely important domestic concerns, including the Veterans' Administration, so we can keep faith with those veterans who have served and will continue to serve; and also, as my colleague from Louisiana pointed out, we have to begin to reconstruct our gulf coast. It is ironic that we are pouring billions into Baghdad, helping them build all sorts of utilities, and still Americans languish along the gulf coast.

It also includes the Murtha standards of readiness on our forces as they deploy, to ensure that no American unit goes into the war zone without proper equipment, proper training, and appropriate personnel. The President has the ability to waive this under certain circumstances, so we are not unduly constricting his ability as Commander in Chief.

Then, of course, this legislation has benchmarks so that the Iraqi Government can stand up to their task. I think the one common theme that I have heard in this body is, ultimately, this is a political struggle and, ultimately, the Iraqi Government will make the decisions that are so important to the success of their efforts, which will allow us to begin a phased redeployment. But their record is very discouraging when it comes to their government.

Leon Panetta published an editorial a few days ago in the New York Times. He points out the Iraqis promised to achieve by the end of last year and the beginning of this year the approval of a provincial election law but, so far, no progress; approval of a law to regulate the oil industry and share revenues, and a draft is circulating, but it has not been approved by the parliament; approval of a debaathification law to reintegrate officials of the former regime and have a reconciliation, but there has been no progress; approval of a law to rein in sectarian militias, but no progress there either.

By March, the Government promised to hold a referendum on constitutional amendments. No progress.

By May, the Prime Minister committed to putting in place the law controlling militias, with no progress; the approval of the amnesty agreement, with no progress; and the completion of all reconciliation efforts. No progress.

If the Iraqi Government is unwilling to stand up to the demands they must face, then I think we can legitimately—and, indeed, we must—tell them very strongly that we will not support an open-ended commitment to that Government, that we will change our mission and refocus our resources.

It is interesting to me that our Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, those who travel to Baghdad, stand up and say this: Tell them what we are doing here is important, critical, and will happen, unless the Iraqis change. But in Washington, we are criticized for doing this.

I think the reality in Baghdad has to be the same as here. We have to move forward with this legislation to change the course, protect our soldiers in the field, and to allow a chance for success in Iraq.

I think we are all committed, we hope, to a policy that will lead us and the people of Iraq to a much better day. I believe supporting this initiative will do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this conference report is the wrong response to the President's request for the supplemental funding that is urgently needed by the Department of Defense.

While most of the funds—over $109 billion—are appropriated to wage the global war on terrorism, to continue operations in Afghanistan, and to support Iraqi security forces, the conference report also includes funding for continuing the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and ensuring that our veterans receive the care they deserve.

I am very disappointed this bill includes language that sets forth a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. We should be providing the President with a bill he can sign so our military forces can receive the funding they now need.

I recently brought to the attention of the Senate a letter I received from the Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 2 describing the urgency of an appropriations bill and their concerns about further delays of funding. It has been now over 3 weeks since that letter was received.

It is very clear that delay is occurring, and it is undermining the ability to manage the responsibilities of the Department of Defense. We are talking about life-and-death situations and the ability to obtain equipment, armaments, and the training that is necessary by our Armed Forces to carry out their mission.

The Joint Chiefs pointed this out in their letter:

> Without approval of the supplemental funds in April, the Armed Services will be forced to take increasingly disruptive measures in order to sustain combat operations.

In addition, they stated:

> These restrictions increase the burden on servicemembers and their families during this time of war.

I cannot support this effort to dictate the management of this very serious threat to our Nation's security interests. The opponents of the President's efforts to win the battle against the terrorists should not be permitted to hijack this supplemental appropriations bill. The responsible thing for us to do is to send this conference report to the President so he can veto it. We can then revise it so it can be enacted without the offensive language.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that there is 8½ minutes remaining on this side; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I yield 4 minutes to Senator INOUYE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I believe that all Members of this body support the Defense appropriations section. The only area of concern and contention is that which refers to Iraq.

I think all of us agree that our forces today are bogged down in Iraq. They are caught in the middle of a civil war, and we need a change in plans. This war has dragged on too long and, incidentally, longer than our involvement in World War II. Staying the course is not working, and I, for one, am not convinced that it ever will.

The only way we can succeed in Iraq is if the Iraqis fundamentally change the dynamic. The language in the conference agreement embraces this idea of offering a new plan. This new plan eventually should allow for forces to be withdrawn from Iraq.

The proposal establishes a goal—and I repeat the word ''goal''—of redeploying most of our forces from Iraq by next March. It does not mandate that all the troops are removed. To the contrary, it allows that forces remain in Iraq to protect U.S. and coalition personnel. It also stipulates that U.S. forces can continue to train and equip the Iraqis so they can better defend themselves, and it directs that we may continue targeted counterterrorism operations in Iraq.

This is a balanced plan. It recognizes that we still have responsibilities in Iraq and will continue to do so even a year from now, but it will force the Iraqis to fight their own civil war if they insist on doing so.

We all know there are very few military objectives to be achieved in Iraq. We defeated the Iraqi Army 4 years ago. We should keep that in mind. I still recall the huge banner on the carrier that said: ''Mission Accomplished.'' Yes, the military mission was accomplished. We won that part of the war, the part the military can win. We failed in not preparing for the aftermath of direct conflict, and now we are enmeshed in an untenable position.

Our military has performed remarkably. They have achieved their military objectives. But the plan to rely on the military to achieve political objectives has not worked, and what we desperately need is a political solution. And in the end, how many truly believe we will emerge victorious with a Jeffersonian democracy on the banks of the Tigris River? What is victory? I have asked this question many times. What will constitute victory? And no one has answered that question. Or we can embrace a new plan that begins to reshape our forces in Iraq to provide those missions that our military is best suited for with a goal, not a mandate, but a goal of redeploying the remaining forces.

If Iraq is to succeed, it must assume responsibility for its own destiny. It must decide if it wants to stop the civil war. We cannot do that for them. This is a very modest proposal, but one that is caught up in the emotion of the debate. This conference report offers a plan, one that has much greater chance of success than staying the course.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. INOUYE. May I have 30 seconds?

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

Mr. INOUYE. It does not mandate a timetable for ending our involvement in Iraq but provides a new way ahead which will ensure better protection for our forces and a greater chance for the Iraqis to succeed.

This is a good, balanced package. It includes the best from each of our bills. It funds the critical needs of our military and provides a way ahead for our forces in Iraq.

I urge all my colleagues to support this conference agreement.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 3 months ago, President Bush set a new course in Iraq. He proposed a plan to secure Baghdad and its resident population, and he asked GEN David Petraeus, one of our best military minds of this generation, to carry out the mission. A Democratic-controlled Congress approved the general without dissent and wished him well.

Then something strange happened. Soon after sending General Petraeus into the field of battle, the Democratic leadership began its own change in course. It decided this new mission was over before it even had time to work.

We were told in January by some of our Democratic colleagues to listen to the generals. Yet this week, with our top general in Iraq here to report on progress, most of those on the other side of the aisle covered their ears. The Speaker of the House skipped General Petraeus's briefing altogether, didn't even go listen to him.

This posture may be calculated to impress opponents of the war at home, but it frustrates our troops abroad, and today the Democratic leadership does further damage by passing a war spending bill that has no chance—no chance—of being signed into law, a bill that calls for withdrawing U.S. troops without regard to conditions on the ground, a bill that says we leave in October if the Iraqis have made progress and that we leave in July if they haven't.

Let me say that again. This bill says that we leave in October if the Iraqis have made progress and leave in July if they haven't. Either way, we are gone.

It should not be this way. We should uphold our end of the bargain and pass a bill that funds our troops and gives us a reasonable period of time to judge this new strategy.

The Iraq Study Group has outlined the stakes. They said premature withdrawal would ''almost certainly produce greater sectarian violence and further deterioration of conditions. The near-term results would be a significant power vacuum, greater human suffering, regional destabilization, and

a threat to the global economy. Al-Qaeda would depict our withdrawal as a historic victory. If we leave and Iraq descends into chaos, the long-term consequences could eventually require the United States to return.''

That is the Iraq Study Group which has been so frequently cited by our good friends on the other side of the aisle.

Bin Laden knows the stakes, too. In a letter last year, bin Laden had this to say: America's defeat in Iraq would mean defeat in all its wars.

Yesterday, the commander of a senior Afghan Islamist group said bin Laden is personally involved in attacks on Americans in Iraq. General Petraeus went even further. He said al-Qaida has declared war on all of Iraq.

I call on my friends on the other side to have an open mind and listen to the general. We must give this plan for winning the military component of our strategy in Iraq a real chance to succeed. Without it, there is no political solution. Just 4 months old and operating at half its ultimate strength, the Baghdad security plan is already having an effect. Military leaders say the increased violence around Baghdad is a sign that the terrorists are shaken. The latest attacks were meant to be dramatic and to be visible. They were meant to force our withdrawal and ultimately our humiliation.

George Orwell said:

The quickest way to end a war is to lose it.

This is a road we must not take. This legislation is tragic. If the Iraqis make progress, we leave; if they don't, we leave. This is not a choice, it is a mandate for a defeat that al-Qaida desperately wants.

It is not too late to change course. I ask my colleagues to be as patient as our soldiers and marines—and, indeed, the terrorists—and draft a bill that does not arbitrarily circle a date on the calendar and trigger withdrawal without regard to conditions on the ground. Then we can tell our troops that help is on the way, that they can finish this mission, and that they will return with honor. If not, if we give up, we will truly have reason to fear because if we cannot win this most important battle, how will we ever win the war?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, all time has expired on the other side; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is meritorious legislation, important legislation. First, I thank Senator BYRD, the chairman of our Appropriations Committee, and his staff for working so hard to get us where we are. I thank Congressman OBEY, chairman of the comparable committee in the House of Representatives.

I know that my friend, the distinguished senior Senator from Mississippi, does not agree with the Iraq language, but I express my appreciation to his staff. This bill has in it more than the Iraq language, and his staff has worked with us all the way to get that done. I extend my appreciation for his usual gentlemanly way doing everything he does here.

Also, because she worked so hard on a lot of things that she was assigned to do by Senator BYRD, Senator PATTY MURRAY has done an outstanding job on this bill. She is in the Chamber, and I express my appreciation to her for her usual fine work but especially her fine work on this matter.

The individuals I have just mentioned have delivered to us a tremendous conference report, one we can all be proud to send to the President and we should send to the President. This conference report honors and provides for our courageous men and women in uniform. This conference report doesn't forget the emergencies Americans face at home while the war rages abroad. This conference report makes us more secure by charting a new, more sustainable course in Iraq so we can find a responsible end to the war and return our focus to the global challenges that lie ahead.

President Bush requested $91.5 billion for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We provided every penny of that request, but, Mr. President, more. Our bill matches the President dollar for dollar on the equipment and training he requested for the 140,000 troops in Iraq and the 20,000 deployed in Afghanistan, including hundreds of troops deployed from the State of Nevada.

This conference report doesn't stop there because we recognize the President's request shortchanges our troops and our security in a number of critical areas. For example, with the roadside bombs that have accounted for over half of the fatalities suffered by our troops in Iraq, Democrats have added $1.2 billion for mine-resistant vehicles. This is important.

My friend—and he is my friend—the distinguished Republican leader, said we should live up to our end of the bargain. Our end of the bargain? We have done pretty well, spending over one-half trillion dollars in the faraway land of Iraq, having lost more than 3,300, through death, of our finest, 27,000 wounded, a third of them missing limbs, 2,000 double amputees, brain injuries as we have never seen before, and paralysis. We have lived up to our end of the bargain.

At a time when the health care needs of thousands of our soldiers and veterans are being ignored, Democrats have added—with the help of two courageous Republicans, who I am confident will vote with us on this matter—we have added $2.5 billion to ensure all of our troops receive the quality care they have earned—our troops—veterans. These funds will improve the unconscionable conditions at Walter Reed and other medical facilities around the country and greatly enhance the care provided to those who suffer from brain trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Every Thursday, Senator ENSIGN and I, when we are in session, in the Johnson Room, have a ''Welcome to Washington'' for Nevadans. The Baileys were here today. They had a 27-year-old son who went to Iraq and came home with severe emotional problems. He was fine before he went. He went to a VA facility in Southern California, hundreds of miles away from his parents, where he was not taken care of. He died of a drug overdose. Not illegal drugs but drugs they gave him. What we have put in this bill to help veterans, those people returning from Iraq who have been injured, is important. It is in this bill and it should stay here.

At a time when our citizen soldiers have been pushed to their limit, and most Guard and Reserve units lack the equipment they need to conduct their mission, our bill would provide an additional $1 billion for the supplies and equipment they need. Despite the fact a majority of the American people disapprove of this administration's Iraq policy, this bill clearly takes care of the men and women who are serving us courageously in Iraq, as clearly as anyone who opposes this legislation would set back or hurt badly our efforts to support our fighting forces.

We provide for our troops, we do that, but we also believe we have an obligation to address emergencies facing Americans here at home. That is what emergency supplemental bills were at one time—emergencies that developed during the year.

President Bush has made numerous trips to the gulf region to take a look at the devastation created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated that region of the country, but he hasn't done anything about it, to speak of. We believe we have a responsibility to help the victims of this historic tragedy. We agree with the sentiment of the people of this country, who are determined to help their fellow citizens, and that is what this bill does. We provide $7 billion for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, whose help is long overdue.

Thousands of family farmers and ranchers from virtually every State in this country are suffering the effects of extreme drought or damaging weather conditions. These are emergencies. We rely upon these American farmers and ranchers for the Nation's food supply, and we believe we have an obligation to help them when disaster strikes. That is why we provide $3.5 billion to help address some of the losses suffered by farmers and ranchers caused by drought, flood, fire, hurricanes, and pestilence.

More than 5 years after the terrible terrorist attacks of 9/11, we know gaps remain in this Nation's homeland security efforts. This is an emergency. We have tried here on the Senate floor to offer amendments to cover this. We have been defeated on a straight party-

line basis. This bill has that relief. That is why we provide $2 billion for port security, mass transit security, airport security, and other initiatives to address the shortcomings identified by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, whose recommendations came down almost 3 years ago.

Tens of thousands of children across this country will lose their health care in the next several months if we don't do something in this conference report. This, too, is an emergency. That is why we provide $650 million to keep the State Children's Health Insurance Program running. This is health care for kids.

All of these nonmilitary investments are crucial priorities, but fully funding our troops and changing the course of the war in Iraq is this bill's primary goal. No one wants this Nation to succeed in the Middle East more than I do. But I know that after more than 4 years of mismanagement and incompetence of the war in Iraq by this administration, there is no magic formula or silver bullet that will lead us to the victory we all desire. Yet I also believe there is a way forward that gives us our best chance to end the war responsibly while protecting our strategic interests, strengthening our security, and better positioning us to provide the long-term assistance Iraq will need for years to come. This way forward is consistent with what our military leaders are telling us, including General Petraeus, who repeated again yesterday, publicly—not privately but publicly—that this war cannot be won militarily. That is what General Petraeus says.

I want to talk about what is in this bill as relates to Iraq.

First, we transition the U.S. mission from policing a civil war to training and equipping Iraqi security forces, protecting U.S. forces and conducting targeted counterterror operations.

Second, we begin the phased redeployment of our troops no later than October 1, 2007, with the goal of removing all combat forces by April 1, 2008, except for those carrying out the limited missions I have mentioned.

Third, we impose tangible, measurable, and achievable benchmarks on the Iraqi Government so they will be held accountable for making progress in security, political reconciliation, and improving the lives of ordinary Iraqis, who have suffered so very much.

Fourth, we launch the kind of diplomatic, economic, and political offensive the President's strategy lacks, starting with a regional conference working toward a long-term framework for stability in the region, as recommended by the Iraq Study Group, with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and, yes, Iran must be involved.

Fifth, and finally, we build up our overburdened military to ensure that only battle-ready troops are sent into battle, and giving them the manpower and support they need to face the daunting challenges that lie ahead. My friend Congressman MURTHA, whom I had the good fortune to serve with when I was in the House of Representatives, pointed out clearly in the debate on the House floor last night that we are currently paying 126,000 individuals, independent contractors, to supplement the work of our soldiers. These contractors are not held to the same standards or accountability of our troops, yet often earn tens of thousands of dollars more. This is unacceptable. Do the American taxpayers know this, that 126,000 people are being paid over there for various things? Doing what? Why? This is costing billions, and for what? And why? This supplemental funding bill was forged by listening to Members of Congress from both parties, to military experts, and, most importantly, to the American people. I have had a number of people from the other side who have come to me and said, we know you are doing the right thing but we can't help you now. There are two people on the other side, however, who are coming and saying they are going to vote on this matter. I don't know what I can say, other than to say it is for the American people, and they have a lot of courage.

This compromise was forged through thoughtful negotiation. It was forged with the firm resolve that we must do what is right for our troops, our Nation's security, and Iraq's future. Once we pass this bill, we will send it to the President's desk. We know he has threatened to veto this legislation. But in the same spirit of compromise and bipartisanship with which this bill was written, we hope the President will reconsider his stubbornness and his refusal to listen to the American people. This is a good conference report. It provides for the safety of our troops, it helps Americans recover from emergencies that have plagued us here at home, and it sets us on a new course, away from a civil war with no end in sight, and toward a responsible, phased redeployment, and it holds the Iraqis accountable. This is a responsible plan for redeployment, not a precipitous withdrawal.

Our troops in harm's way will always have the resources to do the mission their leaders ask of them. It directs our attention to eliminating al-Qaida, addresses refugee and humanitarian crises, and launches the diplomatic and political surges necessary to prevent regional instability. It also allows us to provide the longer term investments and the political solutions needed in Iraq. It prevents the jihadists from being able to claim victory over America, and it begins to restore America's prestige, power, and influence in the region and throughout the world.

Some will say there is no alternative to the President's course. They say the only course is to stay the course or fail; that there is no plan B. But our President is wrong. I say that with all due respect. The choice is in our hands. Today, we have the chance to support our troops, represent the will of the American people, and lead America to a path of responsibility. If the President refuses to change direction, America risks being bogged down in Iraq for years, not months.

This President, who took us to war under false pretenses, now needs the courage to admit his policies have failed and work with us to bring the war to a responsible end. This conference report gives him that path forward, and I hope he follows it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) is necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Akaka	Feingold	Murray
Baucus	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Hagel	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Harkin	Obama
Bingaman	Inouye	Pryor
Boxer	Kennedy	Reed
Brown	Kerry	Reid
Byrd	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kohl	Salazar
Cardin	Landrieu	Sanders
Carper	Lautenberg	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Clinton	Levin	Stabenow
Conrad	Lincoln	Tester
Dodd	McCaskill	Webb
Dorgan	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—46

Alexander	DeMint	McConnell
Allard	Dole	Murkowski
Bennett	Domenici	Roberts
Bond	Ensign	Sessions
Brownback	Enzi	Shelby
Bunning	Grassley	Snowe
Burr	Gregg	Specter
Chambliss	Hatch	Stevens
Coburn	Hutchison	Sununu
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Collins	Kyl	Vitter
Corker	Lieberman	Voinovich
Cornyn	Lott	Warner
Craig	Lugar	
Crapo	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Johnson	McCain

The conference report was agreed to.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for Members of the Senate, as we have announced, there will be no more rollcall votes this week.

We hope that we can move, on Monday, without any problems, to the FDA reauthorization. This is an extremely important piece of legislation which Senator KENNEDY and Senator ENZI have worked on for months. Now, we hope we can move to that. We know people want to offer amendments. Certainly, that will be part of what we are doing here because the bill is imperfect. But it is a bill on which we must move forward. With all of the food safety and health safety issues that have come up during the past several years, we must do this. So we are going to move to that bill on Monday. That will be the next order of business for the Senate.

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, with this vote, Congress has provided funding for our troops while also putting forward sensible provisions to begin the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. I call upon the President to work with Congress in order to ensure the troops receive these funds and that we change course in Iraq.

I am also pleased to announce with Senator SCHUMER that after a long struggle, and thanks to the leadership of Senator BYRD and Senator HARKIN, we have secured $50 million for the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for the thousands of men and women whose health has been terribly affected by the dust, debris, and poisons that filled the air after the attacks of 9/11.

I am grateful for the support of Senator BYRD, Senator HARKIN and Senator SPECTER who have been steadfast in recognizing our duty to help those who helped New York in our hour of need—and help everyone whose health and lives have been affected by 9/11.

This is a great victory for the victims and heroes, for New York, and for our values which were targeted on 9/11.

The Centers of Excellence providing care through the Mt. Sinai consortium and the Fire Department of New York with Federal funds are doing heroic work—but more and more people are walking through the doors because of respiratory problems and other debilitating conditions. These treatment centers—centers that provide essential care to those who responded in our time of need—are on the brink of running out of Federal resources in the fall. Thanks to the funding in this bill, we will be able to send a lifeline of funding before these treatment centers fall over the financial cliff.

Based upon the estimates of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it would take nearly $283 million to treat to 34,000 first responders and workers for just one year. And that number doesn't take into account the treatment needs of forgotten populations, such as residents, office workers, students, and others who were also exposed to these toxic substances.

The funding contained in this legislation is a great step forward and will serve as a bridge fund until we are able to come up with a long term solution. This $50 million will be used to help provide both inpatient and outpatient treatment services for responders and workers affected by debilitating respiratory and mental health problems.

These are more than names on a list or lines in a budget. These are lives that have been turned upside down, often silently, often without public notice.

When the towers collapsed, thousands of tons of coarse and fine particulate matter were released into the air, and inhaled into the lungs of hundreds of thousands of individuals—substances that included cement dust, glass fibers, asbestos, lead, hydrochloric acid, and other toxic pollutants. The combustion of jet fuel after the attacks created a dense plume of black smoke, filled with other toxic substances like benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Fires at Ground Zero continued to burn underground for several months after the attacks.

Of course, none of our incredibly brave firefighters, police officers, emergency responders, workers, volunteers and others stopped to think about the health implications of what they were walking into—they risked their lives to help save others.

The day after 9/11, I visited Ground Zero; it was evident that the air was not fit to breathe and these conditions continued for months afterwards.

Over the next 9 months, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of individuals were exposed to the dust and debris not only at Ground Zero, but also a site at Fresh Kills, the landfill in Staten Island, where workers sifted through the debris in an attempt to recover evidence from the attacks.

People began coming down with what we would later call World Trade Center cough. We heard reports of previously healthy detectives who could bench press 250 pounds unable to lift a child. Firefighters who could run miles no longer able to climb stairs. Construction workers in perfect physical shape before the attacks with incredible difficulty breathing after the attacks. Increased risk of cancer. Newly developed asthma, bronchitis, persistent sinusitis, laryngitis, or other respiratory problems. For these individuals, their illnesses are a constant reminder of that terrible day.

On March 21, the HELP Committee held a hearing—which I led along side Chairman KENNEDY—on the long term impacts of 9/11.

What we heard that day was nothing short of devastating and all of us in the room during the hearing came away with a new sense of urgency in making sure that the workers, residents, students, volunteers and others who are experiencing adverse health effects due to exposure of 9/11 toxins get the care they desperately need.

Of particular concern: many of those who are ill are falling through the cracks of traditional health coverage. According to testimony presented at this hearing, more than 40 percent of the responders enrolled in the Mt. Sinai treatment program are uninsured, and an additional 23 percent are underinsured. New York City reports that approximately 60 percent of those enrolled at Bellevue Hospital's treatment program are also uninsured.

Today, Congress has sent a powerful message to the police officers, firefighters, first responders, workers, and volunteers of 9/11: You are not forgotten. We will respond to an attack on our values and way of life by honoring our values and helping the victims.

But we must go further.

We need a longer-term Federal solution to provide monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment. The city and local organizations have done a tremendous service, but this was as an attack on our whole Nation and our whole Nation should support the efforts taking place in New York. These funds will only support the work for the short term. And a third treatment center at Bellevue Hospital—the only center that evaluates and treats many of the forgotten victims: residents, office workers, students, and others—has not received any Federal help at all.

I have introduced the 9/11 Heroes Health Improvement Act to provide $1.9 billion in grants for ongoing medical and mental health treatment and monitoring, and I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to ensure that we have a long-term solution for 9/11 affected individuals.

We should always keep in our hearts the people who deserve our help.

Retired New York Police Detective Michael Valentin is one of those who is living with the health effects of 9/11. He rushed to Ground Zero from his home on Long Island on 9/11 and for the first few days searched for remains in the area, later working on the pile and providing perimeter security.

Before 9/11, he was running miles a day and going to college at night to become a supervisor.

Since 9/11, he has experienced respiratory problems and breathing difficulties, asthma attacks, operations to treat tumors he has developed, and other conditions. He could no longer find the strength to attend college at night or run enough to pass even the police department's physical test. He retired officially on January 31 of this year.

Detective Valentin wanted to attend the hearing in Washington. He wanted to speak out and be heard because too many of the victims and heroes feel forgotten and left behind. Unfortunately, Detective Valentin was too sick to make the trip, and he is not alone.

The tragedy of 9/11 is not over. The loss of life, the pain, and the suffering are not over. The tragic legacy continues for the families who lost loved ones and for residents, workers, volunteers, first responders and others who

have faced hardship and health consequences in the aftermath of the attacks.

Today, we have achieved a great victory—but it must only be a first step to make sure those that gave so much on that terrible day are not forgotten and receive the help they deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the following Senators be recognized in the following order: Senator SHELBY, 3 minutes; Senators FEINSTEIN and FEINGOLD, 10 minutes total; Senator BUNNING, 15 minutes; and Senator SCHUMER, 15 minutes.

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

The Senator from Washington is recognized.

THANKING STAFF

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, before the Senator proceeds, I wish to take a minute and thank all of our staffs who worked tremendously hard to get this bill to the floor, the staff on the Appropriations Committee, Senator BYRD's personal staff—many Members worked very hard, along with their staff members but particularly those people who sit in the back row back there and are not recognized who stay up very late to get this to all of us. To all of our floor staff, I say thank you for your tremendous work in getting us to this point.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, in passing this emergency supplemental appropriations bill this afternoon, the Democratic-controlled Senate has sent a message—one that the war is lost, that we have given up, and that we have no hope of victory.

Today, we have also put an arbitrary deadline on our military. I believe it is unequivocally wrong to do this, the wrong message at exactly the wrong time. I believe we must give our troops the opportunity to win. We cannot tie the hands of our commanders on the ground. We cannot have 535 generals micromanaging the war from the Halls of Congress.

This war is a test of wills. Our defeatist message states that today our will has been broken. This is not the message we want our enemy to hear. Our actions in the Senate have consequences. I believe we have just sent a message—the wrong message—that our efforts were not enough. We have sent a message that the enemy has won. I believe we have sent a message of surrender, a message of submission, a message of failure. And this message was not just sent to those fighting against us in Iraq, it reverberates around the globe. Today, I believe the Senate has illustrated raw partisan politics at its worst.

I believe the American people deserve better. Our troops deserve better. Our Armed Forces need the support of the people—us—who sent them into a war zone, not partisan politics. They need the time to succeed, not a timetable for retreat.

George Orwell once said: The quickest way to end a war is to lose it. Yes, the quickest way to end the war is to lose it. With today's vote, we are well on our way. Yet fortunately, for our troops, the President will veto this bill, and Congress will have enough votes to sustain it.

In the coming weeks, when Congress crafts a new supplemental appropriations bill, I believe we must not use the same narrow-minded approach. We must not send another message of defeat, of surrender.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE PARITY ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, on April 17, just over a week ago, I rose, along with the Senator from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, to ask unanimous consent that the Senate take up and adopt S. 223, which was reported unanimously by the Rules Committee on March 28. Senator ALEXANDER objected on behalf of a Republican Senator. As a result, the bill remains in limbo. To this date, that Republican Senator has declined to come forward to say why the bill should not become law.

This is such a simple, direct bill with respect to transparency. It is an idea whose time has long come. It is very hard for us to understand who could oppose this good government bill and what their reason for opposing it could be.

After last week's roadblock halted passage, the minority leader's spokesman told the Washington Post:

> Senators are now reviewing the bill in anticipation of legislative action.

We would hope that review is complete. We could now get down to business and today, by unanimous consent, just as we did in the Rules Committee, pass this bill, send it to the House, and have it become law. At our hearing on March 14 and our markup on March 28, it was clear there was no public opposition whatsoever to this bill. It is really time for the Senate to act.

The bill is titled the ''Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act.'' It is sponsored by Senators FEINGOLD and COCHRAN and 33 additional Senators. It would simply require that the Senate campaign finance reports be filed electronically rather than in paper format, just as everyone else is doing now.

Currently, House candidates, Presidential candidates, political action committees, and party committees are all required to file electronically. And they do. But Senators, Senate candidates, authorized campaign committees, and the Democratic and Republican senatorial campaign committees are exempt. As a result, we have a cumbersome system in which paper copies of disclosure reports are filed with the Senate Office of Public Records, which scans them to make an electronic copy and sends the copy to the FEC on a dedicated communications line. The FEC then prints the report and sends it to the vendor in Fredericksburg, VA, where the information is keyed in by hand and then transferred back to the FEC database at a cost of approximately $250,000 to the taxpayers. This is $250,000 which is needlessly spent to continue an archaic system. It is long past time to bring the Senate into the modern era.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to let this bill go today.

I yield the floor to the author of the bill, the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I certainly thank the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, once again for being so committed to getting this bill passed. It has been, as she said, over a week since we came to the floor to try to get the Senate to pass the Senate Campaign Parity Act.

Last Tuesday, the senior Senator from Tennessee objected ''on behalf of a Republican Senator.'' Now we have waited to hear from that Senator, whoever he or she is, about his or her concerns about the bill. So far, not a word. It would not take very long to review this bill. It is very simple.

In fact, it seems as if the source of the objection is hoping never to be identified because a citizen effort to find out who the objector is, supported by a number of blogs from both the right and the left, has so far come up empty.

There has been a lot of discussion in the press and the blogs about whether the objection we heard last week constitutes one of those so-called secret holds, which have rightly come under attack in recent years. Well, someone anonymously blocked the bill from being passed last Tuesday, that person has made no effort to resolve his or her concerns with us, and the Republican leadership will not tell us who that person is. Now, that is a ''secret hold,'' in my book. It is time for some sunshine here. If someone has a problem with this bill, he or she should step forward and discuss it with us. I am hopeful that after a week to take a look at the bill, the objector will have realized how completely noncontroversial it is and will let it go through this week.

This bill simply puts Senate campaigns under the same obligations to file their reports electronically that House and Presidential campaigns have been under for years. There is simply no reason the information in Senate campaign finance reports should remain less accessible to the public than any other campaign finance report.

As the Senator from California said, we now have 37 bipartisan cosponsors, and not a single concern about the bill was heard in the Rules Committee. The bill passed the committee by a voice vote, and no one has come up to us with any concerns, even in this last week. So the time has come to get this done.

I once again thank the Senator from California for her persistence. It is a pleasure to work with her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I would like to thank the Senator from Wisconsin for his leadership and for his continuing interests. Hopefully, this will pass today.

In that vein, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 96, S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designated statements and reports in electronic form, and that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill as amended be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action.

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, on behalf of the Republican side, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair. We will be back and back and back again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I was precluded from speaking prior to the vote taken on the Iraq supplemental. I am going to speak for about 15 minutes at this time and voice my strong opposition, as Senator SHELBY, to the conference report that just passed this body. This bill is a highly irresponsible bill showing both a disregard for taxpayer money and our American service people. It is probably the most dangerous bill I have seen in over 20 years of service in the Congress of the United States.

I don't say that lightly. Last month I came to the floor to voice my opposition to the emergency supplemental spending bill. I wanted a clean bill that the President could sign into law. Instead, today we passed a bill that ties troop funding to arbitrary withdrawal deadlines and billions and billions of dollars in unrelated spending.

Now, 3 weeks later, we find ourselves with essentially the same piece of legislation. It is an insult to the men and women who serve in our armed services. Funding our troops is not a political game. We are a nation at war. There are unexpected costs and needs that must be continued to promote our freedoms and troops at home and help them succeed in Iraq. That is why we have emergency supplemental legislation. It is used to meet the immediate needs of the men and women in the Armed Forces on our frontlines.

The extra spending goes beyond emergency needs and, instead, adds additional nondefense funds that are not necessary right now. There is a lot of fat in this bill that the Senate should consider under the regular appropriations process. That is what appropriations bills are all about. The hurricanes of 2005 were truly devastating. I have supported the Government's rebuilding efforts in the region. But the bill before us today includes billions of dollars in unrequested and unnecessary funding for the Corps of Engineers. These provisions are inappropriate for a wartime supplemental.

Another area of extra spending relates to agriculture. I have been a strong supporter of America's farmers, but the programs in this bill do not belong in a supplemental wartime bill. I cannot justify $20 million for dairy farmers and $60 million for salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. This bill is about our troops, not our farmers. There are even more glaring examples in this conference report: $18 million for drought assistance in the upper Midwest; $25 million for NASA facilities in the gulf region; $10 million for historic preservation funds. This bill doubles the 20 million I opposed for asbestos abatement at the Capitol powerplant. The list goes on.

I am ashamed that this Congress believes it can solve its own budgetary problems on the backs of our fighting men and women.

Finally, instead of helping our troops, this supplemental bill only ends up offending them. We ought to be sending a clear message of support for our men and women in harm's way. It should be clear that this Congress and this country will make sure that the men and women of our Armed Forces have the necessary supplies and resources to carry out their missions. Unfortunately, this legislation only serves to undermine our military missions. It pulls the rug right out from under our troops, just as we are at a point of seeing some signs of increased security in Baghdad.

To me, this bill is a strategy for defeat. It sends a detrimental message to our troops and only serves to embolden our enemies. It tells the terrorists: Mark your calendars with our date for withdrawal from Iraq; sit and wait for us to get out.

Like many of my colleagues, I had the opportunity to hear firsthand from my good friend, David Petraeus, yesterday about the current situation in Iraq. I am sorry it was a very highly classified briefing or I would share those things with the Senate. But I want to give the mood of his report. He was very frank in his report. The situation in Iraq is not any closer to being resolved than it was 2 months ago when his mission started. The country still suffers from violent sectarian strife and is at war with a cluster of enemies, including primarily al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden, Sunni insurgents, and Shia radicals. The other side of the aisle has already said the war is lost. But we haven't even given the President's plan a chance to work. We still have a long way to go in Iraq, but sectarian killings have dropped dramatically since January. There is greater cooperation between the U.S. forces and the Iraqi Army, and we are beginning to see the Iraqi people work toward complete sovereignty.

We should not dictate arbitrary guidelines for the future. The Iraqi Government is still in a critical development stage. It must be given the time and room to grow with our guidance. The same Senators and Congressmen calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq or setting an arbitrary withdrawal date do not discuss the ramifications of such an action. It may be because they know that immediate withdrawal from Iraq would be disastrous to the Middle East and threaten international stability and our national defense. Withdrawal is not a viable option. If we leave Iraq prematurely, we lose. Peace-loving people in Iraq lose, and Islamic radicals and al-Qaida win. That is the situation we are in today. We need to be honest about it as we proceed forward.

I have voted against past withdrawal language and voted against it again today. Setting a withdrawal deadline will have grave consequences for the United States. It will put our national security at risk. After the President vetoes this bill—and we sustain his veto—we need to refocus our attention and our productive manner on how to best help our commanders on the ground to achieve success in Iraq. No arbitrary timetable, no billions of dollars in unrelated pork—we need a clean bill that funds our men and women in uniform and gives them a chance for success.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

HEROIC NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise to speak on a very sad occasion that occurred in my State in the last 2 days and to recognize the three heroic New York State troopers shot in an act of cold-blooded violence. Sadly, one trooper, David C. Brinkerhoff, a member of the specially trained mobile response team, has been killed. Tonight my thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and coworkers.

Trooper Brinkerhoff and Trooper Richard Mattson were shot at about

8:45 a.m. Tuesday while searching for a gunman who was suspected of shooting a third trooper, Trooper Matthew Gambosi, during a traffic stop in nearby Margaretville, NY, a beautiful town in Delaware County. Trooper Mattson is in serious condition at a local hospital and, praise God, Trooper Gambosi only suffered minor wounds as the bullet was caught by his bulletproof vest. We pray for their speedy recoveries.

Law enforcement raided the farm where the gunman was holed up yesterday, and his body was recovered late last night. Now that this man is no longer a threat, we must turn our attention to the troopers' families and friends who have been devastated by these tragic events.

New York State troopers represent the best of all of us. They are brave, selfless heroes who put their lives on the line every day with unequaled character and dignity. They are tough, and they are just. The events of the past 48 hours have devastated our entire State. Now we will mourn together. The entire trooper community and the people of the great State of New York have suffered an enormous loss. The greatest way we can honor them is to remember their sacrifice always and to pledge to rise above this tragedy by continuing to do exactly what they did when they got into harm's way on our behalf. Of course, I speak of impartial, courageous, and professional law enforcement.

Trooper Brinkerhoff was born and raised in the Southtowns area of western New York and was only 29. He was an 8½-year State police veteran and joined the mobile response team in early 2006. He is survived by his wife Barbara and a 7-month-old daughter. Brinkerhoff is the second member of the New York State mobile response unit to be killed in less than a year. Trooper Joseph Longobardo was killed by serial killer Ralph ''Bucky'' Phillips in the woods of Chautauqua County in the western end of our State. Far too often our troopers and law enforcement officers are struck down by senseless violence. However, every time their mettle is tested, they return stronger and more determined to keep New York safe.

I am also pleased that the Senate will approve later today a resolution commemorating the sacrifice of the men and women of law enforcement who have lost their lives on the job. They are all true heroes. We honor each and every one of them.

My thoughts and those of my family are with Barbara and her daughter tonight, and I send them the full condolences of the Senate and the people of the State of New York. We will not forget you or the sacrifice of Trooper Brinkerhoff.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I want to take some time, as we contemplate what is going to happen with the supplemental bill we just passed because, frankly, I am in a state of shock over the casual dismissal of the opinions of the American people, in huge majorities, who say: We have had enough of this war, and we want to make a change. They want us to start to position ourselves in a manner that would allow us to bring our people home.

Not far from this Senate floor, in the middle of the National Mall, is a place of stone and water, of strength and reflection. It is a place that is important to me and, I think, important to the country as a whole. It is where we honor those who served and those who died in World War II.

I proudly wore the uniform of my country during that war. I do not consider myself a hero, but I did my duty to the best of my ability. I and 16 million others went to war because our mission was clear: defeat the enemy who attacked us. And while the battles were fought across the ocean, the entire country united. They all sacrificed. That was the message: sacrifice, sacrifice at home, use less gas, turn off the lights, reduce energy consumption, black out the beachfront places or coastal areas so the enemy could not see the lights of the cities. Even with rising injuries and casualties in World War II, America kept its resolve because we believed in our leaders.

How times have changed.

There is one simple reason the American people have lost faith in this war effort: It has become clear our leaders are not providing us with the truth. And the chief purveyor of misstatements is Vice President CHENEY. He chooses to say whatever he wants to, to advance his agenda. But the agenda has now, we know, resulted in the deaths of thousands of Americans, thousands of Iraqis. It is time to say: Enough is enough.

I want to review some of the outlandish statements the Vice President has made about this war. On the eve of the invasion, in March 2003, Vice President DICK CHENEY assured the Nation that ''we will be greeted as liberators.''

I ask the question: How dare he make a statement such as that—without knowledge, without any idea of what the consequences of that action might be. We will be greeted as liberators?

He went on to say the fight would be ''weeks rather than months.''

In June of 2005, Vice President CHENEY assured us the insurgency in Iraq is ''in the last throes.'' That was almost 2 years ago. Ask our people in uniform, ask our people in combat, ask those who are facing another deployment after having been there once or even twice—ask them what they think about that statement, about the accuracy of those remarks.

Earlier this year, even after the Pentagon admitted there was no evidence at all of a connection between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida, the Vice President said there was a connection. If you say it, maybe you can convince people, even if it is not the truth.

And now, this week, we have our Vice President speaking out against this bill we just passed, again making outlandish claims.

You have to ask yourself a question: Who is still listening to those comments and giving them any credibility? Unfortunately, there are people, despite his outrageous and unsubstantiated claims—claims such as the ''insurgency is in its last throes''—who tend to believe him. He is, after all, the Vice President of the United States. It is a prestigious job. There is an automatic assumption that credibility goes to the occupant of that position.

We may never know the real motivation behind this administration's drive to Iraq, but we do know the following: They presented false intelligence to the American people and our allies.

We have seen some of those responsible, credible people, who believed in the case that was being made by the intelligence reports—look at one of the great figures in American contemporary history, Colin Powell—a general, Chief of Staff. I remember his speech at the United Nations providing evidence of materials that confirmed there were weapons of mass destruction there. And now this man, who has a lifetime built on honesty and credibility, has said he regrets those statements. But we do not hear that pause, that reflection, coming from the President or the Vice President of the United States.

The administration knowingly misled the country about Iraq's nuclear ambitions in President Bush's 2003 State of the Union Address.

In a recent CBS News poll, 66 percent of the American people disapproved of the way President Bush is handling this situation with Iraq. That disapproval has continued to build. If you look at some of the polling data we have seen over the last couple years, less and less of the people in the country believe we are doing a good job with the situation in Iraq, as portrayed by the President.

On Monday, President Bush said:

There's been some progress.

That statement shows the President is living in an alternate reality.

On that same day—Monday—10 American troops were killed, 9 of them in a single attack. Since the beginning of this war, more than 3,300 of our people in uniform have died.

One of those people was a fellow from Toms River, NJ, Marine Cpl Thomas Saba. He served with the Marines' Flying Tigers. He volunteered to extend

his tour of duty after his squadron was deployed to Iraq. He died with his comrades in February when their helicopter was shot down by insurgents. Corporal Saba is one of 77 people from my home State of New Jersey to see their last sunset in Iraq. Ten more have died in Afghanistan.

Beyond these casualties, nearly 25,000 of our troops have left the combat theater with serious wounds. More than 800 of them have lost at least one limb. We have spent mountains of taxpayer money in Iraq. We have spent $400 billion, going now at the rate of $3 billion a week. What have we gotten for our investment? A disaster. That is the reality of Iraq, not the endless and empty picture of optimism the Vice President and others in the administration and the President continue to paint. ''Extend our victories.'' What victories are they talking about? I don't see any victories. We see more threats. Not only to our people—that is the most serious one—not only to our reputation, but to our leadership in the world as it disintegrates in front of us as this conflict continues.

We need a new course, and we need it now. This supplemental provides that new course. We hope the President will reflect a little bit, instead of the braggadocio attitude and false stories about how Democrats want to surrender. That is the most offensive thing. Democrats want to surrender? Senator INOUYE, a Medal of Honor winner here, and other people who fought in Vietnam and other places. We want to surrender America? It is an outrage.

Outside my office, we have a memorial and it shows the ''Faces of the Fallen''—photographs. Some of them are blank, but they have a name and a location of the person—the faces of the fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan. Typically it carries each picture, and we have about 3,000 of them. It takes a while to get the pictures together. People walk by, they stop and pause and write notes in a journal we have there. It includes the name and age, the rank and the battalion or company they served in, the cause of death of each of the Nation's fallen servicemembers, inscribed with their photo on the memorial. Families, friends, and visitors search those photos on a daily basis looking for people from their State, from their area, people who many knew and loved and miss. One woman found a picture of her son up there and wrote an inscription in our journal.

As they search these pictures, some write notes in a book of reflections. I want to share two of those reflections. A person named Prudence Hart from New Jersey wrote:

> We honor our soldiers for answering the call of their Nation. We must honor them and this Nation by never allowing another President to wage war as this one has.

Another person, Jay Miller from Rhode Island, wrote:

> We are at a pivotal point in our country's history. Our leaders must take a stand and use their constitutional powers to end this madness.

To Prudence Hart, Jay Miller, and every American, I say: We are with you. We do honor those who have bravely taken up their task, able and willing to do it. Some of those troops are the third deployment away from a spouse, children, community, job. They are the ones making the sacrifice, and they are the ones whom we want to honor. We want to honor them by remembering those who paid the ultimate price, but we want to honor them further by bringing them home and giving them appropriate post-service treatment.

I wish we were treating our veterans in the same honorable manner in which they were recruited. We have failed in many instances. We failed, even as people criticize Democrats and those who disagree with them, even as they try to discredit us as wanting to surrender, when they didn't provide the right equipment, whether the humvees were sufficiently armored, or whether they had the proper flak jackets.

I went to Iraq some years ago, and when I asked the people I met from New Jersey: What is it we could do to make their job better and protect them more, one of them said, Senator—and I was with four other colleagues—Senators, the flak jackets you are wearing, the body armor you are wearing is the latest and the best. We don't have it. People who were in the coalition have that, but we don't. What else? They said: Our humvees are not sufficiently armored to protect us. We know what has happened.

So if we want to talk about honoring our troops, where was the administration while Halliburton was stealing from the country with food and shelter and had a fine of millions of dollars imposed by the auditors from the Defense Department? Shame on them. In the war I fought in, there wasn't anybody except a traitor who would do something that might help the enemy like having a sham corporation in the Cayman Islands, a branch in Dubai where they then did business with Iran—Iran, which supplies weapons and encouragement to insurgents who want to kill our people there. It is shocking that we see that, and when we hear these false tales coming from the Vice President of the United States, when he talks about victory, and I am paraphrasing: victory within our grasp, within our reach. The American people don't believe it, and I tell my colleagues I don't believe it, and a lot of my colleagues don't believe it.

We had a vote one day that was significant. It was 56 to 44, and it included seven of our colleagues from the Republican side, people who had the courage to stand up and say: Look, we are not ashamed to be Republicans, and we are not ashamed to be Democrats, but we think this policy is wrong. We had enough votes—not to get cloture, but to establish a significant majority. I know some of our colleagues over there who are loyal to the party and to the President who don't like a bit what he is asking of the American people now, and asking of us, labeling this bill as a porkbarrel thing.

I can't get the word ''surrender'' out of my mind.

I sit on the Appropriations Committee, and I was at a conference committee of the House and the Senate the other night, and the ranking Republican on the House side said the Democrats want to surrender just when General Petraeus is coming in—surrender. This bill is our stand, the American stand. It begins to set a timetable for us to come home—not to run away from our responsibilities. Our responsibility has been more than met. But we are even willing to leave enough of a cadre there to say: OK, we will help the Iraqis learn to defend themselves. We will help the Iraqis to reconstruct their society. We will help even to do some counterterrorism and counterinsurgencies.

It is time to come home. It is time to come home, and I hope the President of the United States will follow the demands of the American people and a major number of people who oppose where we are, a huge majority.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SALAZAR). The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I was in Iraq this weekend, and I was there in December, right before Christmas, with my friend, Senator NELSON of Florida. Our meetings at that time took place in the shadows of the 2006 Congressional elections and in the wake of the much anticipated Iraq Study Group report. During each of our visits at that time, the atmosphere exuded a feeling of transition, a desire to get out of the constant struggle of lateral movement to a feeling of longing for a new strategy, long overdue in Iraq. On January 10, we learned the details of that new strategy. It wasn't exactly what many of us expected and it raised some particular concerns for me. Two weeks earlier when I was in Iraq, I met with the National Security Adviser for the Prime Minister of Iraq, Dr. al-Rubaie, and he told Senator NELSON and me he didn't think sectarian violence was the biggest problem in Iraq. To express that kind of denial was incredulous. Senator NELSON and I kind of looked at each other. His comments reflected to me at that time that I didn't think the Iraqi Government had the commitment to reconciliation needed to warrant an increase in U.S. forces in Baghdad and in an area wracked by sectarian civil war.

So at the time I stated the idea of sending an additional force of 20,000 troops into Baghdad, into the lion's den of sectarian violence without any additional commitment from the Iraqi Government was something I did not feel I could support. Because of the duty we share as Members of this deliberative body, I put myself on record expressing my views. I wasn't popular with a lot of my constituents. I joined

the senior Senator from Virginia, a colleague whom I respect so deeply on military matters, the former chairman of the Armed Services committee, and I cosponsored his resolution expressing the concern over the proposed surge in Baghdad.

A slightly modified version of his resolution came before the full Senate on February 5, a little over 2 months ago. Although my colleagues in the majority at that time sought to limit our opportunity to amend this legislation through procedural maneuvering, I believed I had a duty to follow my conscience and I supported the procedural motion to move forward on that resolution. I joined many of my colleagues, mostly on the other side of the aisle, in voting for cloture on this resolution on February 5.

Here we are, 2 short months later, and how the debate has changed. I will talk a little bit about what I have seen in Iraq but how the debate has changed. I thought I would take a brief moment to remind some of my colleagues across the aisle what they went on record as supporting on February 5. On February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: We respect what S. 470 said, we respect the constitutional authorities given to the President, that the President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. Here we are 2 months later making an attempt to limit his constitutional authority to exercise his fundamental constitutional duties.

On February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said the resolution they supported should not be interpreted as precipitating any immediate reduction in, or withdrawal of, the present level of forces.

Here we are, 2 short months later, picking an arbitrary withdrawal date without the consent of our commanders on the ground and advocating a pullout.

On February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stated their belief that ''the U.S. should continue vigorous operations in Anbar province.'' And here we are 2 short months later and we are trying to pull our forces out and leave the Sunnis in Anbar alone to deal with the terror of al-Qaida.

On February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stated their belief that ''a failed state in Iraq would present a threat to regional and world peace.'' I don't know that many who have studied this issue would disagree with that notion. And here we are 2 short months later essentially working to ensure that this frightening prospect materializes.

On February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle commended our troops in the field, agreeing that they have served our country ''with the bravery and professionalism consistent with the finest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces.'' But here we are today, reflecting on comments that they have ''lost'' the war in Iraq.

Most importantly, on February 5, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stated their belief that the U.S. ''should not take any action that will endanger U.S. military forces in the field, including the elimination or reduction of funds for our troops.'' Here we are 2 months later, conditioning that funding on withdrawal timelines to handcuff our military leaders, delaying the delivery of resources our forces need.

One of the things I heard in Anbar Province from a Marine general was that they needed these V-shaped humvee vehicles to protect against IEDs. Regular humvees are flat and they take the full force of a blast. With the use of these V-shaped humvee bottoms, we have not had many casualties. This bill the President will veto has about 8,000 of those V-shaped vehicles that we need.

I supported that resolution in February, but I did not support the bill before us today. It is unfortunate that the majority in this body has decided to utilize this important piece of legislation to attempt to set us on a course for failure in Iraq. When I say that, it is true this bill contains a lot of important things for our military, our veterans. But it is unconscionable that our veterans would be used as pawns in a political game, where the majority seeks to ensure failure in Iraq at all costs. That is what happens when you say it is lost, when you tell the enemy this is when we are withdrawing. I think our soldiers and our families deserve better.

My recent trip to Iraq underscored the fact that while we face formidable challenges, there are also glimmers of hope. General Petraeus said that to me in Baghdad on Saturday. He showed me the charts of the declines in the death squads and sectarian violence in Baghdad. He talks about the sheiks in Anbar Province coming over and fighting shoulder to shoulder with us against al-Qaida in Iraq.

When I visited Iraq this weekend, I traveled to Taqaddum in Anbar Province, between Fallujah and Ramadi, and Talil, in south central Iraq. I also spent time in Baghdad. We have some Minnesota National Guard in Talil and Taqaddum. We have a long way to go. It is certainly too early to tell whether our new strategy, including the surge in troops, is succeeding at the level set out by the President. Even General Petraeus has said that. Certainly our headlines here at home still echo the horrific suicide bombs and insurgent attacks we have sadly grown to expect when we read the morning paper. This is an enemy with resolve. It understands the impact of those actions on the American people.

General Petraeus told me and others in this body that he will come back to us in September—his troops are not all deployed at this point in time—and he can show the progress and the decline in the killings and sectarian violence. He talked about the elimination of some of the killing cells and some of their leadership. He will come back in September with the Ambassador, whom I also had dinner with that night, to discuss the situation. They will tell us whether they have succeeded in providing the stability in Baghdad that will allow the process of reconciliation to move forward more aggressively. He used the phrase many times that ''the clock in Washington ticks much faster than in Iraq.'' We know that. He did say military action cannot win this war. But my colleagues on the other side, when they quote that, don't quote the other half of the sentence. He said it is 20 percent military action, but you cannot do the other 80 percent unless you are successful in the military action. He is clear about that. I believe General Petraeus and the troops he commands deserve to be given the time they need before we arbitrarily decide the war is lost.

I continue to have my doubts about the Iraqi leadership. I met with the Prime Minister of Iraq, and he told me he was annoyed by a statement by the Secretary of Defense regarding the need to bring Sunnis more into their Government. His comment was that the Shia is a majority and it would undermine the democracy, tell the majority what they have to do. I said: Respectfully, I serve in the Senate. In the Senate, we protect in this country against one of the enemies of democracy, which is the tyranny of the majority. That is what has to go into the reconciliation in Iraq. I don't believe, as I listened to him, that he has the kind of commitment yet we need to make reconciliation successful. So that is of concern.

For us in this body, it is hard to think that giving a voice to the minority would constitute undermining democracy. We know the perils of a tyranny of the majority, which Alexis de Tocqueville defined in 1835, and that Madison and Hamilton alluded to in the Federalist Papers. The fact we are still trying to persuade the Prime Minister that he has to do a better job of reaching out to his own countrymen makes it hard for me to be optimistic.

Despite these challenges, the atmosphere in my meetings last weekend was so different than what I saw in December. The brave American civilians who are executing the diplomatic components of our strategy have a new sense of mission. I met with State Department folks—two of them—at breakfast Saturday morning. They are part of the new PRT. They are about to go Anbar Province, and they are reading in the paper that the war is ''lost'' and they are going out into Anbar Province to work on the reconstruction of Anbar and Fallujah. They are just about to begin their mission with a sense of hope, and shame on us if we dash it here. Some of the Iraqi leaders I was with reacted strongly in an opposite direction from the Prime Minister and clearly understood our commitment is not open-ended. Certainly, the courageous men and women in the field told

me to relay to my colleagues this war is not lost. Let me be very clear. I sat in meetings with members of the Minnesota National Guard—by the way, I am unhappy about their tours of duty being extended. They and their families heard in the press that they were being extended. I complained about that to the Army and received an apology. In spite of that, they stood up and said to me: Use our names. Tell the Senate the war is not lost.

MAJ Brian Melton, from Moorhead, MN, said: Tell the Senate the war is not lost. Lieutenant Martin of the 1/34th Support Battalion in Talil, Iraq, wants the Senate to know the war is not lost. These soldiers talked about at one point it being kind of the Wild West in Anbar Province and it is being transformed.

I wish my colleagues would have heard the story from LTC Gregg Parks of Walker, MN. He told me about a suicide bomber who came into a town called Habbaniyah, and he veered into a crowd coming out of a mosque, blew himself up, and wounded or killed many Iraqis. Not a single American shed blood in that attack; yet our soldiers lined up to give blood. The next day, the mayor and local sheiks came in and gave the names of al-Qaida operatives and pledged to work side by side with our troops to drive al-Qaida out of Iraq. I wish my colleagues could have heard COL David Elicerio, commander of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team of the Minnesota National Guard. He told me about the ''adopt a highway'' program his men and women have implemented with the local Iraqis. He said the local sheiks came in and identified where there were two IEDs.

There are many challenges that lie ahead, probably too many to name here. I don't see the situation in Iraq through rose-colored glasses and I am not trying to paint an unrealistic picture. The violence we have see over the past weeks in places like Baqubah reminds us all too well of the struggles we face.

I know the American public has run out of patience on this war. I don't know what the next round of letters to the editor will look like, or the attack ads on moveon.org for the vote I cast; but I am committed to stemming the flow of terrorism, not handing al-Qaida a victory they will be able to use to strengthen their forces and hurt and kill more Americans.

This bill we passed, with the timeline for surrender, doesn't make America safer. I am not for an open-ended commitment or a blank check, but as General Petraeus has said, you have to have a plan B. If the Iraqis don't do what they need to do for reconciliation, we are going to figure out a way to get Americans out of the crosshairs of that civil war. Some say we will be in Kuwait or some other area. General Petraeus told me he has to refuel his helicopters three times to get back into Baghdad, and if there is a ''Rwanda'' in Baghdad, we are not going to be able to do anything about it. We will redeploy our troops if this surge doesn't work, put them outside the center area.

In the end, they may have to look at a plan B. But that decision will come soon. General Petraeus said: Let me come back in September. Perhaps that is not soon enough for the American public, but the decision we made today, the statement that the war is ''lost,'' the decision to set into place a timetable for surrender, doesn't help us provide an opportunity for reconciliation to occur in Iraq, or for there to be greater stability in the region, and it will let al-Qaida have a victory. A timetable for surrender hurts our warriors on the front line. It is a path I could not follow, one America shall not follow. Let us come back with a different supplemental and let us give our warriors the money they need to fight the war that has to be fought. Let us do that quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOSEPH M. TACKETT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to pause for a moment today in loving memory and honor of Sgt. Joseph M. Tackett of Whitehouse, KY. Sergeant Tackett was tragically killed on June 23, 2005, in Baghdad while serving his country in the U.S. Army. He was 22 years old, and the recipient of numerous awards including the Bronze Star.

Not long after Sergeant Tackett's death, his body returned home to Johnson County, KY, and family, neighbors and friends came to pay their respects at his flag-draped casket in the Johnson County Middle School gymnasium. Even the kindergarten students at his old elementary school to whom he wrote letters remembered him that day as a friend and a hero.

Joe ''was just very excited and enthusiastic about protecting a country he loved,'' says Nellie Bowen, Joe's third-grade teacher. ''He had a pride in our country that we sometimes miss.''

It was Ms. Bowen's class of kindergartners that Sergeant Tackett wrote to, becoming their overseas pen pal even while serving in Iraq. He replied to every letter they sent him, and even came to the school to speak to the children after his first tour of duty.

Mr. President, when you know this about Sergeant Tackett, you can see why so many in Johnson County turned out to support the Tackett family after the loss of their brother and son.

That Sergeant Tackett excelled in the Army is no surprise. He embraced his duty to serve with the same vigor and passion he displayed for so many activities in his short but full life.

''He looked at everything with enthusiasm,'' Joe's mother, Kathy Tackett, tells us. ''He was so looking forward to the future, [and] he was always planning for the future.''

As a child, Joe turned this infectious enthusiasm to many activities, including music. He was the singer for a Christian band and also a budding entrepreneur.

High-profile musicians didn't often include Whitehouse on their tours. But Joe filled the gap by producing rock concerts locally, showcasing local bands.

His love for music persisted to his time in Iraq. While there, he befriended Iraqi college students and introduced them to American rock music. Joe made friends so easily this way, he even exchanged emails with Iraqis while back home in Kentucky between tours.

Joe graduated from Johnson Central High School in 2000 and even then held dreams of one day becoming a soldier. He attended Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and then the terrorist attacks of 9/11 happened. Joe enlisted a month later.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the Third Infantry Division based at Fort Stewart, GA. He saw the Army as a way to learn new things and gain new experiences, and he devoured each new experience with excitement.

Sent to Iraq and Afghanistan for his first tour of duty, Joe learned new skills and new proficiencies. He took online classes while serving in Iraq to get his college degree. He took any training that became available and was always open to opportunities for self-improvement.

''Joe wanted to travel . . . he was curious about other countries, other lands,'' Kathy Tackett says. Joe called his mother once from the Middle East telling her he was standing in a mosque. ''There's not many people who have ever done this, Mom,'' she remembers him saying with pride.

Sergeant Tackett was deployed a second time in January 2005. His assignment was to escort visiting dignitaries through the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad. Even while undertaking this important mission, he still found time to write e-mails to his family back home. ''He was interested in so many things,'' Kathy Tackett recalls. ''I can't imagine the person that he would have become, if he would've had more years.''

Sergeant Tackett's families may never know the answer to that question. But I think we know Joe would have tackled anything he did with energy and with enthusiasm, as he did throughout his life.

Sergeant Tackett leaves behind a loving family. He is loved and remembered by his mother, Kathy, his father, Wendell, his brother, Sam, his sister, Michelle Spencer, his nieces Hailey Tackett and Shawna Spencer, and other beloved family members.

Mr. President, no words we can say today will ease the pain of the Tackett

family. I know they are still searching for answers. But I hope the reverence and respect this Senate shows Sergeant Tackett will remind them that he lived and served as a hero, and his country will forever honor and remember his sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to keep the family of SGT Joseph M. Tackett in their thoughts and prayers. I know they will be in mine.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

1ST LIEUTENANT SHAUN M. BLUE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from Munster. Shaun Blue, 25 years old, died on April 16 while deployed in Al Anbar Province on Operation Iraqi Freedom. With his entire life before him, Shaun risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Shaun was a lifelong Hoosier, graduating among the top 10 students of his class from Munster High School in 2000. He joined the military because, as his high school principal said, ''He was one of those kids who did things everyone else was afraid to do.'' His valor over the course of his service in Iraq exemplifies Hoosier values and courage. His track and field coach at Munster High described Shaun as a mentally tough kid saying, ''The fact that he chose the career path that he did didn't surprise me. It was perfectly suited for him.''

Shaun was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twenty-nine Palms, CA.

Today, I join Shaun's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Shaun, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Shaun was known for his dedication to his community and his love of country. Today and always, Shaun will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Shaun's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Shaun's actions will live on far longer that any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Shaun M. Blue in the official RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Shaun's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Shaun.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID NEIL SIMMONS

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo. Neil Simmons, 20 years old, was killed on April 8th while deployed in Baghdad, when his convoy encountered an improvised explosive device and insurgent fire. He had been in Iraq for less than 2 weeks. With his entire life before him, Neil risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Neil attended Kokomo's Northwestern High School and followed the example set by his father and uncle by enlisting in the Army a few months before graduating in 2005. He enjoyed the structure of the military and felt a sense of duty to serve his community and country. His father described Neil as ''an avid outdoorsman who was happy and always had plenty of friends.''

Neil was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in Fort Benning, GA. Neil's father reflected on his son's death, asking, ''What's the odds of, among 160,000 troops your only child is there 1 week and gets killed?'' Private First Class Simmons leaves behind his father, David, and uncle, Jim Simmons.

Today, I join Neil's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Neil, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Neil was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Neil will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Neil's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Neil's actions will live on far longer that any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David Neil Simmons in the official RECORD of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope families like Neil's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Neil.

SPECIALIST JASON J. BEADLES

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from La Porte. Jason Beadles, 22 years old, died on April 11th while deployed in Baghdad on Operation Iraqi Freedom. With his entire life before him, Jason risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Jason has been a lifelong Hoosier, graduating from La Porte High School in 2003. He had been interested in technical engineering throughout high school, earning his welding certificate from A.K. Smith Career Center before graduating. Army Specialist Beadles enlisted in the Army as an engineer after the attacks of 9/11. His valor over the course of his service in Iraq exemplifies Hoosier values and courage. He decided to enlist because as his welding instructor put it, ''he was always concerned about other people.'' Jason enjoyed the military, and he believed that throughout all the hardships they faced he and his company were helping the Iraqi people.

Jason died while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 887th Engineer Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in Fort Campbell, KY.

Today, I join Jason's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Jason, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Jason was known for his dedication to his community and his love of country. Today and always, Jason will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Jason's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Jason's actions will live on far longer that any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jason J. Beadle in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope families like Jason's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Jason.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD P. LANGENBRUNNER

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from Fort Wayne. Richard Langenbrunner, 19 years old, was killed on April 17 while deployed in Rustamiyah, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Richard risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Richard was a lifelong Hoosier, graduating from Northrop High School in 2006. He completed basic training this past January and was deployed just a few weeks later. He is remembered for his love of people, life, and adventure. ''He was so happy and excited about his future before he graduated,'' said a former classmate. ''He joined the military because he wanted to drive a tanker.'' Richard enlisted in the Army just before graduating high school. His valor over the course of his service in Iraq exemplifies Hoosier values and courage.

Richard died while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Today, I join Richard's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Richard, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Richard was known for his dedication to his community and his love of country. Today and always, Richard will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Richard's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Richard's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Richard P. Langenbrunner in the official RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Richard's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Richard.

STAFF SERGEANT BRADLEY D. KING

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from Gas City. Bradley King, 28 years old, was killed on April 2 while deployed in Al Amiriyah, Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee. With his entire life before him, Bradley risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Bradley attended Mississinewa High School, enlisting in the National Guard in 1997, a year before his graduation in 1998. Bradley enjoyed the military and felt a sense of duty to serve his community and country. The day before he was deployed, Bradley told his mother that he felt ''called to serve in the military for his country.'' His aunt described Bradley as ''a responsible young man determined to do his best for the people he loved.''

Bradley was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade, Marion, IN. Master Sergeant Bill Wallen, King's supervisor, told local media, ''he was a heck of a human being, he's what everybody else needs to be in this world.'' Staff Sergeant King leaves behind his wife Adrian and 15-month-old son, Daethan.

Today, I join Bradley's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Bradley, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Bradley was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Bradley will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Bradley's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Bradley's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Bradley D. King in the official RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Bradley's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Bradley.

SPECIALIST CODY A. PUTMAN

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of a brave young man from Lafayette. Cody Putman, 22 years old, was killed on April 11th while deployed in Baghdad on Operation Iraqi Freedom. With his entire life before him, Cody risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Cody was a lifelong Hoosier, graduating from Twin Lakes High School in 2003. He is remembered for his love of

people, life, and adventure. ''He was someone who was always looking to have a good time with others,'' said a former teacher. ''He joined the military because of the teamwork.'' Cody enlisted in the Army after high school, and his valor over the course of his service in Iraq exemplifies Hoosier values and courage. A month before he died, Cody had been home on leave for 2 weeks vacationing with his family in Florida. Cody is survived by his father, Harry Putman, and his mother, Pam Mow. He also leaves behind his wife, Molly Putnam, 20, and 3-year-old daughter Madelyn.

Cody died while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based in Fort Richardson, AK.

Today, I join Cody's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Cody, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Cody was known for his dedication to his community and his love of country. Today and always, Cody will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Cody's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Cody's actions will live on far longer that any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Cody A. Putman in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope families like Cody's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Cody.

SPECIALIST ERIC R. SIEGER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to SPC Eric R. Sieger of Layton, UT, who died of injuries suffered while conducting operations in Iraq. He was a remarkable young man who overcame much adversity in his life. On March 9 of this year, he would have turned 19 years old.

Part of the 1st Cavalry Division, Specialist Sieger was also a member of a very special family. I understand that his parents, Wolfgang and Krista, have 15 children, 6 of whom were adopted, including the Specialist. Early life was not easy for the Specialist but that all changed when he was adopted at the age of 11 by the loving Sieger family.

I have been informed that Specialist Sieger enjoyed running, being with his friends, building and fixing things. He had a girlfriend whom he met while stationed at Fort Hood, TX. Shortly before his passing, Specialist Sieger was able speak to his mother on the phone. His mother said, ''They spent most of the time laughing and joking with each other.''

Specialist Sieger's father said, ''He was dutiful in wanting to do what is right.''

Undoubtedly, this led him to become a member of the Civil Air Patrol as a teenager and enlist in the Army at 17. Military service is a calling for other members of the Sieger family, as well. Currently, one of his sisters is also deployed to Iraq, another sister is preparing to deploy, and a brother is a member of the Air National Guard.

I would like to conclude my remarks by quoting the words of Specialist Sieger's mother and father. Krista Sieger stated, ''He felt since he was in the Army, since he took the oath, he has to do everything he was asked to do. And he did.'' Wolfgang Sieger said, ''I would call him a hero. He is definitely a hero in my sight. I honor him as a hero.''

I do not know of any higher praise that parents could give a son in military service. Specialist Sieger and his family will always be in my prayers.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DOUGLAS C. STONE

Mr. President, I wish to honor one of Utah's fallen sons, SFC First Class Douglas C. Stone.

SFC Stone had a lifelong connection to our Nation's military. His father served in the Air Force. Yet, SFC Douglas Stone joined the Army Reserve later in life. As his mother Dolores Feigley said about her son, ''I think he was the oldest at boot camp.''

However, his maturity was only to be an asset to his country, which was affirmed when he became a full-time reservist. Over the past 6 years, SFC Douglas Stone assisted in the preparation of reservists from the 96th Regional Readiness Command for deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. As my good friend, MG Peter S. Cooke, the commanding officer of the 96th Regional Readiness Command said about SFC Stone ''There wasn't a unit or individual sent from our headquarters that SFC Stone did not personally assist in preparing for their mobilization or deployment.''

This was not the first time SFC Douglas Stone had gone in harm's way for his country. He also was a part of the fuel re-supply effort during the First Gulf War.

However, his life's most important work undoubtedly was as a family man. Sergeant First Class Stone was husband to his wife, Mary, and father to two boys Nathan, 13, and Cameron, 10.

SFC Douglas Stone was also a member of Fort Douglas's Honor Guard. I understand that Rick Edginton, one of his fellow Honor Guardsmen who participated at his friend's funeral said, ''for me, probably one of the toughest moments was when I was standing at the head of the casket and I looked over to the side and I saw a note from his sister on the flowers that were there. It said, ''To Doug, my brother, and my Hero.''''

No truer words have been written.

SFC Douglas Stone was a hero. He served his country with pride and answered its call when it needed him most. All of Utah shall remember him and will be praying for this hero and his family.

SERGEANT BRANDON A. PARR

Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to SGT Brandon A. Parr. Sergeant Parr was a member of the 630th Military Police Company and gave his life with two other servicemembers when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

There are certain pictures that define a time and a moment in our Nation's history. Such examples can be found in the raising of Old Glory over Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. I respectfully submit that a picture taken during Sergeant Parr's funeral should be added to that category. In that photo, Sergeant Parr's wife, Shannah, is seen holding the hand of their young son, Nicholas. Nicholas, standing on some steps, is wearing the camouflage uniform of an American soldier—a young son's tribute to his fallen father. This is an image that I will remember for all my days and a fitting tribute to a true hero.

Sergeant Parr enlisted in the Army in 2003, and this was his second tour in Iraq. He was involved in one of the most critical tasks in this war: training Iraqi police and providing security to the Iraqi people. By all accounts, Sergeant Parr preformed these assignments at the highest standards of our Nation's military.

Shannah Parr said of her husband, ''He was very laid back and very funny. He made everyone feel good.''

His mother, Teota Dangel said, ''I think he would have gone (to Iraq) even if he knew this was going to be the outcome.'' Words like this can only be spoken of a true hero and patriot.

Sergeant Parr and his entire family will always be in my prayers.

CORPORAL STEPHEN KOWALCZYK

Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to CPL Stephen Kowalczyk, a member

of the 1st Calvary Division, who recently lost his life while on patrol in Iraq.

Upon learning of about his life, I was struck by all the adventures that Corporal Kowalczyk had undertaken. He had been the captain of the swim team at Macalester College, traveled extensively throughout Europe, the Middle East, including working as a handyman in Jerusalem. I understand that he even leapt from an iceberg and swam in the frigid waters of the Arctic Ocean. Clearly, this was a young man that seized all that life had to offer.

Three years ago, at the age of 29, he began a new adventure and joined the Army. According to his family he loved it.

During a recent memorial service in Iraq, one of his comrades SSG Richard Coombes stated: ''He was a man who taught me that there was still beauty in our everyday life, even in Iraq. I looked at him and wondered if he had already figured life out. He was in such peace and harmony.'' CPT Kevin Bradley would often notice that Corporal Kowalczyk would look from the rooftops at the area around him. When asked why, he reportedly would reply, ''You should see it up here. It's beautiful.'' Another friend remembered him as ''a gentle, kind soul, I cannot think of anybody who did not love this man.''

And yet he never forgot why he was deployed to Iraq—to help the Iraqi people. This commitment was reflected in the letters that he would write home asking for history books that he could give to Iraqis that he met, and pencils, notepads, and Hershey bars for Iraqi children.

What a fine man. What an extraordinary life.

I will always remember him and his family in my prayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senator DORGAN be recognized to speak.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I stand today in strong support of H.R. 1591, the congressional supplemental bill. In casting our votes on this important measure, all of us must ask a fundamental question: Do we support a change in course in Iraq or do we want more of the same?

This supplemental bill delivers over $100 billion in necessary funding, an increase of $4 billion over the President's request for our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, fully meeting the President's request. More important, the bill establishes a change in course for our policy in Iraq by transitioning the mission of American troops away from involvement in a growing civil war to a more targeted mission, one focused on counterterrorism, training and equipping Iraqi forces, and force protection for American troops.

The supplemental bill that was voted on today offers a path away from the current quagmire in Iraq, a state of bloodshed and chaos which is straining the U.S. Army, diverting our attention from a resurgent al-Qaida in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and finally sacrificing too many of our finest men and women.

We must never forget the enormous personal sacrifices our troops are asked to make every day. As of today, 162 Pennsylvanians and more than 3,300 Americans as a whole have given their lives in Iraq, with tens of thousands more suffering lifelong injuries, including amputations, severe burns, and traumatic brain injuries. On Monday, nine members of the 82nd Airborne Division gave their lives when a suicide bomber infiltrated their outpost in Diyala Province, the deadliest single attack on U.S. forces in Iraq since December 2005.

We pray today for our fallen heroes—today and always—but we also pray for ourselves that we may be worthy of their valor.

Our troops have done all they can. They have deposed Saddam, and they fought insurgents and foreign terrorists. They spent the last 4 years partnering with their Iraqi counterparts in a courageous effort to establish the foundation for democracy and a free society. They have been asked to mediate disputes and protect innocent civilians as targets in a crossfire of a civil war.

So our troops have done their part. Now it is time for the Congress and the White House to do their part. As retired military generals, experienced diplomats, and scholars with intimate knowledge of Iraq have declared and as a bipartisan Iraq Study Group concluded just last winter, any success in Iraq requires a political and diplomatic solution and cannot be achieved through military might alone.

Just ask General Petraeus, who, upon assuming his new command in March, declared:

> There is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq, to the insurgency of Iraq . . . A political resolution of various differences . . . will determine, in the long run, the success of that effort.

GEN Barry McCaffrey recently returned from his latest trip to Iraq. One of our most widely respected former military officers, General McCaffrey fought in Vietnam with distinction, commanded a division in the gulf war in 1991, and led U.S. operations in Latin America. He submitted a formal report on his trip, which is very sober reading. One line stands out for me, and I quote from General McCaffrey's report:

> No Iraqi Government official, coalition soldier, diplomat, reporter, foreign nongovernmental organization, nor contractor can walk the streets of Baghdad, nor Mosul, nor Kirkuk, nor Basra, nor Tikrit, nor Najaf, nor Ramadi, without heavily armed protection.

This supplemental bill provides the Congress and the White House a chance to do their part to ensure success in our mission in Iraq. It brings to an end the ''stay the course'' mentality that defined our approach for the past 4 years in at least three ways.

First, the supplemental revises our mission in Iraq away from policing a civil war toward training and equipping Iraqi security forces, protecting U.S. forces, and conducting targeted counterterror operations.

Second, it initiates a phased redeployment of our troops no later than October 1 of this year, with a goal of removing all combat troops by April 1 of next year. These steps were called for in the bipartisan Iraq Study Group and represent the will of the American people. I am pleased that the Congress is finally following suit.

Third, the supplemental at least holds the Iraqi Government accountable by setting measurable and achievable benchmarks on the Iraqi Government for ending the sectarian conflict, political reconciliation, and improving the lives of ordinary Iraqis.

If the Iraqi Government refuses to meet these benchmarks, they will put at risk future U.S. assistance and the continued presence of U.S. troops. We have repeatedly seen past benchmarks established by the Bush administration and the Iraqi Government come and go without progress and without consequence. Just this week, a revealing article in USA Today highlighted the growing lack of confidence among Iraqi Parliamentarians in the al-Maliki government, and one legislator was quoted as saying:

> This government hasn't delivered and is not capable of doing the job.

This bill, once and for all, establishes a series of accountable benchmarks.

Finally, the supplemental recognizes the toll this war has taken on our uniformed military, especially the Army and Marine Corps. It establishes a set of troop-readiness standards that establish minimum levels between deployments for our troops and limits the duration of those deployments.

The legislation includes a Presidential waiver authority, but it would require the President to certify that the continued strain on our military forces is in our national interest. These provisions will force the President to think long and hard about the impact of the Iraq war on the readiness of our military to handle other pressing challenges, including the need to fight and kill al-Qaida terrorists wherever we find them.

The congressional debate that has helped produce this supplemental bill has been attacked by the President and his supporters. However, our Secretary of Defense last week described our debate as helpful in ''communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment.''

Two of my distinguished colleagues, on a recent visit to Baghdad, explicitly

informed Iraqi leaders that growing congressional pressure on the need for a phased redeployment signified that it was time for the Iraqi Government to get serious and start taking the hard steps needed for political reconciliation, including a fair distribution of oil revenues. Without the steps this Congress has taken, without the pressure it has applied, the Maliki regime would continue to be receiving an open-ended blank check from the White House, with our soldiers paying the ultimate price.

The President has regrettably chosen to distort and malign our intentions in sending him the bill that is before us today. I wish to take a few minutes to briefly address those charges and demonstrate why it is the President—the President—and not the Congress who has cynically held hostage the funding and well-being of our troops.

First, the President has repeatedly charged that our military forces needed the supplemental funding immediately and any delay to pass the supplemental in his exact specifications would harm their readiness. A number of my colleagues already cited authoritative research from the Congressional Research Service that demonstrates that the needed funding is available to the U.S. Army from mid to late July—let me say that again, mid to late July—without jeopardizing the war effort. However, there is a much larger cynicism at play here. There would be no need for a supplemental bill at all if this President had submitted an honest, regular budget request for this fiscal year.

Four years into the war, this administration should be able to tell the American people how much the war in Iraq cost. Yet the administration has refused to incorporate wartime costs into his regular budget request, instead seeking to finance our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through a series of supplemental bills. Of course, the President doesn't want to do that because regular appropriations requests are subject to greater public and congressional scrutiny.

Financing the war through supplemental bills also allows the President to better hide the impact of the war on our Federal budget. It is not surprising that a President who has run up the largest deficits in modern history would want to hide that fact. Doing so on the backs of our troops is outrageous.

So the President is plain wrong when he attacks the Congress on supplemental funding for our troops in Iraq. The reality is that we have exceeded the President's request and on a timetable which is quicker than that of the previous Congress controlled by the President's party.

If the President chooses to veto this bill, it is he—it is he—who is prolonging this process and denying necessary funds to our young men and women in uniform. If the President had been honest with the Congress and the American people on the true cost of this war from the very beginning, we would not have needed this supplemental bill.

The second claim the President has made over and over again in recent weeks is that this supplemental bill is larded up with porkbarrel spending that is unrelated to our military operation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet, once again, the President is distorting both his own actions and those of Congress for crude political gain. We should not forget that the President's original request for supplemental funding also included funds not related to the war in Afghanistan and in Iraq. The President's request included money for debt relief in Kosovo, cultural exchanges, and assistance to refugees in Burundi. The President keeps calling for a clean bill, yet his own request to the Congress included extra items with no connection to Iraq or Afghanistan. In light of the President's request, the Congress, acting as an independent and equal branch of Government, engaged in its own deliberations and determined other emergency priorities that required funding through this supplemental bill.

This President seems to think that the Congress exists merely to follow his orders and that it should not exercise any independent judgment. This may have been the case with our predecessors but not with this Congress and not with this Senator. We were elected by the people of our States, and we report to them, not the President and not the Vice President. So the Congress acted to ensure additional funding for a number of key priorities.

The President has broadly tarred these projects as ''egregious porkbarrel.'' Does the President believe that label applies to the $1.2 billion in funds for accelerated production of mine-resistent vehicles so our soldiers have a better chance of surviving IED attacks? Does he believe that label applies to $2.1 billion to better provide health care for our veterans? Does he believe that $650 million to help with the children's health insurance shortfall in 14 States is frivolous spending? I could also talk about the funding for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and our farmers and on and on.

This supplemental bill, agreed upon by the House and the Senate, is a responsible effort that guarantees the funds our troops need, provides funding for other critical emergency priorities, and sets a badly needed change in course in Iraq.

In conclusion, our policy in Iraq is not working, and it must change if we are to salvage our mission and seek to leave behind a functioning government in Baghdad that can defend its national borders and contain internal violence. It is time to recognize the reality of Iraq as it is today, get our mission right, and allow our troops to begin coming home with the honor they deserve.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator TESTER be recognized following my presentation.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Senate has passed a piece of legislation that includes funding for our troops who are committed to action in Iraq and other parts of the world, especially Iraq and Afghanistan. I expect there will be no controversy about the issue of funding, although we have provided more funding for the soldiers than requested by the President, but there are other portions of the legislation that are controversial. I understand that. But I wish to talk about something that has not been talked about nearly enough as we send our soldiers to war.

William Manchester wrote a book called ''The Glory and the Dream.'' I remember, when I read that book, thinking about what an unbelievable commitment this country made during the Second World War. We have now been at war in Iraq longer than we were at war in the Second World War.

Let me take a couple of brief comments from ''The Glory and the Dream,'' written by Manchester, about what this country did during the Second World War.

This country geared up. Its factories were humming. Rosie the Riveter was riveting, and we had output from our factories that was nearly unbelievable in support of the war effort. There was rationing. There were all kinds of things happening in which the country supported the war effort and supported the soldiers.

Let me quote:

> From an initial keel-to-delivery time of over 200 days, Henry Kaiser cut the average work time on a liberty ship to 40 days. In 1944, he was launching a new escort aircraft carrier every week, and they were turning out entire cargo ships in 17 days. During the first 212 days of 1945, they completed 247 cargo ships, better than 1 a day.

That is what this country mobilized to do during the Second World War.

From the same book, ''The Glory and the Dream,'' quote:

> In the 5 years following the French collapse, America turned out: 296,000 warplanes, 102,000 tanks, 2.4 million trucks, 8,700 warships, and 5,400 cargo ships.

Now, why did that happen? Because this country mobilized. This country's factories were humming.

At a meeting, Joseph Stalin observed to the American President—the American President, FDR, Joseph Stalin, and Winston Churchill. Stalin said: We couldn't win this war without America's production.

This country mobilized.

Now, let me read something. Just understanding that in 1944, we were producing 4,000 warplanes a month, 50,000 warplanes a year, let me read something. Colonel Hammes came and testified last year at a policy committee hearing I chaired, and here is what he said:

Since the improvised explosive devices exploded in Iraq in the summer of 2003, we as a country have known—

I am quoting him—

we have known there are better and safer vehicles available than the armored HUMVEE—for instance, the M–1117 armored security vehicle. Yet in 3 years, the Pentagon has purchased less than 1,000 of them. I find it remarkable that a Nation that could produce 4,000 warplanes a month during World War II can produce 45 armored vehicles per month today.

Continuing to quote:

We didn't ask soldiers to invade France in 1944 with the inferior equipment they had in 1941. Why are we asking our soldiers and Marines to use the same armor that was insufficient in 2003? It's simple. The administration has refused to dedicate the resources necessary to make it happen. It is content to let our troops ride in inferior vehicles.

Continuing to quote:

The administration has failed to replace and maintain the equipment necessary for the units to be ready for other potential operations, although our units lack equipment to train, our repair depots are working single shifts and 5 days a week. The American people haven't refused to provide what our people need in the battlefield, the administration has refused to ask for the funding. The failure to provide our best equipment is a serious moral failure on the part of our leadership.

Now, why do I raise this question today? In the Second World War, in 1944, we were producing 4,000 warplanes a month, and yet we have not mobilized. We have sent troops abroad to go to war, but the message here at home is to go shopping. Troops go to the war, we go to the mall. We haven't mobilized.

Let me read to you a letter dated 1 March 2007. This is from the Marine Commandant about a vehicle called the MRAP vehicle, the mine-resistent ambush-protected vehicle, a vehicle that is much stronger than the humvee, much safer than the humvee our soldiers are now riding in in Iraq on patrol.

This is from the Marine Corps Commandant, in his memorandum to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

The MRAP vehicle has a dramatically better record of preventing fatal and serious injuries from attacks by improvised explosive devices. We estimate that the use of the MRAP could reduce the casualties in vehicles due to IED attacks by as much as 80 percent.

Now, think of that, 3,325 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq, and 70 percent of those casualties have come as a result of IEDs. The Commandant of the Marine Corps says the MRAP vehicle would save 80 percent of those casualties. Eighty percent. No marines have died in 300 separate attacks on MRAP vehicles by IEDs, according to BG John Allen, deputy commander of coalition forces in Anbar Province—300 attacks on MRAP vehicles and no marines have died.

Now, why do I raise all this? Well, we need about 6,700 of these MRAP vehicles if this country is intending to provide the best equipment for our troops who are on patrol in Iraq. Until recent months, we were producing about 45 a month. Let me say that again. We are sending soldiers to war, and there is a vehicle that the Commandant of the Marine Corps says will save 80 percent of the lives now being lost in these IED explosions because this is a much safer vehicle than the humvee. It is called the MRAP. But we are not mobilized to produce the MRAP. No one has said: This is urgent, let's provide the best equipment for these soldiers.

So what did we do? Well, in the 2007 Omnibus appropriations bill, we added money. Yes, we in Congress added money for it. In the bill we just voted for today, we added money for it because the President wasn't requesting sufficient money. We have a need for 6,700 of them. The administration, with all of their requests, would fund less than a third of that. In their 2008 budget request, which would take effect next October, once again it is underfunded.

Let me show a picture, if I might, a photograph of what is called the MRAP vehicle. Three versions of the MRAP. The Defense Department experts say that soldiers on patrol, riding in this version of the MRAP 80 percent of the soldiers who would otherwise lose their lives from IED explosives will be saved. Think of that. With 300 attacks against this vehicle, not 1 life has been lost. Yet we have soldiers patrolling in Iraq with vehicles much less safe, and 70 percent of the 3,325 troops who have been killed have been killed as a result of IEDs, riding in vehicles that are not as safe as this vehicle, and until recently we were producing 45 a month. That is unbelievable. A country that could send everyone into its factories and have those factories humming three shifts a day and produce 4,000 warplanes a month and a liberty ship a day, every single day, the country that won the Second World War with its prodigious productions, supporting its wonderful troops, that country can't mobilize? This President can't ask that country to mobilize? We have to stick money in this supplemental bill above the President's request in order to say that this is a priority, this is urgent, this is about saving the lives of soldiers?

Again, I raise the question because we are at war. Yet you would hardly know it, with respect to the daily lives most of us lead. In the Second World War, it wasn't that way. Yet we have been at this war longer than the Second World War. In the Second World War, here is what we produced—the might of American production, in which a nation came together to say that we are going to support our troops and beat back the forces of fascism and defeat Adolf Hitler and where we produced 296,000 warplanes—think of it—and 8,762 warships. We didn't do that working one shift a day. We didn't do that making 45 MRAPs a month. This country mobilized then, but it is not mobilized now.

So we passed a piece of legislation here today. It has some areas the President says will persuade him to veto it. I assume this is not one of those areas. The President didn't request this funding for MRAPs. He should have. He didn't request enough funding in the coming fiscal year. He should have. If this country is going to send its soldiers to war, then we, all of us in this country, have an obligation to send them to war with the very finest equipment available to protect them and to help them. Regrettably, that is not now the case.

Early on in this war, I received e-mail pictures, photographs from Iraq, from soldiers showing me their humvees with welded pieces of metal on the doors, metal they pulled out of a scrap heap and welded to a door to try to strengthen it because those humvees weren't up-armored. Even now, much later, when all of the humvees on patrol are up-armored, we know there is a much safer vehicle that will save, we think, 80 percent of the fatalities that now exist through IEDs. There is no excuse—no excuse, in my judgment—for our not having three shifts at every plant available to produce these vehicles and get them to our soldiers in Iraq and save these lives. That is what we did in this supplemental appropriations bill.

When anyone talks about undercutting or undermining soldiers, I refer them to this. This was the first time, today, in which this Congress said to the President and said to the country we are going to mobilize. We insist that if we send soldiers to war, we want them to go to war with the finest equipment available with the potential to save their lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for the conference report on the emergency supplemental appropriations bill we passed early this afternoon. This bill needs to be signed by the President. It will do a lot of good for a lot of people in this great country. It will not only help our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also millions of Americans who have suffered over the last year due to drought and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

This bill has nearly $7 billion for cleanup and recovery on the gulf coast, which is, 18 months later, still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. There is $1.8 billion for veterans health care in this supplemental, to give our veterans the care they deserve when they return from serving our Nation. It contains $3.5 billion for agricultural assistance, assistance that is desperately needed. I have heard from several farmers in Montana about the drought and how it has devastated their farms and how they are barely hanging on.

Tom Lightner, a farmer and rancher from north of Choteau, MT, grows

wheat, barley, and alfalfa, and he used to run some cattle. But the continuing drought has hurt his operation. The reservoir near his operation, Bynum Reservoir, has been almost empty for the past 5 years because of this drought, and in 2005 Tom had to sell off his 120 head of cattle he used to run on his ranch. In February of this year, Tom wrote me this letter. What it says is:

I am writing to you in need of your assistance. I own and operate a small farm and ranch north of Choteau. Because of the continuing drought conditions in this area, making it from one year to the next has been a real challenge. In my present circumstances, it may become impossible [to stay in business].

Now Tom is in danger of losing his crop insurance and is looking for help from me, and from us, and from the President, to help him through these difficult times.

Another farmer in Montana, from Dagmar, wrote about conditions last year during the growing season. He writes that it is a foggy morning, no meaningful precipitation, but it cooled down some, which is good news in the heat of summer with little moisture. But the damage was done. Some of the late seeding re-crop had the top half of the head burnt right off.

What does that mean, in a nutshell? He is not going to cut much of a crop and it is not going to have much quality when he does get it in the bin. What does that mean in reality? That means no money to pay expenses, to pay for insurance, to pay for heating, to pay for seeding costs; no money to buy groceries, to pay that operating loan or mortgage loan.

That is why it is so critically important that the President of the United States sign this supplemental. Farmers and ranchers in Montana and throughout this country have suffered long enough. They have dedicated their lives to feeding the world, and it is the very least we can do to provide them with the assistance they need to keep going.

Before I finish, I want to talk a little bit about our great men and women who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have done everything we have asked and they have done it very well. This supplemental bill also gives our troops all the funding they need, and more, to meet the needs not addressed by the President's request. It provides a plan to get our troops out of the Middle East in this civil war they find themselves engaged in, and back to fighting the real war, the war on terrorism.

It sets a goal, not a deadline, of being out of Iraq by the spring of 2008. But it allows our troops to continue to train the Iraqi security forces, to conduct operations against terrorist groups, and to protect United States assets. This is hardly handcuffing the President of this country. This is a responsible plan to continue our fight against terrorism while getting our troops out of this Iraqi civil war.

For these reasons, I urge the President of the United States to sign this emergency supplemental into law. No more excuses, sign the supplemental. Our troops, our farmers, the people of this country, deserve no less.

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. ALLARD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I understand we are in morning business, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I came to the floor today to express my surprise that any Member of this body could attempt to characterize the current political situation as one in which the administration is failing to work with Congress. Any realistic discussion of today's political climate must revolve around the fact that the current majority has refused to work in any meaningful way with the minority party. The most blatant example of this is in the use of cloture by the majority leader to avoid consensus on the consideration of legislation.

In the 110th Congress, the majority leader so far has filed 24 cloture motions. During the same timeframe in the first session of the 109th Congress, Republicans had only filed five cloture motions. In the 108th Congress, by this date Republicans had only filed five cloture motions.

Just as surprising were the circumstances that surrounded General Petraeus's briefing yesterday. What I found remarkable was the original instinct of the Speaker of the House and our Senate majority leader was to avoid meeting the general here on Capitol Hill. Can you imagine that? The most important issue of our day is Iraq and the man we unanimously approved to lead our efforts is not worth their time to hear from? The only explanation for this is that the disdain felt by the majority in working with the minority and the administration was also extended to working with our military.

Of course, once it was clear that there was public outcry in not meeting General Petraeus, they relented. But what was also evident is there was an effort to avoid actually believing anything the general had to say about the situation on the ground. General Petraeus is not giving us information that has been filtered through some political process. He is giving a factual and sobering account of what is happening, block by block, in Iraq.

Yet the other side of the aisle, with a few exceptions, wants to cover their ears and not listen to the facts. They would rather pretend they know what is going on in Iraq rather than hear it from the general again.

The situation in Iraq is a dynamic and ever-changing one, and after yesterday's briefing, it is more clear to me than ever that we must resist arbitrary deadlines to our fight in Iraq.

But my Democratic colleagues would rather play politics with our men and women in the field and score a few points for the far left wing of their party. They would rather play politics on the Senate floor than work to pass meaningful legislation.

I ask the majority leader and the other side of the aisle to put politics aside and do the right thing, work in a truly bipartisan manner to do what the American people expect us to do.

This obstruction and unwillingness to work in a truly bipartisan effort to provide funding to our troops who are even now in harm's way is outrageous and disappointing.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

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

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

FORMER SPEAKER JOHN O'BRIEN

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate and pay tribute to the life of a great Washingtonian, a great American, and someone who in the State of Washington will be remembered for his great contributions and who will be remembered across our country. I am talking about our former Washington State Speaker of the House, John L. O'Brien, who died this past week at the age of 95. Speaker O'Brien actually passed away on the last day of this year's legislative session, almost an appropriate dedication for him for the remembrance of his service in our State government.

I am proud to say John L. O'Brien was a good friend, a mentor, and someone who imparted a lot of political wisdom in the State of Washington. He served in our State legislature for 52 years, from 1939 to 1993, and he served as speaker of the house for a chunk of that period, 1955 to 1963. He served under nine different Governors. At one point in time, I believe, he held the record in our country for the longest serving State legislator.

He did a tremendous job as majority leader; I am sure at times as minority leader; as speaker, as I mentioned, speaker pro tem. I believe he served on every single committee in our State legislature. He led our State's government through some great challenges

for us and for our country. He literally was in office when the United States went to declare World War II in 1954. He was speaker when the first flight of the Boeing 707 was completed. He saw the Space Needle completed for the World's Fair that was held in Seattle in 1962. He was there when Microsoft was founded. He led our State through the challenging times responding to Mount St. Helen's eruption in 1980. And he was there to lead our celebration as Washington State celebrated our 100th anniversary as a State in 1989.

But John O'Brien also was a man who thought about the future, and he has an unending list of accomplishments that literally touched the lives of thousands of Washingtonians. He changed the course of history in our State by his generosity, by his leadership, by his commitment, his inspiration.

I know my remarks will not do him justice, but I just want to say that he did a lot in a time and period of making sure that despite the lofty position he held in the house, he never lost track of what the constituents of his district and of our State cared about. He worked on property tax relief for seniors and low-income individuals. He fought for prescription and over-the-counter drug information labeling so that seniors knew what kind of products they were purchasing. He was a champion of State employee collective bargaining and workplace safety issues. He sponsored Washington State's first clean air act. That might sound like something lots of people do, but he actually sponsored that legislation in 1940. So he was ahead of his time in thinking about Washington State's environment and how to preserve the pristine quality of life that is so important to us.

He helped to establish one of the first programs in the Nation to commit a percentage of our construction budget for the creation of art. He helped save and restore Franklin High School. He worked to make sure we established a drug-free zone and got legislation passed removing the sales tax from items sold at charitable auctions.

John O'Brien represented one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Seattle, an area called the Rainer Valley. The Rainer Valley began as an Irish and Italian community of immigrants, and with Speaker O'Brien's leadership, it helped to incorporate various waves of new immigrants from various communities: the Chinese-American community, Japanese, Filipino, African American, Orthodox Jews, Vietnamese, East African, and Hispanic citizens. Now, it is, as I said, one of the most diverse areas of our State.

When the Seattle Times ran a story about Speaker O'Brien's life and how his values were shaped, they said:

> Mr. O'Brien was just 7 years old when his Irish immigrant father, a detective with the Seattle Police, came home after a particularly tough day on the job. He turned to his eldest son and asked, rhetorically, ''What will ever become of you if something happens to me?''

Two years later his father was shot and killed while on duty. That left the young Mr. O'Brien to help his mother, also an Irish immigrant, care for their siblings. By the time he was a teenager, he was bringing home a paycheck as a truckdriver for Keefe's Grocery in Rainier Valley. He went on to start his own accounting firm.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer quoted former Governor Dan Evans, who knew John O'Brien well, who said:

> He knew how to lead and occasionally when things got rambunctious, he had to have a heavy gavel to get things back in order.

Evans remembered one time when he challenged an O'Brien ruling, O'Brien slammed his gavel down so hard the head snapped off.

While O'Brien was a fiscally conservative Democrat, he understood what the role of the speaker required of him. He was always ready to have a good time.

I remember that if there was ever anybody who captured the saying, ''when Irish eyes are smiling,'' it was John O'Brien because he had a twinkle in his eye and a way to get people engaged. When I entered the State legislature at the age of 28, I was the youngest member at the time, and he was the most senior member of our legislature. Knowing of my Irish heritage background, he got me to commit to him that I would participate in St. Patrick's Day celebrations in his office by doing the Irish jig if, in fact, he produced someone with a bagpipe.

Well, unbeknownst to me, our secretary of state, Ralph Monroe, of Scottish heritage, had such bagpipes stored in his office and was quite frequently seen in the halls of Olympia playing the bagpipes. So on St. Patrick's Day I did participate in Speaker O'Brien's St. Patrick's Day celebration, as did our secretary of state, Ralph Monroe, and many others.

I hope to this day that there is not a picture of my rendition of my Irish heritage dance. But I know I will always remember on St. Patrick's Day John O'Brien and his great service and his heritage in our State.

On the last two pages of his biography, ''Speaker of the House,'' Speaker John O'Brien sums up his philosophy on how to survive in a legislature. He said:

> Do your best, count the votes, and, win or lose, move on to other pressing issues.

He said:

> It might stay with you for a while, but as far as being disappointed, you cannot let it remain as a personal matter because there's always another rollcall. There's always another day.

We can find inspiration in Speaker O'Brien's service as we face tough legislative issues here and as we face our vote today. No matter on what side of the political aisle you stand, we can all join in honoring the inspiration from others who have served and honoring the life of Speaker John L. O'Brien for his lifetime of public service.

My thoughts are with his family: his wife Mary, their six children, John O'Brien, Jr., Laurie, MaryAnn, Karen, Jeannie, and Paul, and to their grandchildren.

John O'Brien was a great Washingtonian, a great citizen of our country, and we will miss him, and we will try to live up to his accomplishments and to his legacy.

Madam President, 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.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

(The remarks of Ms. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the introduction of S. 1236 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

TRIBUTE TO JOHN O'BRIEN

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to take a couple of minutes to speak and to honor the life and legacy of a great leader from my home State of Washington. He was the former Speaker of the House, John O'Brien, and he passed away just this past weekend.

It is no exaggeration to say that John O'Brien had one of the longest and most accomplished careers of anyone who served in our Washington State Legislature. I was really lucky to have an opportunity to work with him when I was in the Washington State Senate and he was serving in the House. He was one of those people whom, whenever he walked into a room, everyone noticed. I always thought he was just so tall, but then I am only 5 feet tall, so to me he was tall. But it is amazing to me how many people say that his stature brought the respect of everyone who ever met him, and it certainly was true for me and for so many of us.

As Speaker of the House, he was known to be very tough but always fair. He was always firm, and he was always compassionate. I think I learned most from him that when you know the rules and use them for the betterment of all people, that is the kind of power which leaves you with a legacy everybody admires.

John leaves us many legacies. He leaves us a record of long and distinguished service in the State legislature. There is a building on our capitol grounds in Washington State that bears his name. He leaves behind laws that made our State a better place to work, to live, and to raise a family. Most importantly, he left a legacy of service that lives on in all of us who were lucky enough to serve with him and to be inspired by his leadership. It is the kind of legacy that any elected official would be proud of.

On this sad occasion, I extend my condolences to his family, to his many friends, and to all of us who served with him. We will not forget his legacy.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, recently we learned the Ohio National Guard could face early redeployment. We learned the National Guard is being asked to train without the proper equipment. Our Guard will do the job well regardless of the circumstances, but it is wrong to send them to Iraq with incomplete training and inadequate equipment and with insufficient downtime.

The supplemental passed today echoes what many of us in Congress and military families across the country have been saying: We need a new direction for Iraq. Make no mistake, we take a backseat to no one in supporting the brave men and women fighting in Iraq. We absolutely support their families. However, more of the same is not a plan for our troops and will not end this war in Iraq. This war has made our world and our country less safe. The Iraq war has cost 142 Ohioans their lives. It has wounded another 1,000 Ohioans.

Congress will continue to fight for our Nation's military by working to see they have the resources and support they need and leadership they deserve. The supplemental did that today. The supplemental fully funds and fully supports our troops, while establishing conditions that will bring our troops home. It provides desperately needed funding to the VA, something the President simply has not asked for, to help care for the hundreds of thousands of new veterans created by this war.

In the Veterans' Committee yesterday, we heard from families about tragedy after tragedy, from families who have lost loved ones in this war, who didn't get the proper care from the VA because of underfunding, who didn't get the proper direction when they returned home from Iraq because the White House simply did not schedule in the way they should have the kind of help for returning Iraqi veterans. If the President won't take responsibility for those failures and lead our troops home, then Congress must. We owe it to our soldiers, sailors, air men and women, our marines, and especially to their families.

The President should listen to the military leaders and listen to the American people and work with Congress to change course in Iraq instead of threatening vetoes. I hope the President reads this legislation before he makes his final determination whether to sign it or whether to veto it. Vetoing this legislation would deny funding that our military needs and that our veterans desperately need, such as $99 billion in emergency Department of Defense spending—$4 billion more than the President requested; $3 billion for mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; $4.8 billion in military construction in part to fund BRAC—$3.1 billion will go to funding the BRAC 2005 account, and we know all over the country how important that is; and $1.6 billion for individual body armor.

The President and the Pentagon and civilian leaders of this country have fallen shamefully short in their failures to provide the body armor for our troops. We have all heard too many stories. I have heard them in Steubenville and Toledo and Dayton about soldiers' families telling us they didn't have the proper body armor they needed.

The VA would get $1.7 billion more than the President's VA proposal. We know the VA is underfunded at least that much. They have increased only about 10 percent in terms of employees but have a workload of returning Iraqi war veterans of at least 2.5 times that number. There is $39 million in our supplemental budget for polytrauma-related funding. There is $10 million for blind veterans programs. There is $100 million—and this is essential—for VA mental health services and $25 million for prosthetics. None of those did the President include in his request, and none of those have we prepared for properly in the previous Congress and in the White House.

When we add up the numbers and we see 3,300 soldiers and marines in our country have lost their lives in the Iraq war, when you understand the tens of thousands of injuries, we see that our VA is simply not prepared. They are not prepared for this year and next year, let alone for the 50 years down the road when taxpayers are going to be taking care of these deserving veterans, giving the kind of care that we should be providing. We are going to see we are not prepared over the next 50 years to do that, either for health treatment or for treatment of mental health injuries.

In addition to the Iraq spending and the spending for our Nation's returning veterans, there are other things in this emergency spending bill, as there were in Republican bills in the past, drafted by the White House, passed by the Republican House and Senate. There is other crucial emergency spending that needs to be dealt with: $1.3 billion for Katrina relief, $100 million for FEMA and emergency management performance grants, $425 million for securing rural schools, $13 million for mine safety. We have seen some of the most dangerous times in our Nation's mines in the last couple of years. There is $625 million for pandemic flu response, something public health authorities warn us about every week or so here. There is $400 million for LIHEAP to take care of deserving elderly and indigent who simply cannot afford their heating and cooling bills and another $683 million for emergency relief grants—all that this Congress needs to do.

The President has set our Nation on a path that leads in the wrong direction in Iraq and fails to meet the needs of our returning veterans. It is time to change paths. I ask again that the President of the United States read this bill, understand this bill, and understand how the supplemental bill addresses the needs our country faces in the years ahead.

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

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

SEPARATION OF POWERS

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, the Founders of our country did not believe in monarchy. They put up with one king for a while and didn't want to have to put up with another one down the line. Meeting in Philadelphia about 220 years ago, about 30 miles from my home in Wilmington, DE, our Founding Fathers did not invest all power over national affairs in our national destiny in the hands of any one person. Rather, they created a separation of powers. They created, as we all know, three co-equal branches of Government.

I don't sit down every day or night and actually open the Constitution and read it. But every now and then I think a review of some of it and its parameters is instructive. For those who take the time—particularly looking at the debate we have had in recent days on whether it is appropriate for us to provide some guidance and expression with respect to the expenditure of these moneys in the supplemental appropriations, especially in Iraq—it is helpful to look at the Constitution and get a sense of what our Founding Fathers had in mind.

In looking at article II in this copy of the Constitution, section 2, there is about a sentence where it talks about the power of the President. This is what it says:

> The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States.

That is what it says. You can go back a couple pages before that to article I, section 8, and our Founding Fathers talk about the powers and responsibilities of the legislative branch in this regard. Here is what it says, in part:

> The Congress shall have the power To . . .

Then there are all kinds of things listed, such as lay and collect taxes, borrow money, regulate commerce, and so forth, with foreign nations. It also says the Congress shall have the power:

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States.

It goes on and on.

The point I am trying to make is that the Constitution makes it clear that there is a division of responsibility, a sharing of responsibilities. Part of it lies with the executive branch, and a great deal lies with the legislative branch. For those of us who are trying to figure out which is the right side to come down on with respect to these issues, keep in mind the words of the Constitution.

When it comes to charting our Nation's course in Iraq, all three branches of Government do have responsibilities. For the President to go to war in Iraq, he had to come to us in Congress for approval, for authorization. Now, to continue that war he has had to come back to the Congress each and every year to request and receive approval for more funding.

Both Congress and the Supreme Court have exercised oversight over this President's war policies—Congress through oversight hearings, and the Supreme Court through rulings on constitutional questions concerning the detention and interrogation of prisoners. That Congress act as a coequal branch of Government, and not a rubberstamp for decisions made by the President, is what the Founding Fathers wanted in 1787. I believe it is what most of the American people want today. It was, in part, because Congress failed in recent years to exercise adequate oversight over the President's policies in Iraq that the American people went to the polls last November and demanded a change in this body and in the folks in the House of Representatives.

Let's not debate today, at this moment, whether Congress has a role to play in charting our course in Iraq. We do. Let's not kid ourselves that Congress can meet its responsibilities in this regard by continuing to rubberstamp the decisions of the President.

The President has come to Congress once again to request continued funding for the war in Iraq. To put matters in the most basic of terms, Congress has three options: We can say yes, we can say no, or we can say yes, but.

To simply to say yes, after U.S. policy and conditions on the ground have drifted in the wrong direction for more than 3 years, I believe would be to abdicate our responsibility as a coequal branch of Government.

To simply say no, when we have troops on the ground in harm's way, would be a betrayal of the very Army this Congress is charged by the Constitution to raise and support.

The responsible action is to respond to the President's request by saying yes, but. It is to provide our troops with the support they need to perform their assigned mission but at the same time to exercise our power as a coequal branch to begin to change the nature of that mission.

The first part of our response to the President—funding the troops—should not be controversial. I don't believe it is in this body. The President has requested the funding. We are providing that funding for our troops. Indeed, we are not only providing what the President requested, we are making some additions, particularly to improve the care of the wounded when they come home.

The second part of our response to the President—seeking a change in the nature of our mission in Iraq—should not be controversial either.

There is an old saying: The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. We have been approaching the challenges we face in Iraq in essentially the same manner now for close to 4 years. Over that time, conditions on the ground have grown progressively worse. It is clearly time that we change our approach.

Last year, the minority in Congress called for such a change. In response, the American people, the voters of this country, made that minority in Congress last year a majority this year. That majority—this majority—has a responsibility to the people who elected us and who pay our keep to follow through and demand change from the President, from the executive branch.

The changes that we seek are not sudden nor are they rash. They reflect the sober assessments and the unanimous recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, cochaired last year ably by Jim Baker, a prominent Republican, and former Representative Lee Hamilton, a highly regarded Democrat who also served as Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission.

The Iraq Study Group said we need to make it clear to the leaders of the various factions in Iraq that we are not going to be there forever. That is the first message we are sending with this legislation.

The President, and some around him, equate this with surrender. But his own Secretary of Defense, Secretary Gates, said otherwise last week. He said the fact that Congress is beginning to send this message to the leadership in Iraq is having a beneficial effect on the ground in Iraq. His words, not mine.

Last year the Iraq Study Group said a political settlement between the factions in Iraq is needed to quell the sectarian violence. The legislation Congress will send to the President today or tomorrow establishes benchmarks by which Congress and the American people can measure the progress of the administration and the leadership in Iraq toward achieving this political settlement.

The Iraq Study Group said that a diplomatic settlement is needed among Iraq's neighbors to ensure regional stability. The legislation Congress will send to the President this week creates a window of opportunity, while our forces are transitioned to a new mission for a regional diplomatic offensive aimed at containing Iraq's sectarian violence and preventing a broader regional conflict.

The President does not want to change the mission in Iraq. I believe he wants to do more of the same. The bipartisan Iraq Study Group rejected that approach, the American people have rejected that approach, and now the Congress of the United States is rejecting that approach.

For all who wonder what this debate is really about, it comes down to two points—one a point of agreement, the other a point of disagreement.

On one point, the Congress and the President do agree that we should support the troops. The way to support the troops is for Congress to pass this bill and I believe for the President to sign it. The funding is all there.

On one point, Congress and the President disagree. Congress wants to begin to change the mission in Iraq. Unfortunately, the President apparently wants to do more of the same. We disagree on the second point of whether the time has come for a change. The question is whose view should ultimately prevail. The answer is the will of the American people should prevail. They are the ones paying for this war, not only with their dollars, they are paying for it by sending their sons and daughters to fight, in some cases to be wounded, in some cases to die in this war. As they told us loudly and clearly at the ballot box last fall, the American people want a change. Provide our troops with the support they deserve and provide the American people with the change they demand.

I realize the conventional wisdom around here is the President will veto this bill, he will send it back to us, and then we will all get serious about hammering something out that can become law.

With all due respect, Mr. President, this legislation should become law. I urge you to drop your veto threat, pick up your pen, and sign it.

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

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

VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS AND KOREAN AMERICANS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the shootings last week at Virginia Tech

touched every American, indeed people around the world. Those who were most deeply affected, of course, were the family and friends of the victims, the students who were injured, the entire Virginia Tech community. Our hearts go out to them as we read each day in the papers across this country about young lives ended too soon. We mourn with the families and their friends and students at Virginia Tech. But the ripples of pain of this terrible incident reach far beyond Blacksburg, VA.

Among the others who care are the people of the Republic of South Korea, Korean Americans and Korean immigrants in our Nation. In Seoul, South Korea, more than 1,000 people gathered last week to sing hymns and pray for the victims. Closer to home in Chicago, in my State of Illinois, leaders of the Korean-American community held a candlelight vigil last Thursday at the headquarters of the Korean-American Association to express their condolences to the families of those who died. These vigils were everywhere—from Illinois to California to Korea. Around the world, sympathy and compassion was felt for the victims, their families, and Virginia Tech and its community.

In addition, a coalition of Korean-American organizations has joined together to form a foundation to assist the families and the Virginia Tech community in this time of healing. The Korean American Coalition, the Korean American League for Civic Action, the Korean American Students Conference, the Mirae Foundation, the Southern California Korean College Student Association, the Korean Academy for Educators, the Network of Korean American Leaders, and others have joined to create the Virginia Tech Memorial Fund to support those who have been affected by the recent tragedy. This is another example of the amazing compassion communities throughout our Nation and the world feel for these victims.

Sadly, some members of the Korean community have also shared feelings of guilt that they are somehow responsible simply because the Virginia Tech gunman, Seung Hui Cho, was Korean. Last week, South Korea's Ambassador to the United States, Lee Tae Sik, spoke at a candlelight vigil in Fairfax County, VA. Through tears, Ambassador Lee said that the Korean-American community needed to repent. He even went so far as to suggest that a fast by individuals in his community, 1 day for each of the victims of the Virginia Tech gunman, would prove that Koreans were ''a worthwhile ethnic minority in America.''

But Korean Americans do not need to apologize for the tragedy at Virginia Tech. To those members of the Korean-American community who have been so pained by this terrible tragedy, I repeat what one young woman said in the Washington Post Special Edition last week. She said:

The actions of Seung Hui Cho are no more the fault of Korean Americans than the actions of the Washington area snipers were the fault of African Americans.

I agree with what she said. The actions of this 23-year-old young man is no more the fault of Korean Americans than the fault of every 23-year-old young man in our Nation. When will we move away from racial tensions that sometimes threaten to break apart our national community? We are all part of a greater community that feels tremendous sorrow and grief, as Americans and as human beings, no matter what our nationality may be.

If there are any glimmers of hope to come out of these horrible events at Virginia Tech, they are, first of all, the great courage, faith, and compassion demonstrated by these Hokies and the extended Virginia Tech family.

One other glimmer of hope is the fear many Korean Americans and Korean immigrants have expressed of being persecuted and blamed are not being realized. Rather than blaming a group of people, Americans of all ethnic backgrounds are showing a deeper understanding of what it means to be one community to mourn together, to work together so that this may never happen again.

One man was responsible for the tragedy at Virginia Tech, but we all share responsibility to do what we can to prevent such a horrific loss from ever occurring again.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in April, students all across the Nation will make final decisions about where they want to go to college, and with college costs higher than ever, they are figuring out how they are going to pay for school. For most, the financial aid office at their chosen school is their only guide through the complex world of higher education funding.

Students are making financial decisions and choosing their colleges. They are making decisions, though, that will affect them for 20 or 30 years after they graduate. They are making these decisions based on what they believe to be impartial advice from their future school's financial aid officers. Unfortunately, we have learned over the last few weeks, the advice given to many may not have always been passed on with the student's best interest in mind.

Where is the student loan industry today? Here is where we are: Student loans are an $85 billion industry. Lenders have been clamoring to be placed on schools' preferred lenders' list. Financial aid officers of prominent schools have been placed on leave over allegations of holding significant financial interest in the parent company of a lender they have been recommending to students.

A top official at the Department of Education's Federal student aid office has been placed on leave after it was disclosed that he held a significant amount of stock in a parent company of a lender.

Let's go back in history for a moment to 1965, the year that Congress began guaranteeing loans to needy students and paying the interest while the student was in school. To entice the financial industry to loan money to students without a credit history, lenders were given a helping hand from the Government. Congress created the Federal family education loan program, the FFEL program, which subsidizes lenders and guarantees them against default. Congress also chartered the Government-sponsored entity then known as the Student Loan Marketing Association, euphemistically called Sallie Mae, to create a secondary market for lenders participating in the loan program. Sallie Mae would purchase loans from the lenders, thereby providing liquidity so that the FFEL lenders could continue loaning money to each new class of students.

Now fast-forward to 1994 when the Direct Loan Program went into effect and the Federal Government began loaning money directly to students. The General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, even President Bush found that the Direct Loan Program cost the Federal Government a lot less than the FFEL program. Using the President's numbers, for every $100 private lenders loaned to students in 2006, it cost the Federal Government $13.81 for the FFEL Government loans, while the same amount borrowed through the Direct Loan Program cost the Federal Government only $3.85—$13.81 for the private lenders, $3.85 per $100 for the direct loans.

For a few years, the Direct Loan Program grew quickly, capturing one-third of the student loan market. My predecessor in office, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, was one of its strongest advocates. However, the private lenders weren't going to go down without a fight. They were making too much money on these students. They didn't want to lose this opportunity. They wanted this market to be there for years to come. College costs were on the rise, students needed to borrow more and more money, and private lenders saw potential profits in student debt. So they began to offer money to schools to pull out of the Direct Loan Program.

Even though the program cost the Federal Government less money, these private lenders went to the universities and said, well, why don't you just use our private lending operation. Don't go the direct loan route. Of course, they had a profit motive in doing that. They sued to prevent the Direct Loan Program from becoming more competitive. Their efforts paid off. The direct loan market is now down to less than a quarter of the student loan market. It is shrinking.

It is about this time that Sallie Mae, led by a man named Albert Lord, decided to become independent of the Federal Government so it could offer student loans, not just purchase loans on the secondary market. It successfully shed its GSE status in 1997 and

now is one of the most dominant players in the student loan market in America. Its shareholders and executives have benefitted handsomely.

Let me show what has happened to the stock price of Sallie Mae, SLM if you are looking for a way to look it up on the Internet. Stock prices from 2001 to the present have appreciated 281 percent. This is the industry loaning money to our students around America. Doing quite well. Company revenues went from $3.5 billion in 2001 to $8.75 billion in 2006.

One would like to think these Federal subsidies would at least make college more affordable if we are putting this much money into this private corporation that is loaning money to students. Let's see what happened to college costs. Tuition, fees, and room and board at 4-year public schools have followed a similar trajectory, increasing by 42 percent since the year 2001.

The remarks I am going to make today have a lot to do with the people who are loaning money to students across America, how profitable it has become, how well they have done, and how poorly the students are doing. The debt is being heaped on them. They end up graduating from college, if they are lucky, with a debt as big as the mortgages most of us faced when we bought our first home. Now we say to these students: Congratulations, here is your diploma and your book to pay back your loan. Good luck in America.

I don't want to absolve the colleges and universities from this conversation. The fact is, they have been a party to the dramatic increase in the cost of higher education during this same period of time. We will save that topic, as important as it is, largely for another day.

Speaking to the student loan industry, with higher government subsidies and higher college costs, something is wrong with this picture. Remember Mr. Albert Lord I mentioned earlier, the former CEO and now chairman of the company called Sallie Mae? Mr. Lord has done pretty well loaning money to students across America, so well that he recently got into a little controversy in the Washington area. He proposed the construction of a golf course, and people in Anne Arundel County didn't like the idea much. They didn't want the traffic that might be associated with the golf course, so they started complaining. Mr. Lord, however, disabused them of the notion that this would cause traffic congestion when he told them that the 244 acres he was setting aside for the golf course was for his own personal and private golf course.

Doing quite well, isn't he, at the expense of students across America? He had enough personal wealth to lead a serious but unsuccessful bid to purchase the Washington Nationals baseball team. In 2002, Mr. Lord, appropriately named, was ranked first in the Washington Post's executive compensation survey of local companies, and Sallie Mae's current CEO, Thomas Fitzpatrick, was ranked second. What a terrific business it is loaning money to students struggling to get their education.

In 2004, Mr. Lord was ranked second on the list, with $41.8 million in total compensation. Not a bad year. Yes, Sallie Mae's executives have come quite far from the days when they worked as a quasi-governmental operation. Sallie Mae's dramatic financial growth didn't happen without some financial help. Since the start of the Bush administration, Federal officials have turned a blind eye to problems surrounding private lenders. And why wouldn't they? The Bush administration rewarded loan industry officials with key positions in the Department of Education.

There isn't anything inherently wrong having people with experience in the loan industry working in the Department of Education. What I am asking, though, is whether the cozy relationship that developed between the Bush administration, the Republican-led Congress, and the lenders have left the loan industry essentially unregulated.

If I was a lender who heard Representative BOEHNER, former chairman of the House Education Committee, say to the loan industry, ''know that I have all of you in my two trusted hands,'' what do you think I would do? Exactly what the lending industry has done—do whatever it takes to push the student loan industry in my favor—especially at a time when I knew no one would be there to stop me.

This is when revenue-sharing arrangements between colleges and lenders began. Sallie Mae led the way with one of the most offensive schemes called ''opportunity pools.'' Here is how it works. A lender provides a school with a fixed amount of private loan money the school can lend a student who otherwise wouldn't qualify for loans. These loans come at higher interest rates. In return, the college agrees to make the lender its exclusive provider of federally backed loans.

Some of Sallie Mae's competitors complained to the inspector general; however, Department officials chose not to take any action, insisting that the loan industry could regulate itself. What do you think Sallie Mae's competitors did with this tacit approval of opportunity pools? They did what any business would do to compete—they began offering similar deals to schools.

But they didn't stop at opportunity pools. Lenders have loaned financial aid offices staff and have operated call centers on behalf of schools. Students and their families seeking information and advice on tuition financing options are talking to individuals they believe to be school officials but are actually employees of the lenders. Lenders have long provided schools with little office trinkets, such as post-it pads and pens. No harm done. However, in recent years the little trinkets have turned into gifts, such as iPods and trips to exotic locations for so-called educational conferences.

Let me give you one example. Last year, EduCap, a nonprofit lender who offers loans under the name, Loan to Learn, invited financial aid officers and their spouses or guests from all across the Nation to an educational, all-expense paid ''summit'' held at the luxurious, beachfront Four Seasons Resort in Nevis in the West Indies.

This resort, by the way, has been rated as one of the top luxury resorts by Travel and Leisure magazine.

Between symposiums, forums, and roundtable discussions on the importance of addressing the cost of higher education, guests could enjoy snorkeling, water and beach sports, sailing, kayaking, volleyball, sailboarding, access to an 18-hole championship golf course, a 10-court tennis complex, beachfront pools, and a luxury spa. Not a bad deal for college officials being entertained by the student loan industry. News of the trip generated such negative response from the public that EduCap had to cancel it, unfortunately, before it occurred.

After reading about the West Indies trip, I asked the inspector general of the Department of Education to investigate whether lenders are offering kickbacks or inducements to school officials in return for loan business. My staff passed along information provided to us by constituents regarding these inducements. You can imagine my disappointment when a member of my staff received an e-mail response from the inspector general's office. The e-mail merely described the results of the inspector general's conversations with my constituents. My staff didn't think the e-mail could possibly be the inspector general's official response and followed up to confirm. Even with all the recent news stories, I am still waiting to hear from the inspector general of the Department of Education as to whether they are going to initiate an investigation into these lender inducements.

Sallie Mae recently agreed to be bought out and turned into a private company. Is this a good deal? Is it good for taxpayers that subsidize student loans? Is it good for students? It certainly is a good deal for Sallie Mae's executives and shareholders.

The buyers, two private investment funds, J.P. Morgan Chase and Bank of America, have agreed to pay $25 billion for this company at $60 a share for its stock. In case you are wondering how much that is over the stock price that is published, it is 50 percent, a 50-percent premium over Sallie Mae's share prices before news of the buyout was reported. Let's see how much Mr. Lord and Mr. Fitzpatrick are going to do if this deal goes through.

Well, it looks like Mr. Lord is going to end up with $47.2 million, and Mr. Fitzpatrick, a little better, with $58.6 million. They are riding high. They are riding high at the expense of students all across this country.

There was a time when this Congress cared enough about students in this country to create a program called the National Defense Education Act. It was a time when Sputnik had been launched. We were afraid of the Soviet Union and what it might do with its satellite capacity, and Congress, for the first time, said let's create a student loan program, the first time ever.

I know a little about this program because I happened to be one of the recipients, one of the borrowers. I borrowed money to go to college and law school from the National Defense Education Act and paid it back after graduation at 3 percent interest. I couldn't have asked for better treatment and better consideration from those who were lending money.

Those were the early days when we were just thinking about students and education and the future of America. Now we are talking about big business, fat profits, basically indefensible compensation for the CEOs who run these companies. I hope someone is able to uncover what other fees and payments Sallie Mae's executives may be receiving to help take the company private.

Will this deal be good for students? Sure, Sallie Mae and many other lenders have long touted that they have been able to offer better deals for students through loan fee and interest rate discounts. Of course, they can offer a discount. They are obviously still making enough money off student loans. Look at their profitability. Look at what has happened to their stock price. Look at how much they are being paid. Yet they made sure the Direct Loan Program, cheaper for the Federal Government, better for the students, could not compete.

Now we know why they have been able to make money off students. The Washington Post recently reported that some lending companies with access to the National Student Loan Data System, which includes confidential information on 60 million student loan borrowers, have repeatedly searched the database in ways that violate the Federal rules on privacy. It appears the lenders were giving unauthorized users, such as marketing firms, collection agencies, and loan brokerage firms, access to this database.

Lenders are allowed to access information contained in the database only if they have the permission of the student or have a financial relationship with the student, but the Department of Education recently decided to cut off outside access to the database. Were lenders using this information gathered from the database to sell other nonrelated loan products to students? We don't know for sure, but I intend to find out. I have sent letters to the largest student loan companies asking them to reveal how many times they have accessed the database in the last 4 years and explain what they subsequently did with the information.

I am concerned about the proposed sale of Sallie Mae. A private Sallie Mae could lead to even less information being disclosed to the public. Sure, lenders are required to provide certain information in order to participate in the Federal loan program, but we should make sure all lenders are held to the same standard of disclosure, regardless of whether the lender is a school or a nonprofit, a private or a publicly traded company.

Let me conclude by saying that tuition at 4-year public institutions has risen by 42 percent in the last 5 years. Students and their families are struggling to pay off college debt. Students are leaving college, on average, with nearly $20,000 in debt, and many much more. We must take serious steps to help these students achieve the American Dream.

On the Democratic side of the aisle we are proposing a $1,090 increase in the maximum Pell grant over 5 years, a cap on loan repayments at 15 percent of an individual's income, and reducing the student loan interest rate. How will we pay for it? By cutting $22.3 billion from the lenders' subsidies, which we give to those like Sallie Mae. Sure, it is more than President Bush's proposed cut, but only a little bit, $2.3 billion. Of course, lenders are claiming that the proposed cut goes beyond what they think is sustainable and that lenders will decide to leave the student loan business. It is difficult to be moved by these claims when a company like Sallie Mae is worth $25 billion and its buyers are willing to pay a 50-percent premium, knowing that the lenders' subsidies will likely be cut.

It is time we return to the day where the Federal Government makes a serious investment in one of its most valuable assets, its children. The future of our country depends on it. We need to be asking those who are involved in this business of student loans to keep in mind first these students and their families.

THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN C. HICKMAN, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of the ways Congress maintains its contact with the American people is by the official report of the business we do. Through its recent modern history, we have published a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that people across this country, online and in printed form, can read the words of Senators and can follow the debate on the floor of the Senate. None of this effort would be productive or even possible were it not for those in the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates who come here and follow every word that is spoken on the floor. They make these publications possible.

Today, Jack Hickman, the Morning Business Clerk for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, is marking the end of his service to the Senate. In the future he will be able to listen to Senators and not remember a word. But at this point in time he has dispatched his official duties.

I know I speak for the entire Senate family, thanking Jack Hickman for his service.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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 (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President. I want to explain why I missed two votes early during yesterday's session, Senator DEMINT's amendment No. 930 and Senator COBURN's amendment No. 918 on S. 761, America COMPETES Act, a bill that I cosponsored. I was confident that my vote would not change the outcome, and the DeMint amendment failed by a vote of 22 to 79 and the Coburn amendment failed by a vote of 27 to 67. If I had been able to come to the floor, I would have voted against both amendments, but the outcome would have been the same.

The reason I missed the votes was that I was attending a very special hearing in the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on mental health issues for our returning soldiers. The first panel included a recent Iraq veteran with PTSD, parents of an Iraq veteran who committed suicide after returning home, and parents of an Iraq veteran soldier who died of an overdose of his own prescription drugs while in VA care. One of the families had come from Iowa and the other from California to talk about the tragedy of each son's death and to seek ways to ensure that other families might avoid such tragedies. The Iraq veteran, a combat medic, spoke eloquently on his own problems acknowledging and treating his PTSD and the similar problems of fellow soldiers in his platoon.

One father testified that after his son died of an overdose in VA care, he and his wife went to claim his son's personal effects, and the items were handed to them in a plastic garbage bag. I was shocked and outraged. I knew that it would seem heartless to cut their panel short and not let these parents and this veteran share their full story so I volunteered to stay and listen so that the full story could be given in committee. These families already feel that parts of our Government do not care, and that is sad. I needed to stay to chair the hearing and let these courageous witnesses continue their testimony.

I am very glad I did. Despite the tragedy and grief these individuals face, they are speaking out boldly in hopes of changing the current system so other veterans and other families do

not face the same ordeals they have faced. These are stories that must be told and, more importantly, must be heard in public by those who can and must make changes. These witnesses had good ideas and suggestions on how to change the delivery system for the mental health care of our returning veterans. They spoke passionately about how soldiers are trained to serve bravely and not show weaknesses. I could not walk away from this important hearing about issues crucial to our combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am very grateful to veteran Patrick Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Omvig, and Mr. Tony Bailey for their compelling personal testimonies. I am committed to push hard for action to change the VA system for future veterans and their families.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 5, 2006, in Fairfax County, VA, Leslie Carver was charged with murder for killing Marvin Greenwell. Greenwell was one of nine gay men murdered in what was known as the ''pickup murders'' of 1993 and 1994. The ''pickup murders'' were a series of attacks against gay men in the Washington, DC area. While most of these murders remain unsolved, DNA evidence was able to link Carver to the Greenwell murder.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I firmly believe that the death penalty should be abolished, at all levels of government. Just a few months ago, I introduced the Federal Death Penalty Abolition Act of 2007 toward that end. The bill would abolish the death penalty at the Federal level; it would put an immediate halt to executions and forbid the imposition of the death penalty as a sentence for violations of Federal law.

I first introduced my bill in 1999, and since then only a few Members of the Senate have been willing to join me in this cause. Not too long ago, some believed that opposition to or criticism of the death penalty was politically dangerous. But times have changed. The American people are expressing greater and greater concerns about the death penalty. A May 2006 Gallup poll reported that for the first time, when given a choice between the two sentencing options, more Americans choose the sentence of life without parole than the death penalty. The American public understands that the death penalty raises serious and complex problems.

Leaders across the country are publicly expressing their opposition to the death penalty—leaders such as Governor Corzine of New Jersey, Governor O'Malley of Maryland, and Governor Kaine of Virginia. State legislatures in Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, and New Mexico have all given serious consideration to abolition bills in the past 3 months alone. In fact, each of these four measures failed to move to the next step of the process by only one vote. In Maryland, an abolition bill failed to pass out of a Senate committee by one vote. In Montana, a bill to repeal the State's death penalty passed the senate and then failed by just one vote to move out of a house committee. In Nebraska, the unicameral legislature failed to move an abolition bill forward by just one vote. And in New Mexico, an abolition bill passed the house and then lost in a senate committee by just one vote.

Other States have taken important steps. Pennsylvania recently created a commission to study the administration of the State's death penalty, joining many other States that have already done so. Moratoriums on executions remain in place in Illinois and New Jersey and are under consideration in other States. New York's death penalty was overturned by a court decision in 2004 and has not been reinstated by the legislature. Along with New York, four other States that still have the death penalty technically on their books have not executed any individuals since 1976. In addition, there are 12 States, plus the District of Columbia, whose laws do not provide for capital punishment at all. And in 11 more States, executions have been halted while the courts grapple with the issue of whether the lethal injection process used by these States is unconstitutional.

At the same time, the number of executions, the number of death sentences imposed, and the size of the death row population have decreased for the second year in a row. In the prosecutors' offices, jury boxes, and legislative chambers, it seems that consensus is growing that it is time for a change.

In this connection, I think it is significant that the editorial boards for two major newspapers in very geographically diverse locations, Chicago and Dallas, recently called for an end to the death penalty. The Chicago Tribune's editorial page has been a leader for years in calling for reforms to the capital punishment system, yet it has never called for abolition—until now. Explaining its decision to renounce the death penalty, the editorial board stated, ''The system is arbitrary, and the system just plain gets it wrong.'' And the Dallas Morning News reversed its century-old stance on the death penalty, which is particularly notable because Texas has long been a bedrock of support for the death penalty and is the State with the dubious distinction of leading the Nation in executions. Even in a jurisdiction where support for the death penalty runs deep—even there—this strong voice of dissent rose to proclaim, ''we do not believe that any legal system devised by inherently flawed human beings can determine with moral certainty the guilt of every defendant convicted of murder.''

For these editorial boards, opposition to the death penalty sprang from concerns that mistakes might be made and innocent individuals executed. Since 1976, when the death penalty was reinstated by the Supreme Court, there have been 1,060 executions across the country, including three at the Federal level. During that same time period, 123 people on death row have been exonerated and released from death row. These people never should have been convicted in the first place.

Consider those numbers. One thousand and sixty executions and one hundred and twenty-three exonerations in the modern death penalty era. Had those exonerations not taken place, had those 123 people been executed, those executions would have represented an error rate of greater than 10 percent. That is more than an embarrassing statistic; it is a horrifying one, one that should have us all questioning the use of capital punishment in this country. In fact, since 1999 when I first introduced the Federal Death Penalty Abolition Act, 46 death row inmates have been exonerated throughout the country.

The continued use of the death penalty in the United States is beneath us. The death penalty is at odds with our best traditions. It is wrong and it is immoral. The adage ''two wrongs do not make a right'' applies here in the most fundamental way. Our Nation has long ago done away with other barbaric punishments like whipping and cutting off the ears of criminals. Just as we did away with these punishments as contrary to our humanity and ideals, it is time to abolish the death penalty. It is not just a matter of morality. The continued viability of our criminal justice system as a truly just system that deserves the respect of our own people requires that we do so, as does our Nation's commitment to freedom, liberty, and equality.

I applaud those leaders, be they in State government or in the media, who are stepping forward to challenge a practice that has no place in this day and age. Abolishing the death penalty will not be an easy task. It will take patience, persistence, and courage. As each new voice joins us, we become

stronger, and together we will one day find success.

PROVIDING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH TARGETED TAX RELIEF AND REGULATORY REFORM

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate ''National Small Business Week, which President Bush designated for April 22–28, 2007. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I simply cannot understate the vital role of small business in our Nation's economy. There was a time when ''what was good for General Motors was good for America.'' But the fact is what's truly good for this country—what built it, what sustains it, what drives it, and what represents its core—are the small businesses that each and every year create nearly three-quarters of all net new jobs. In my home State of Maine, small businesses comprise 97.5 percent of all businesses.

First, I would like to discuss the unfair and onerous tax and regulatory burdens that continue to impede the ability of our Nation's small businesses to compete in an ever-increasing global marketplace. According to the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small businesses spend an astounding 8 billion hours each year complying with government rules and regulations. Eighty percent of this time is spent on completing tax forms. Furthermore, businesses employing fewer than 20 employees spend nearly $1,304 per employee in tax compliance costs, nearly 67 percent more than the comparable cost to larger firms. Despite the fact that small businesses are the primary job-creators for our economy, the tax system is not working because small companies spend their money and time satisfying their tax obligations.

For that reason, I have introduced a package of proposals that will provide not only targeted, affordable tax relief to small business owners, but also simpler rules under the tax code. By simplifying the Tax Code, small business owners will be able to satisfy their tax obligation in a cheaper, more efficient manner, allowing them to be able to devote more time and resources to their business.

I have introduced legislation, S. 269, in response to the repeated requests from small businesses in Maine and from across the Nation to allow them to expense more of their investments, like the purchase of essential new equipment. My bill modifies the Internal Revenue Code by doubling the amount a small business can expense from $100,000 to $200,000, and make the provision permanent as President Bush proposed this change in his fiscal year 2007 tax proposals. With small businesses representing 99 percent of all employers, creating 75 percent of net new jobs and contributing 51 percent of private-sector output, their size is the only ''small'' aspect about them.

By doubling and making permanent the current expensing limit and indexing these amounts for inflation, this bill will achieve two important objectives. First, qualifying businesses will be able to write off more of the equipment purchases today, instead of waiting 5, 7, or more years to recover their costs through depreciation. That represents substantial savings both in dollars and in the time small businesses would otherwise have to spend complying with complex and confusing depreciation rules. Moreover, new equipment will contribute to continued productivity growth in the business community, which economic experts have repeatedly stressed is essential to the long-term vitality of our economy.

Second, as a result of this bill, more businesses will qualify for this benefit because the phase-out limit will be increased to $800,000 in new assets purchases. At the same time, small business capital investment will be pumping more money into the economy. This is a win-win for small business and the economy as a whole and I am please to have Senators LOTT, ISAKSON, CHAMBLISS, and COLLINS join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

Another proposal that I have introduced, with Senators LINCOLN and LOTT, the Small Business Tax Flexibility Act of 2007, S. 270, will permit start-up small business owners to use a taxable year other than the calendar year if they generally earn fewer than $5 million during the tax year. Specifically, the Small Business Tax Flexibility Act of 2007 will permit more taxpayers to use the taxable year most suitable to their business cycle. Until 1986, businesses could elect the taxable year-end that made the most economic sense for the business. In 1986, Congress passed legislation requiring partnerships and S corporations, many of which are small businesses, to adopt a December 31 year-end for tax purposes. The Tax Code does provide alternatives to the calendar year for small businesses, but the compliance costs and administrative burdens associated with these alternatives prove to be too high for most small businesses to utilize.

Meanwhile, C corporations, as large corporations often are, receive much more flexibility in their choice of taxable year. A so-called C corporation can adopt either a calendar year or any fiscal year for tax purposes, as along as it keeps its books on that basis. This creates the unfair result of allowing larger businesses with greater resources greater flexibility in choosing a taxable year than smaller firms with fewer resources. This simply does not make sense to me. My bill changes these existing rules so that more small businesses will be able to use the taxable year that best suits their business.

To provide relief and equity to our nation's 1.5 million retail establishments, most of which have less than five employees, I have introduced a bill, S. 271, with Senators LINCOLN, HUTCHISON, and KERRY, that reduces from 39 to 15 years the depreciable life of improvements that are made to retail stores that are owned by the retailer. Under current law, only retailers that lease their property are allowed this accelerated depreciation, which means it excludes retailers that also own the property in which they operate. My bill simply seeks to provide equal treatment to all retailers.

Specifically, this bill will simply conform the tax codes to the realities that retailers on Main Street face. Studies conducted by the Treasury Department, Congressional Research Service and private economists have all found that the 39-year depreciation life for buildings is too long and that the 39-year depreciation life for building improvements is even worse. Retailers generally remodel their stores every five to seven years to reflect changes in customer base and compete with newer stores. Moreover, many improvements such as interior partitions, ceiling tiles, restroom accessories, and paint, may only last a few years before requiring replacement.

Finally, I joined Senator BOND in introducing S. 296 that will simplify the tax code by permitting small business owners to use the cash method of accounting for reporting their income if they generally earn fewer than $10 million during the tax year. Currently, only those taxpayers that earn less than $5 million per year are able to use the cash method. By increasing this threshold to $10 million, more small businesses will be relieved of the burdensome record keeping requirements that they currently must undertake in reporting their income under a different accounting method.

Earlier this year, I was very pleased when the Senate passed small business tax relief that included portions of my proposals on small business expensing, cash method accounting, and accelerated depreciation for improvements to retail-owned property. Sadly, I must report that on the very same week of ''National Small Business Week,'' cash method accounting and my proposal to bring depreciation equity for retailer-owned property were stripped from the small business tax relief package in conference negotiations between the House and Senate. This is extremely unfortunate especially when one considers that the Senate-passed package, which was fully offset, was both modest and fiscally responsible. In the coming months, I will continue to fight for these proposals and am hopeful that Congress will enact them into law.

This package of proposals are a tremendous opportunity to help small enterprises succeed by providing an incentive for reinvestment and leaving them more of their earnings to do just that. Notably, providing tax relief by passing these simplification measures will also help us reduce the tax gap by increasing compliance. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these proposals.

In addition to reforming the tax code, we in Congress should level the

regulatory playing field for small businesses. Over the past 20 years, the number and complexity of Federal regulations have multiplied at an alarming rate. For example, in 2004, the Federal Register contained 75,675 pages, an all-time record, and 4,101 rules. These rules and regulations impose a much more significant impact on small businesses than larger businesses.

To illustrate this conclusion, a recent report prepared for the SBA's Office of Advocacy that said that in 2004, the per-employee cost of Federal regulations for firms with fewer than 20 employees was $7,647. In contrast, the per-employee cost of federal regulations for firms with 500 or more workers was $5,282, which results in a 44 percent increase in burden for smaller businesses compared to their larger counterparts. Clearly, we must find ways to ease the regulatory burden for our nation's small businesses so that they may continue to create jobs and drive economic growth. All too often, small businesses do not maintain the staff, or possess the financial resources to comply with complex Federal rules and regulations. This puts them at a disadvantage compared to larger businesses, and reduces the effectiveness of the agency's regulations. If an agency can not describe how to comply with its regulation, how can we expect a small business to figure it out?

This is why I have offered bipartisan legislation, the Small Business Compliance Assistance Enhancement Act, S. 246, with Senators KERRY, ENZI, and LANDRIEU, which would clarify small business requirements that exist under Federal law. Our measure is drawn directly from recommendations put forth by the Government Accountability Office and is intended only to clarify an already existing requirement under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, SBREFA, which unanimously passed the Senate in 1996. Specifically, our bill clarifies when a small business compliance guide is required, how a guide shall be designated, how and when a guide shall be published, and that the agency make the guide available on the Internet. It would not create any new rules or requirements. This commonsense, good government reform would provide a major regulatory reform for small businesses at virtually no cost to the Federal Government.

It is clear that in order to ensure our small businesses are able to grow, thrive, and, most importantly, create jobs, we need to simplify the tax code and reduce the regulatory burden. Over the coming months, I will continue to fight to accomplish these commonsense objectives.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, Saturday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day. Tomorrow, working men and women around the world will gather to remember their millions of brothers and sisters who have been injured or killed on the job. I join them in their grief-and in their determination to secure a safer future.

Work-related accidents kill Americans with a regularity that calls us to question the very word ''accident.'' Fifteen deaths every day, and more than 11,000 injuries: They are grimly predictable and often preventable.

Today is for men like Eleazar Torres-Gomez, a laundry worker who was dragged by a conveyor belt into a 300-degree industrial dryer, where he burned to death. Sadness at his death is matched by an equal anger-especially when we learn that, in the two years preceding it, his employer was cited more than 170 times for unsafe, illegal working conditions. We remember Eleazar today.

Today is for the 12 miners killed last year in Sago, West Virginia, when an explosion trapped them underground for two days. Only a few years before, the Mine Safety and Health Administration struck down 17 new safety rules for trapped miners—rules that might have saved the miners in Sago. We remember them today.

Today is for the 28 union construction workers killed in Connecticut, 20 years ago this month, when the apartment towers they were building collapsed with a roar, within seconds, into ruined concrete and steel. In the wake of their deaths, we outlawed the dangerous lift-slab construction method that led to the collapse. But we can never replace those lives; today we remember them, too.

How can we honor them? I know this much: Words alone would be an insult. The men and women we remember this Saturday risked their lives so we could lie down and wake up in health and safety and comfort, and merely speaking our gratitude would be emptier than doing nothing. We owe them action.

We owe them action equal to the historic Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), which was passed 37 years ago tomorrow and has saved an estimated 350,000 lives. We need to cover more workers—because more than 8.5 million are not protected by OSHA. We need more resources for inspection and enforcement—because, at the current rate, federal inspectors are only able to examine workplaces, on average, once every 133 years. We need stiffer penalties for employers who knowingly put their workers' lives at risk—because employers like those who compromised Mr. Torres-Gomez's life now face a maximum penalty of a simple misdemeanor.

And we need the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to take its work more seriously—because, according to a New York Times report released this week, ''the agency has killed dozens of existing and proposed regulations and delayed adopting others.''

Taking these vital steps for workers adds up to more than increased resources or stronger oversight—ultimately, it translates to respect. We owe their memories nothing less. Five thousand seven hundred workers were killed on the job last year, and our economic prosperity is built on their flesh and blood.

More than half a century ago, George Orwell remarked on the disregard that so often greets manual labor: ''It keeps us alive, and we are oblivious of its existence. . . . We are capable of forgetting it as we forget the blood in our veins.''

Today we pledge ourselves as the exception to that rule. And if we mean our words, we will be the exception tomorrow, and the day after that. For America's working men and women deserve nothing less than our eternal gratitude and diligence in preventing future workplace tragedies.

INTERNET GAMBLING

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to express concern that serious violations of the law appear to be occurring and should be aggressively pursued by the IRS and, in turn, prosecuted by the Department of Justice.

Specifically, numerous Internet gambling websites may be violating statutes such as 26 U.S.C. 4401 et seq. Section 4401 requires an excise tax equal to 2 percent of the amount of unauthorized wagers. Section 4404 makes clear that the tax applies to wagers ''placed by a person who is in the United States with a person who is a citizen or resident of the United States.''

I applaud the indictment in United States v. BETonSPORTS.COM and the inclusion of tax evasion charges in counts 14, 15, and 16.

These counts charge that the defendants attempted to ''evade and defeat the . . . wagering excise tax'' in three ways: (1) by failing to make any wagering excise tax returns on or before the last day of the month following the month the wagers were accepted, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, (2) by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said wagering excise tax, and (3) by directing that the wagering funds be sent outside the United States—all in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

I firmly support the decision of the Department of Justice to enforce the wagering excise tax and pursue any persons in violation.

Additionally, it is important to note that extremely large sums of money are at issue: count 14 charges that from January 29, 2001 to on or about February 3, 2002, the sum of approximately $1,094,669,000.00 in taxable wagers were had and received; count 15 charges that from February 4, 2002 to on or about February 2, 2003, the sum of approximately $1,228,874,000.00 in taxable wagers were had and received; and count 16 charges that from February 3, 2003 to on or about February 1, 2004, the sum

of approximately $1,235,374,000.00 in taxable wagers were had and received. That is over $3.5 billion in three years, and Internet betting has increased significantly in the last two years.

I would like to point out that significant income taxes and excise taxes appear to be owed by numerous persons. Collecting these amounts would be an important component of the Administration's efforts to address the ''tax gap.''

Further, with such large sums at issue, the IRS and the Department of Justice should see if money laundering is involved.

The State Department has expressed strong concern that Internet gambling operations could be used not only for tax evasion, but also for other criminal activities such as money laundering and terrorist financing:

Internet gambling is particularly well-suited for the laying and integration stages of money laundering, in which launderers attempt to disguise the nature or ownership of the proceeds by concealing or blending transactions within the mass of apparently legitimate transactions. Due in large measure to the volume and speed of transactions, as well as the virtual anonymity offered by the Internet, offshore gambling websites are an area of considerable money laundering concern. The Internet gambling operations are, in essence, the functional equivalent of wholly unregulated offshore banks with the bettor accounts serving as bank accounts for account holders who are, in the virtual world, virtually anonymous. For these reasons, Internet gambling operations are vulnerable to be used, not only for money laundering, but also for criminal activities ranging from terrorist financing to tax evasion. (State Department, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, released March 2004.)

The Department of Justice has echoed these concerns. At a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, John G. Malcolm, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, testified:

Another major concern that the Department of Justice has about on-line gambling is that Internet gambling businesses provide criminals with an easy and excellent vehicle for money laundering, due in large part to the volume, speed, and international reach of Internet transactions and the offshore locations of most Internet gambling sites, as well as the fact that the industry itself is already cash-intensive.

It is a fact that money launderers have to go to financial institutions either to conceal their illegal funds or recycle those funds back into the economy for their use. Because criminals are aware that banks have been subjected to greater scrutiny and regulation, they have—not surprisingly—turned to other non-bank financial institutions, such as casinos, to launder their money. On-line casinos are a particularly inviting target because, in addition to using the gambling that casinos offer as a way to hide or transfer money, casinos offer a broad array of financial services to their customers, such as providing credit accounts, fund transmittal services, check cashing services, and currency exchange services.

Individuals wanting to launder ill-gotten gains through an on-line casino can do so in a variety of ways. For example, a customer could establish an account with a casino using illegally-derived proceeds, conduct a minimal amount of betting or engage in offsetting bets with an overseas confederate, and then request repayment from the casino, thereby providing a new ''source'' of the funds. If a gambler wants to transfer money to an inside source in the casino, who may be located in another country, he can just play until he loses the requisite amount. Similarly, if an insider wants to transfer money to the gambler, perhaps as payment for some illicit activity, he can rig the game so the bettor wins.

The anonymous nature of the Internet and the use of encryption make it difficult to trace the transactions. The gambling business may also not maintain the transaction records, in which case tracing may be impossible. While regulators in the United States can visit physical casinos, observe their operations, and examine their books and records to ensure compliance with regulations, this is far more difficult, if not impossible, with virtual casinos. (John G. Malcolm, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, March 18, 2003.)

Again, there should be strong enforcement efforts to ensure that Internet gambling entities are not violating the law.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator BINGAMAN and Senator ALEXANDER for the passage of America COMPETES, legislation which they crafted carefully to enhance American innovation and competitiveness. I also thank them for accepting three amendments which I offered, which will help expand the range of innovative possibilities by which America faces its competitive challenges.

Let me explain this. The president of the National Academy of Engineering once said that innovation is a profoundly creative process, and that like other creative processes, it depends on the life experiences of the people involved. If we include a more diverse sample of our population, we will derive more varied and more innovative design options. We become more competitive by embracing our diversity, by involving a more representative cross-section of our populace in science, technology, and engineering endeavors.

To increase participation, I have offered three amendments that have been accepted into America COMPETES. The first establishes a mentoring program to support women and underrepresented groups as they progress through science and technology education programs, increasing the likelihood of their success. I also propose that groups representing women and minority scientists and engineers be involved as strategies are developed to increase America's competitiveness.

Also accepted was an amendment to increase the math and problem solving skills of young learners, by providing summer learning opportunities for students in elementary grades. This amendment springs from legislation I introduced earlier, with Senator MIKULSKI, the STEP UP Act, S. 116. This legislation responds to evidence showing that students may lose several months equivalent of math skills during the summer, if not provided learning opportunities when not in school. This is particularly important for children of poverty, for whom summer learning losses are greatest. Summer programs combat this loss in knowledge and skills, and well-designed programs can fuel the curiosity of children, helping them become active problem solvers and learners when they return to school in the fall.

I thank my colleagues for their support of these amendments.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, plays a major role in ensuring that the American people have access to the safe and effective medicines that they need. In fact, FDA-regulated products account for about 25 cents of every consumer dollar spent. At the heart of all FDA's regulatory activities is a judgment about whether a product's benefits to users will outweigh its risks. These judgments must be science-based to allow the agency to provide the most health promotion and protection at the least cost to the public. As we work on FDA legislation this year, we need to keep that science-based mission at the forefront of our decision making.

Last week, the HELP Committee reported S. 1082, the Food and Drug Administration Act, FDARA. The bill couples must-pass reauthorizations of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, PDUFA, and the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act, MDUFMA, with tour additional pieces of legislation that I am unable to support at this time. It is my hope that we can continue to work in a bipartisan way to improve this bill as it moves to the floor.

The Prescription Drug User Fee Act, PDUFA, first enacted in 1992, gives the FDA the authority to collect user fees from pharmaceutical manufacturers in order to enhance their ability to ensure timely access to safe and effective medicines. By reducing the length of review time required to approve a drug, PDUFA has clearly been a success.

Following the success of PDUFA, Congress enacted the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act; MDUFMA in 2002. Like with prescription drugs, MDUFMA funds have been essential to reducing the length of time of the approval process and other improvements critical to the success of the device review process.

This year, both the PDUFA and MDUFMA reauthorizations have been negotiated between the FDA and industry and are worthy of support. In fact, I believe these agreements improve both programs and will improve the safety of these products in the marketplace. If we do not renew these programs by September 30, we risk losing this essential source of funding and patients will face longer review times and

diminished access to much needed medicines and devices.

However, the Kennedy-Enzi language also includes provisions on drug safety and pediatric medicines and devices. All are important issues, but each title of the bill includes provisions that I believe could do more harm than good.

Originally, drug safety legislation was intended to address legitimate concerns many had about how long it took FDA to identify unexpected complications after a drug was approved and to provide FDA with additional authorities to act in those instances.

The Kennedy-Enzi language attempts to address the length of time it can take to identify problems by including language that directs the FDA to establish an active surveillance system. This is essential to addressing any potential problems with postmarket drug safety. I strongly support this in concept but feel the language needs to be strengthened to ensure that the FDA has the direction it needs to implement a robust system in an expedited timeframe. Information collected must be standardized, and the overall system should be validated. Without these and other important benchmarks included in my Safer DATA bill, we are essentially setting the FDA up for failure.

While not going far enough on drug surveillance, the bill goes too far on providing FDA with new authorities. The Kennedy-Enzi language imposes new requirements on manufacturers to develop Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies, REMS, and gives the FDA the authority to require them in both the preapproval and postmarket settings. Importantly, the standards by which FDA can impose REMS are very broad and lack specific requirements through which this standard is triggered. This gives the FDA excessive discretion on imposing REMS on manufacturers even when a drug has a low risk profile.

While clearly the FDA needs new authorities, it is critical to strike a balance, and I fear the Kennedy-Enzi language has gone too far and will slow the approval of new medicines and thereby reduce access.

Instead, the language should be modified so that REMS only applies when the Secretary determines that the new active surveillance system has signaled a risk. At that point, FDA should have the authority to require manufacturers to judiciously minimize risks without encumbering drug availability or interfering with drug research, development, and delivery. Any expansion of FDA authority should respect this approach.

The Kennedy-Enzi language also gives the FDA the authority to require prereview of direct-to-consumer advertising, specific drug advertising disclosures, and a 2-year moratorium on direct-to-consumer advertising. As drafted, these provisions raise a variety of first amendment issues, specifically the 2-year ban on advertising. Much can be done to ensure that consumers receive information that is not false or misleading without banning patient access to health care information.

The Kennedy-Enzi language also includes three separate pediatrics bills: the reauthorization of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, BPCA, the reauthorization of the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA, and the Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act.

To encourage the study of more drugs in the pediatric population, BPCA as originally enacted as part of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act in 1997, and reauthorized in 2002, grants an additional 6 months of patent life to a product or pediatric exclusivity in exchange for the voluntary studies of prescription drugs conducted on children. Since its enactment, BPCA has been viewed as a highly successful program and has produced at least 132 completed studies, leading to at least 115 pediatric label changes.

Under the Kennedy-Enzi language, the pediatric exclusivity would be capped at 3 months if annual sales for all drugs with the same active ingredient are over $1 billion in any year. This cap for ''blockbuster'' drugs unfairly segments patent protection regimes by making more successful drugs subject to reduced incentives. Our health care system needs to enhance research into children's drugs, not reduce the incentives for manufacturers that produce them. Simply put, the current program is working, and imposing a ''cap'' on the pediatric exclusivity award will reduce the incentive to conduct pediatric studies and, however formulated, would significantly complicate the administration of the program.

Enacted in 2003, PREA gives the FDA authority to require pediatric studies on the same approved indication of a certain drug in adults. BPCA and PREA work hand in hand to encourage the further study of prescription drugs in pediatric populations. It is because of the great success of these two programs that I am pleased that the bill requires both programs to be reauthorized together in 2012. This joint sunset date allows for further reauthorizations to continue to balance the incentives and authorities that drive pediatric study.

One troubling aspect of the BPCA and PREA reauthorizations is the creation of an internal review committee. Nobody would argue that pediatric populations should not get special consideration within the inner workings of the agency; however, as drafted, the internal review committee conflicts with the current staff functions of the FDA.

The Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act aims to improve the process for approving pediatric medical devices and encourages research, development, and manufacture of pediatric devices through demonstration grants and incentives. It modifies the human device exemption for medical devices to allow manufacturers to earn a profit for HDE-approved pediatric devices but maintains the requirement that a humanitarian use device is limited to one that treats and diagnoses diseases or conditions that affect fewer than 4,000 individuals in the United States. This is a good policy, which will help foster the development of pediatric devices. Unfortunately, the bill also expands FDA's authority to require companies to conduct postmarket studies of adult devices, even in circumstances in which the manufacturer has no intent to market the device to pediatric populations. Forcing companies to conduct studies on their products for unintended and unapproved use diverts resources that could be used for further innovation, research, and development.

Of additional concern is that at this time, many provisions of the bill have never been scored by CBO. The provisions in this bill have a significant impact on the FDA and require a number of changes at the agency that will require significant dollars. Because PDUFA and MDUFMA are based on negotiations between industry and the administration, any changes that impact that careful compromise need to be fully vetted and understood. Unfortunately, at this time we do not have that information.

It is clear to all that there are numerous complicated issues involved. Some provisions provide a great benefit, while others may have graver consequences than even the bill's sponsors would intend. It is my hope that as we deal with these issues, we can do so in a manner that is science based and favors patient access over regulatory burden.

I ask that the following statement of HHS Secretary Leavitt be printed in the RECORD.

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

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2007.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: I am pleased to share the Department's views on the Chairman's mark to S. 1082, the Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act. We appreciate the commitment of you and the Committee in addressing many of the critical issues facing the Food and Drug Administration. We support many of the provisions of the bill and note the many changes made in response to HHS comments. However, we continue to have significant concerns with a number of provisions and hope to work with you to address these before the measure is considered on the floor.

OVERVIEW

The Administration strongly supports the reauthorization of the prescription drug user fee and medical device user fee programs. These user fee programs expire at the end of the current fiscal year and their timely reauthorization is critical to the ability of FDA to continue to speed new drugs, biologics and devices to market to benefit the health of the American people.

We are pleased that the bill is consistent with our PDUFA IV proposal by providing the sound financial footing for FDA, enhancing premarket review, creating a new program for review of television advertisements, and significantly strengthening the post-market drug safety system. However, we are troubled by the proposal to fund drug safety activities in Title II with user fees. In our view, the amount that could be raised through user fees may be inadequate, but we are concerned with reopening the PDUFA IV proposal.

We also thank the Committee for including language that reflects the draft MDUFMA II proposal. However, we want to work with you to address any concerns once the public comment process has been completed and we are able to transmit the final package to Congress.

There are other provisions in the bill that raise serious concerns. In particular, both BPCA and PREA have been very successful in providing the necessary incentives for drug companies to conduct pediatric clinical trials to improve drug labeling for children, thus enhancing the quality of their medical care.

We support the extension of the Best Pharmaceutical for Children's Act. However, the provisions in the substitute bill would reduce the incentive to conduct clinical trials for children, thus reducing the effectiveness of the program and changes are made that make the program virtually unworkable. For these reasons, we favor a straight extension of current law over the enactment of the BPCA provisions in this bill.

In addition, the PRIA, as drafted, would make this program burdensome for FDA to the point that we would instead propose a straight extension of current law.

Finally, as demonstrated by proposed increases for drug safety in the President's FY 2008 Budget Request and the drug safety enhancements in our PDUFA IV proposal, we have a strong commitment to improving the FDA drug safety system. In our view, the core issues of drug safety are better tools for surveillance of drug events, improved scientific tools for evaluating drug safety problems, and better means of communicating drug safety problems to providers and patients. However, the bill as drafted is overly onerous in terms of process and structural changes and could actually have the unintended effect of slowing down drug approvals—while doing little to address the core issues of drug safety. In addition, this would be extremely resource intensive.

Now, I would like to turn to more detailed comments on the substitute bill.

TITLE I—PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEES

FDA's review of new drug applications (NDAs) and biologics license applications (BLAs) is central to FDA's mission to protect and promote the public health. In 1992 Congress enacted PDUFA, intending to reduce the time necessary for new drug application review, and subsequently has reauthorized it twice. As you know, the current user fee program is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2007.

PDUFA has produced significant benefits for public health, including providing the public access to 1,220 new drugs and biologics. During the PDUFA era, FDA reviewers have approved: 76 new medicines for cancer; 178 anti-infective medications (including 56 for treatment of HIV or Hepatitis); 111 medicines for metabolic and endocrine disorders; 115 medicines for neurological and psychiatric disorders; and 80 medicines for cardiovascular and renal disease.

In addition, PDUFA implementation efforts have dramatically reduced product review times. While maintaining our rigorous review standards, we now review drugs as fast as or faster than anywhere in the world. The median approval time for priority new drug and biologic applications has dropped from 14 months in fiscal year (FY) 1993 to only six months in FY 2006.

The most recent reauthorization of PDUFA directed FDA to consult with the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, appropriate scientific and academic experts, health care professionals, patient representatives, consumer advocacy groups, and the regulated industry in developing recommendations for PDUFA reauthorization. We have complied with these requirements in preparing our PDUFA IV proposal, and we are pleased that the draft bill reflects the Administration's PDUFA IV proposal. We believe that the proposal places PDUFA on a sound financial footing, enhance premarket review, and create a modern post-market drug safety system that follows products across their life cycle. Importantly, the proposal also supports new user fees to support the review of direct-to-consumer television advertisements voluntarily submitted to FDA for review prior to airing.

TITLE II—DRUG SAFETY

SUBTITLE A—RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES [REMS]

New drugs, biologics, devices, and diagnostics present the greatest opportunities currently available to improve health care and the way medicine is practiced. The number of lives saved are prolonged by new therapies outweighs the risks that the treatments themselves pose. It is also true that all such products pose potential risks. Thus, a drug safety system of the highest possible quality should not be confused with a system in which drugs are risk free. Because there are risks whenever anyone uses a medication, safety considerations involve complex judgments by the healthcare provider community, patients, and consumers, who must constantly weigh the benefits and assess the risks before deciding to use a medical product.

Attempts to address these risks must balance access and innovation with regulatory steps to improve the approach to safety issues. We need to make sure that such steps do not impede access to new medical products that can be used safely and effectively by patients suffering from unmet medical needs today. Many of these bill provisions seem fixed on process changes and structural changes in government programs, and not on making fundamental improvements in the science of drug safety. Some changes prescribe specific Agency action when the science of drug safety may not require such intervention, such as the requirement to present all new molecular entities to advisory committees for discussion. Such changes could limit access to needed medicines and slow down new innovations while doing little to address the core issues of drug safety.

Improved drug safety is not simply a matter of extending new legal authorities to FDA or requiring the Agency to engage in certain detailed activity. Indeed, extending these interventions or expanding the use of REMS is unlikely to result in improvements in drug safety as desired by the bill's sponsors.

The better overall strategy is to ensure that FDA has appropriate resources and the capacity to develop better scientific tools and approaches to drug review, including (1) improving information available to the Agency; (2) improving its ability to evaluate this information; and (3) improving how that evaluation is communicated to the public.

Accordingly, the Administration's proposed PDUFA IV recommendations support improvements with respect to: the information that the Agency receives, and with which it makes drug-safety related decisions, including the spontaneous reports we get from sponsors and providers as well as our ability to tap into epidemiological data sets to probe more routine questions; our analytical tools and approaches for evaluating this information and turning raw data about drug-safety related questions into practical medical facts that can be communicated to providers and patients to help them better inform their decision making; and the way in which we can effectively communicate these findings, as well as communicate the Agency's response once we draw a conclusion about the data we have, or we are made aware of a potential drug safety problem or an emerging safety issue.

We support the addition of provisions for an active drug safety surveillance system that would be established through a public-private partnership and we want to work with you on this provision to ensure the most effective implementation.

We continue to oppose the breadth of the proposed requirements for risk evaluation and mitigation strategies outlined in the bill. We believe it is unnecessarily burdensome on FDA and industry to require routine active surveillance and periodic reassessments for all drugs, as the legislation now does.

Even as modified in the substitute bill, the REMS approach would duplicate and overlap elements of the extensive adverse event reporting system already required by FDA (which includes incident-specific, quarterly, and annual reporting). It would also duplicate existing FDC Act labeling requirements, which provide for MedGuides, package inserts, and other materials which convey information to physicians and pharmacists (as well as patients) to address and minimize risk. Moreover, FDA and industry already engage in efforts with respect to implementation of risk minimization action plans (''RiskMAPs'') for those products that warrant such additional risk minimization protocols. In addition, FDA already has authority to require post-approval studies in select circumstances. Codifying new authority to these same ends is unnecessary and redundant.

We are also concerned about the adequacy of resources proposed for the significant increase in work that the legislation would entail (e.g., active surveillance, REMS-related activities, the Drug Safety Oversight Board activities, compliance work, and public meetings). Moreover, we are particularly concerned that the proposal would support all of these activities by PDUFA user fees, although this was not part of the industry agreement. Reopening negotiations at this time would risk the timely reauthorization of PDUFA.

Finally, the Drug Safety Oversight Board [DSOB] would be used to review disputes between the sponsor and the FDA concerning REMS. Not only does the DSOB not have the necessary expertise to handle dispute resolutions, the bill proposes the disputes be raised directly to the DSOB bypassing the existing dispute resolution process specified in current law [Section 562 of the Act] thus eliminating the possibility of resolving disputes at a lower level. Since the DSB would be the primary source of dispute resolution, this requirement would so overburden the DSB that they will be unable to conduct their other important functions.

SUBTITLE B—REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION FOR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

This subtitle would amend chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to

establish the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration, for purposes of advancing the FDA's mission to modernize the medical, veterinary, food, food ingredient, and cosmetic product development, accelerate innovation, and enhance product safety. We believe that the proposed Foundation may accelerate the national effort to modernize product-related sciences with some additional changes. Another se10us concern is the creation in statute of the Office of the Chief Scientist. This is redundant and the functions would duplicate and conflict with the functions of the current Chief Medical Office position. We look forward to working with you to continue to refine this section.

SUBTITLE C—CLINICAL TRIALS

Subtitle C would establish a publicly available database to improve opportunities for enrollment in clinical trials and to enhance access to clinical trials results for the benefit of patients, health care providers and researchers.

We support the goal and concept of enhancing access to information on clinical trials and providing a mechanism to enable health care professionals and the public to obtain information about trial results. We believe that such efforts should: emphasize transparency; minimize costs and administrative burdens and build on current efforts; utilize available technology to streamline and minimize the need for new funding; ensure that such activities improve the public health; and recognize legal or funding limitations of the affected federal agencies.

In addition, we have concerns with the mandated negotiated rule making process which is time consuming and resource intensive.

The draft language takes important steps to addressing concerns previously raised by the department, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on these issue.

SUBTITLE D—CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

FDA's advisory committees play an essential role in FDA's activities to protect and promote public health through the regulation of human and animal drugs, biological products, medical devices, and. foods: It is important that any legislation concerning review of conflicts of interest for advisory committee members and criteria for eligibility for participation in meetings afford FDA the flexibility to obtain needed external expertise while minimizing the potential for a conflict of interest. We appreciate the improvements to the draft legislation to address these important issues. We note that some concerns remain regarding the scope and applicability of the waiver provision, the limitation on waivers if a member's own scientific work is under consideration, prescreening requirements and the scope of financial disclosures by advisory Committee candidates and members. We hope to work further with the Committee to address these remaining issues.

TITLE III—MEDICAL DEVICE USER FEES

FDA's review of medical device applications is essential to FDA's mission to protect and promote the public health. In 2002 Congress enacted MDUFMA, intending to reduce the time necessary for new medical device application review. As you know, the current user fee program is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2007.

Similar to PDUFA, FDA was directed to consult with stakeholders in developing recommendations for MDUFMA reauthorization. We have complied with these requirements in preparing our MDUFMA II proposal, and we are pleased that the draft bill is consistent with the Administration's draft MDUFMA II recommendations as laid out in the Federal Register notice.

As we announced on April 16, FDA is holding a public meeting on April 30 and providing the public with a 30-day period in which to comment on the Administration's legislative recommendations in accordance with Section 105 of MDUFMA. We look forward to sending you the Administration's final recommendations shortly after the public comment period closes.

TITLE IV—PEDIATRIC MEDICAL PRODUCTS

SUBTITLE A—BEST PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN

The Administration supports reauthorization of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. The incentive for pediatric studies provided in this legislation has had a powerful impact on providing important safety, efficacy, and dosing information for drugs used in children. It has created an environment that promotes the study of drugs in children, fostered an infrastructure for pediatric clinical trials that was previously non-existent, and enabled FDA to obtain important pediatric information and numerous labeling changes.

However, the substitute bill contains several provisions that we believe will have a severe negative impact on this successful program. The incentive to conduct clinical trials for children will be compromised and the creation of an internal review committee and other program changes will make the BPCA virtually unworkable. For this reason, the Administration would favor a straight reauthorization over the enactment of these provisions. I will now review some of our specific concerns.

First, as mentioned above, the current incentive of the 6 month period of exclusivity has worked well and should be maintained. Through this legislation, FDA has been able to effect important labeling changes on 122 different products. Any weakening of this incentive can only have the effect of reducing its effectiveness. Accordingly, the proposal to shorten this incentive or to only provide exclusivity to drugs with one or more year left of patents and exclusivity life are of significant concern.

FDA supports greater internal cooperation; however, the draft bill's creation of an internal review committee is of concern for a number of reasons. First, a legislative requirement for what are primarily staff functions is in direct conflict with the expertise, flexibility and efficiency needed to ensure rapid review of pediatric product development. We have concerns about the structure and composition of the committee. Second, the proposal assigns the dual function of approving written requests and granting exclusivity, which may result in conflicts between the subjective intent of the written request and the objective evaluation as to whether the studies fairly respond to the actual terms of written request. We recommend keeping the two functions separate. Third, we believe that tracking pediatric studies are responsibilities more appropriately assigned to agency staff, since they are routine functions that do not require a decision-making body.

There are a number of critical technical provisions which affect the submission of reports, labeling changes, and disclosure of information which needs to be modified to ensure the process works as intended.

SUBTITLE B—PEDIATRIC RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT ACT

As noted above, we support the efforts to improve internal consistency and efficiency. However, the bill's creation of an internal review committee for Pediatric Research Equity Act [PREA] assessments is also of concern similar to the reasons stated above. A legislative requirement for what are primarily staff functions is in direct conflict with the expertise, flexibility and efficiency needed to ensure rapid review of pediatric product development. We do have serious concerns about the structure and composition of the committee as well as the potential impact on the current process given the number and extent of assessments.

There are technical provisions which affect the submission of reports, labeling changes, and disclosure of information which needs to be modified to ensure the process works as intended. As stated above with regard to BPCA, we feel that the changes in the substitute bill will make the Pediatric Research Equity Act program unworkable and the Administration would rather have a straight reauthorization of PREA than enactment of the substitute bill.

SUBTITLE C—PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DEVICES

With regard to Subtitle C-Pediatric Medical Devices, while we support measures to stimulate the increase availability of pediatric devices, we have major concerns with these provisions.

In the area of pediatric device research, NIH has a number of research efforts underway in this area and we believe it would be more efficient and effective to utilize current research initiatives at NIH rather than embark on a new private sector initiative. The funding of a private consortia would siphon off dollars for administrative expenses [that could otherwise go for pediatric device research. In addition, we oppose having a private entity making the decisions on research priorities.

The amendment to the Humanitarian Device Exemption would remove the profit-making restriction for HDEs approved for pediatric indications on the theory that allowing profit will stimulate the production of more pediatric devices for limited populations. Allowing profits up to a sales cap is an impractical policy tool. Our view is that this amendment to the HDE exemption would be administratively burdensome and costly for industry and the FDA, and would have a questionable impact on the incentive to develop new pediatric devices.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this letter has cited many problems with provisions included in this bill—some we believe will not achieve their policy objectives; some are unduly burdensome on the industry and the FDA. Still others appear to be unworkable or potentially costly. In addition to these concerns, the Administration may have additional concerns in connection with this legislation.

We have raised many serious objections in our comments above and it is our hope that we can work with you and others to resolve these before the bill is considered on the floor. Our support of this legislation is contingent on the satisfactory resolution of these concerns.

OMB advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the transmittal of this letter. We look forward to our collaboration with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT.

ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL IN GILLETTE, WYOMING

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to speak about community spirit. In the Senate, we work day in and day out to pass good policy that will provide for the safety, security, and health of

the Nation, but we are not alone in our effort to make our country better. In fact, we are but a small part. There are great events taking place every day in our country that are examples of neighbor helping neighbor, people who do not wait and do not ask for help but take it upon themselves to act. I would like to tell you about one such example that has been going on for years in Wyoming right in the small community I call home.

When people think about my hometown of Gillette, WY, many images come to mind—sagebrush as far as the eye can see, coal trucks, and cattle herds. We have deer, antelope, and some buffalo in the neighboring community of Wright. Our kids are great basketball players, and we work hard to get the methane gas and minerals that power this country. The list goes on. But after living in Gillette for more than three decades, what stands out about home are the people themselves, their character, their sense of community, and how they come together to help each other. And then there is the crawfish. Yes, I said crawfish.

This week, Gillette will be kicking off a 24-year tradition of flying in 10,000 pounds of crawfish for the annual Crawfish Boil. The event raises money for local families with medical hardships and was started in 1983 by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. The event raised $117,000 last year to help people get medical treatment. This weekend we hope to top that number.

Wyoming may be small in population, but our families know how to help each other out more than any other State in the Nation. Wyomingites do not just rely on government for help—they talk to neighbors, they come up with a good idea, they organize, and they follow through. The crawfish feed is an example for the Nation on how to pull yourself and your neighbor up by the bootstraps and have fun doing it.

Gillette not only raised $117,000 at last year's Crawfish Boil, the Festival of Trees raised $51,500 for hospice and lifeline services, the Chili Cook-Off raised $28,800 for the Council of Community Services, the Black Cat Ball raised $26,000 for the Hospice Hospitality House, the Chuckles for Charity event raised $24,000 for the Gillette Area Refuge, and the Rotary Ball raised $40,000 for education and other programs in Gillette. Mr. President, $287,000 in 1 year, in one community with roughly 25,000 residents. I could not think of a better place to call home.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CODY CARITHERS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I honor and congratulate Cody Carithers who is a senior at Highland High School in Arkansas and will graduate on May 18, 2007. Cody has accomplished an amazing feat—he has never missed a day of school. Since kindergarten at Cherokee Elementary School in Highland until now, never missed a day.

This accomplishment has not been easy. Cody was diagnosed with a brain tumor near his optic nerve a little over 2 years ago. This caused frequent headaches and required many trips to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Cody was adamant about maintaining his perfect attendance, and the hospital worked with him to schedule his appointments on school holidays or in the evening so he wouldn't miss a day of school. What a determined young man.

Cody is involved in a number of school activities, clubs and organizations. He is an active member of Future Farmers of America and is president of the Rebels Against Drugs Program at Highland High School. He has also participated in sports.

During the summer, Cody volunteered at the Sharp County Library. He has been employed for the past 2 years at Ivey's Automotive Center in Highland. Cody's plans after graduation are to attend Black River Technical College and pursue a degree in aviation maintenance or automotive technology.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Cody Carithers for his determination, drive and incredible school attendance record. He exemplifies Highland High School's motto, ''A tradition of excellence.''●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID M. GIPP

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an extraordinary scholar, leader, and friend, Dr. David M. Gipp.

On May 2, Dr. Gipp will celebrate 30 years at the helm of United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND. United Tribes Technical College, UTTC, is the only intertribally owned postsecondary vocational institution in the Nation. Since its founding in 1969, the college has served more than 10,000 students representing 75 federally recognized tribes.

During his tenure as president, Dr. Gipp has spearheaded an incredible transformation of the college and in higher education for American Indians. Dr. Gipp was the first executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and later he served as its president. He was instrumental in the formulation of the Tribal Colleges or Universities Assistance Act, which started to address the Federal Government's obligation in providing higher education for American Indians.

Under Dr. Gipp's leadership, UTTC has grown from just over 100 students and 12 programs of study to more than 1,018 students for the 2006–2007 school year with 24 different 2-year and certificate programs and bachelor's programs. In this time, Dr. Gipp has led the college's transition from traditional vocational trades to programs geared toward the labor needs of Indian Country. He also propelled UTTC into becoming the first tribal college in the Nation to be authorized to offer full online degree programs. In recent years, Dr. Gipp has led the fight to restore funding for the college that was cut from the Department of Interior's budget.

Dr. Gipp has been an agent of positive change in the lives of thousands of students who have attended United Tribes Technical College. He is a true champion for higher education and a powerful national advocate for the tribal colleges. His passion is infectious, and he has empowered individuals to reach to their goals no matter how small or large.

John Quincy Adams once said ''[I]f your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.'' Dr. Gipp is a leader in every sense of the word. I want to extend my congratulations to Dr. Gipp on 30 years as president of United Tribes Technical College.●

TRIBUTE TO CECIL E. WILLIAMS, JR.

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of a man revered as the most influential man in Arkansas agriculture. Cecil E. Williams, Jr., who passed on April 12, was respected by his peers and seen as an unparalleled advocate for farmer's interests, where he tried to save not only their lives, but also their jobs and livelihood.

Undoubtedly, agriculture is the backbone of rural Arkansas and rural America. Today, Arkansas agriculture provides nearly one in every five jobs in my State, and we rank in the top 10 nationally in the production of many commodities, including rice and cotton, where we rank No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. Much of Arkansas' success in agriculture can be directly attributed to Cecil Williams and his hard work. Mr. Williams worked hard during his lifetime to make Arkansas agriculture a force to be reckoned with while establishing workable, sensible, and sound farm policy. For nearly 40 years, Cecil Williams, known as the ''Dean of Farm Bills,'' served as the director of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas, ACA, where he took great pride in serving what he considered a worthwhile cause: farmers and agriculture.

After receiving an agribusiness degree in 1960 from Louisiana State University, Mr. Williams began his career as a fieldworker for the National Cotton Council and gained valuable insight into the production, business, and policy angles of agriculture. After an impressive 5 years with the National Cotton Council, the Agricultural Council of Arkansas recognized his talents and heavily recruited him to join their ranks. Once at the council, he quickly ascended to a leadership role with the organization and went on to fight for farm policy that made sense for Arkansas, improve checkoff programs for

crops, and provide better insurance programs. One of Williams' most storied accomplishments was getting the average farmer involved in the leadership and policy development process, most notably by developing the National Cotton Council's Producer Steering Committee. To this day, the Steering Committee continues to ensure producers have an active voice on policy issues. He never underestimated the knowledge and influence carried by the producer. Farmers all over Arkansas appreciated that and never forgot the respect he gave their opinions.

Cecil Williams took each event in stride and persevered with leadership and optimism. His ability to develop and foster leadership among the producer ranks was and still is an impressive feat. His relentless defense of agriculture, and the years he spent cultivating active and knowledgeable producers in Arkansas will be long remembered by those whose lives he touched through his tireless devotion. I am always proud to see Arkansas farmers when they make their way to Washington or when I am traveling the state. These are, without a doubt in my mind, the best farmers in America thanks to the leadership of people like Cecil Williams.

During his lifetime, Williams always led by example and stayed true to his cause; rarely will you find such a noble and grounded leader. This was a man who could see the big picture and still thoroughly understand the components needed on the ground. He believed firmly in what he represented and remained active in production agriculture and the legislative arena up until his last days.

Arkansas agriculture has suffered a great loss with the passing of Cecil Williams, but we will continue to remember this great man and benefit from his foresight and leadership. During his lifetime, Cecil Williams saw the passage of numerous farm bills and agricultural laws. From his active role in production agriculture and agricultural policy, he was also able to see the consequences of both good and bad farm policy. As Congress works on drafting the 2007 farm bill, let us not forget the legacy Cecil Williams left behind and take heed from the wisdom of his decades of experience.

I pay my tribute to this legend of Arkansas agriculture and express my greatest condolences to his family. He will be missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 521. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse located at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, as the ''Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse''.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1681. An act to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 1:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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.249. An act to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

H.R. 1332. An act to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1678. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution calling on the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

H. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Gian Carlo Menotti and recognizing the success of the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, which he founded.

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 249. An act to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1678. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 7. Calling on the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

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–1702. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's implementation of actions recommended to streamline the certification process for airplane seats and restraint systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1703. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report covering the fiscal year from October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1704. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Two Chemical Substances from Preliminary

Assessment Information Reporting and Health and Safety Data Reporting Rules'' ((RIN2070–AB08)(RIN2070–AB11)(FRL No. 8124–9)) received on April 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1705. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Change in Deadline for Rulemaking to Address the Control of Emissions from New Marine Compression-Ignition Engines at or Above 30 Liters per Cylinder'' ((RIN2060–A026)(FRL No. 8306–7)) received on April 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1706. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Illinois'' (FRL No. 8302–5) received on April 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1707. A communication from the Coordinator, U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the organization's annual report relative to U.S. assistance and cooperative activities with Eurasia for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1708. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to applications for court orders made to federal and state courts to permit the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications during calendar year 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1709. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1710. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, the report of draft legislation entitled ''Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2007''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Intelligence:

Special Report entitled ''Report of the Select Committee on Intelligence Covering the Period January 4, 2005, to December 8, 2006'' (Rept. No. 110–57).

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 Mr. HAGEL:

S. 1225. A bill to establish a process for aliens who meet certain conditions to be granted permanent resident status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1226. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish programs to improve the quality, performance, and delivery of pediatric care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1227. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish carbon dioxide new source performance standards for new coal-fired electric generated units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1228. A bill to amend section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding law enforcement emergencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1229. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for the application of mandatory minimum maturity standards applicable to all domestic and imported Hass avocados; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1230. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit for contributions to qualified tuition programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1231. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance teacher training and teacher preparation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD:

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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1233. A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1234. A bill to strengthen the liability of parent companies for violations of sanctions by foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1235. A bill to impose appropriate penalties for the assault or murder of a Federal law enforcement officer or Federal judge, for the retaliatory assault or murder of a family member of a Federal law enforcement officer or Federal judge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1236. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding highly qualified teachers, growth models, adequate yearly progress, Native American language programs, and parental involvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1237. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. WEBB):

S. 1238. A bill to repeal certain provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, close tax loopholes, impose windfall profits tax on major integrated oil companies, provide a reserve fund for biofuels research and infrastructure, and payments for low-income households; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. DOLE):

S. 1239. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1240. A bill to provide for the provision by hospitals receiving Federal funds through the Medicare program or Medicaid program of emergency contraceptives to women who are survivors of sexual assault; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1241. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify student housing eligible for the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a biofuel pilot program to offer crop insurance to producers of experimental biofuel crops and a program to make loans and loan guarantees to producers of experimental biofuel crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1243. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1244. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for certain violators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1245. A bill to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1246. A bill to establish and maintain a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1247. A bill to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to limit the development of any property acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for the development of visitor and administrative facilities for the Weir Farm National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. Res. 173. A resolution designating August 11, 2007, as ''National Marina Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 174. A resolution honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 175. A resolution recognizing the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution encouraging the recognition of the Negro Baseball Leagues and their players on May 20th of each year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to safeguard the economic health of the United States and the health and safety of the United States citizens by improving the management, coordination, and effectiveness of domestic and international intellectual property rights enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 648

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods.

S. 703

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 703, a bill to expand the definition of immediate relative for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 766

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies of victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 823

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act.

S. 902

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 902, a bill to provide support and assistance for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment, and for other purposes.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to develop and maintain an integrated system of coastal and ocean observations for the Nation's coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes, to improve warnings of tsunami, hurricanes, El Niño events, and other natural hazards, to enhance homeland security, to support maritime operations, to improve management of coastal and marine resources, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 961, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, supra.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 970, a bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 1018

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1018, a bill to address security risks posed by global climate change and for other purposes.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1117, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 1147

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as ''Priority 8'').

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1164, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve patient access to, and utilization of, the colorectal cancer screening benefit under the Medicare Program.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act.

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, supra.

S. 1212

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

S. 1213

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1213, a bill to give States the flexibility to reduce bureaucracy by streamlining enrollment processes for the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs through better linkages with programs providing nutrition and related assistance to low-income families.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1224, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 125

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 125, a resolution designating May 18, 2007, as ''Endangered Species Day'', and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide.

S. RES. 146

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 146, a resolution designating June 20, 2007, as ''American Eagle Day'', and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

S. RES. 154

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 154, a resolution demanding the return of the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy.

S. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 155, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on efforts to control violence and strengthen the rule of law in Guatemala.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—APRIL 25, 2007

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1224. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, when we enacted the Children's Health Insurance Program a decade ago, we made a promise to low-income working families to assist them in obtaining health insurance coverage for their children, and we must continue to keep that promise. Today, with Senators ROCKEFELLER and SNOWE, I am pleased to introduce The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

CHIP has been a significant success, and has made a real difference in many children's lives. Over the past decade, the percentage of uninsured children has dropped dramatically, even though more and more of their parents have been losing coverage because employers decide to reduce it or drop it entirely.

In its first year, the program enrolled nearly a million children, and enrollment has grown ever since. Average monthly enrollment is now 4 million, and over 6 million have been enrolled for at least part of the year.

We know CHIP has made a difference in the lives of millions of children, but we also know that this is no time to rest on past success. We can and must do more to enroll the 6 million uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled for CHIP and Medicaid, and to expand coverage so that all children can obtain the health care they need.

The bill we are introducing today reauthorizes the program and it will make sure that states have enough funds to provide health care to all children who need this assistance. No parents should be faced with the impossible decision of whether they can afford to take their sick child to the doctor.

The bill establishes a strong, reliable financing structure for CHIP. It more than doubles the Federal resources currently available over the next 5 years for covering children through CHIP. It ensures that all states will have the Federal matching funds needed both to sustain their existing programs and to move forward to cover the millions of children who are eligible for CHIP and Medicaid but remain unenrolled.

Millions of uninsured children in America isn't just wrong. It's unacceptable. We need to act now in getting to guarantee them the health coverage they need.

This bill adopts a variety of approaches to help states increase their enrollment. It strengthens CHIP by expanding the current program, improving its outreach, and making sure that all children have access to dental care and mental health services, so that good health care can be a reality for every child in America.

Quality health care for children isn't just a good option or a nice idea. It's not merely something we wish we could do. It's something we have to do. It's an obligation. We started earlier this year by pledging what is needed in the budget, but we also need a CHIP reauthorization that gives children the coverage we've promised them for the healthy future they deserve. The bill we're introducing today does that.

There's a reason the CHIP program has always enjoyed bipartisan support.

It's because all of us know how important it is that all children have the chance to get a healthy start in life. I look forward to working to make sure all children get the health care they need, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this week is Cover the Uninsured Week. And, I cannot think of a more appropriate time to introduce the legislation that Senators OLYMPIA SNOWE, TED KENNEDY, and I introduced yesterday—the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S. 1224). There are more than 45 million uninsured people in our country today, and 9 million of them—20 percent—are children. This is an embarrassing statistic for the wealthiest country in the world, and it has catastrophic consequences for our children.

In 1964, when I first came to West Virginia as a VISTA volunteer in Emmons, I was shocked to learn that many of the school-age children living there had never been to a dentist before. I made raising health care standards one of my first priorities in Emmons, and we ultimately got a bus to bring children to the Tiskelwah grade school in Charleston for dental care. Now, more than 30 years later, there are still children in West Virginia and throughout the Nation without access to adequate dental care.

Several weeks ago, millions across the country mourned the death of twelve year old Deamonte Driver, whose lack of dental care led to fatal brain infection. His death was a sad reminder of how our country continues to fail in its efforts to ensure access to vital medical care for our nation's youth. Yet, Deamonte was not the only child to succumb to the perils of inadequate health coverage. There are countless other children who have suffered the same fate. We must make universal coverage for children a national priority and reauthorization of CHIP is the first step in that process.

When CHIP was established in 1997, nearly 10 million children were uninsured. Congress responded by making a landmark, bipartisan commitment to help states provide comprehensive health insurance coverage to millions of these children. As a result, 6 million children have access to medical benefits through CHIP that they would have otherwise been forced to do without. I am proud to have been a part of CHIP's creation, and I am especially proud of the progress this program has made in providing working families an affordable and dependable option for protecting the health and well-being of their children. A healthy start in life is a necessary component in preparing our children to lead healthy, happy and productive lives in the future.

Today, however, we find ourselves in a situation strikingly similar to the dilemma we faced in 1997—more than 9 million children are currently without health insurance in this country. In fact, in 2005, the number of uninsured children increased for the first time since CHIP was enacted. This means that, despite our best efforts, we have taken a step backwards in terms of covering children. We cannot allow this trend to continue. Instead, we must make covering children a top priority—just like we did in 1997.

The CHIP Reauthorization Act makes health insurance coverage for children a priority. Not only does this important legislation renew and strengthen the commitment we made to our working families 10 years ago; it also provides significant new Federal resources for states to reach the 6 million additional children who are currently eligible for Medicaid and CHIP, but unenrolled. With many states already leading the charge on children's health and the additional federal support this legislation provides them, the Nation will be able to take another substantial step forward toward ensuring that all of America's children have comprehensive health insurance.

Our bill strengthens the underlying CHIP financing formula to provide states a stable and reliable source of funding for their efforts to cover more uninsured children. It also combines a variety of approaches, such as Express Lane eligibility, to help states enroll more uninsured kids who are currently eligible for CHIP or Medicaid. These innovative approaches will allow states to reach millions of additional children, particularly in rural parts of the country.

I am especially proud of our efforts to permit states to provide more meaningful coverage for children by including other vital benefits like dental care and mental health services. I have already talked about the importance of oral health for a child, but I'd also like to say something about children's mental health. I spend a lot of time with veterans, many who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and when those veterans get home, their children often suffer as well. We also need to consider the mental health of our children more broadly. Children are living in very tough times. They face enormous amounts of mental pressure from a variety of sources. If the Virginia Tech tragedy taught us anything, it taught us that we need to hug our children everyday and that we need to get appropriate help for our children when they have mental health needs, no matter how big or small.

While I had hoped that we could require Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPDST) services as part of this bill, I believe we were able to reach an appropriate compromise that will help us to achieve broad bipartisan support. I am still as committed as I ever have been to including EPDST services in CHIP. However, Senators SNOWE, KENNEDY, and I wanted to craft a bill that could pass the Senate, and we believe we have achieved that objective.

A final component of our legislation that I would like to highlight are the important steps we take to develop child-focused quality measures that will directly improve the coverage provided to children enrolled in CHIP. We establish a new child health quality initiative to enhance data collection, identify best practices, develop a pediatric electronic medical record, and disseminate health quality information. We hope this new initiative will greatly improve the health outcomes of children.

In closing, I'd like for our country to get to the point where we never have to have another Cover the Uninsured Week again. Of course I greatly appreciate all the wonderful work the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has done over the years to raise awareness about the uninsured problem. My hope is that we will eventually have universal coverage for all. Certainly, we can take the first step toward achieving that goal by providing health care coverage for all of our Nation's children.

With this reauthorization bill, Congress now has an opportunity to make profound positive changes in the lives of millions of American children and their families. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the passage of the CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2007.

I ask that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1224

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

(c) MEDICAID; CHIP; SECRETARY.—In this Act:

(1) CHIP.—The term ''CHIP'' means the State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).

(2) MEDICAID.—The term ''Medicaid'' means the program for medical assistance established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq,).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(d) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; amendments to Social Security Act; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
TITLE I—MAKING CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE A NATIONAL PRIORITY
Sec. 101. Providing necessary funding for CHIP.
TITLE II—IMPROVING CHIP FINANCING
Sec. 201. State CHIP allotments that are responsive to health care costs, population growth, and the needs of low-income uninsured children.

Sec. 202. 2-year initial availability of CHIP allotments for all States and territories
Sec. 203. Establishment of timely and responsive redistribution process.
Sec. 204. Improving funding for the territories under CHIP and Medicaid.
Sec. 205. Extension of authority for qualifying States to use CHIP allotments for certain Medicaid expenditures.
Sec. 206. State option to expand coverage of children under CHIP up to 300 percent of the poverty line.
Sec. 207. Requiring responsible CHIP enrollment growth.
TITLE III—ENROLLING UNINSURED CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CHIP AND MEDICAID
Sec. 301. ''Express Lane'' option for States to determine components of a child's eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.
Sec. 302. Information technology connections to simplify health coverage determinations.
Sec. 303. Enhanced administrative funding for translation or interpretation services.
Sec. 304. Enhanced assistance with coverage costs for States with increasing or high coverage rates among children.
Sec. 305. Elimination of counting Medicaid child presumptive eligibility costs against title XXI allotment.
Sec. 306. State option to require certain individuals to present satisfactory documentary evidence of proof of citizenship or nationality for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid.
TITLE IV—START HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY
Sec. 401. State option to expand or add coverage of certain pregnant women under Medicaid and CHIP.
Sec. 402. Coordination with the maternal and child health program.
Sec. 403. Optional coverage of legal immigrants under Medicaid and CHIP.
Sec. 404. Improving benchmark coverage options.
Sec. 405. Requiring coverage of dental and mental health services.
Sec. 406. Clarification of requirement to provide EPSDT services for all children in benchmark benefit packages under Medicaid.
Sec. 407. Childhood obesity demonstration project.
TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN
Sec. 501. Promoting children's access to covered health services.
Sec. 502. Institute of Medicine study and report on children's access to health care.
TITLE VI—STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF CARE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN
Sec. 601. Strengthening child health quality improvement activities.
Sec. 602. Application of certain managed care quality safeguards to CHIP.
TITLE VII—OTHER IMPROVEMENTS
Sec. 701. Strengthening premium assistance programs.
Sec. 702. Permitting coverage of children of State employees.
Sec. 703. Improving data collection.
Sec. 704. Moratorium on application of PERM requirements related to eligibility reviews during period of independent study and report.
Sec. 705. Elimination of confusing program references.
TITLE VIII—EFFECTIVE DATE
Sec. 801. Effective date.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP) AND MEDICAID HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED CHILDREN'S COVERAGE RATES AND ACCESS TO NEEDED HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

(A) CHIP and Medicaid serve as the critical health care safety net for 34,000,000 children over the course of a year, with 28,000,000 children enrolled in Medicaid and more than 6,000,000 children enrolled in CHIP.

(B) CHIP and Medicaid have accounted for a ⅓ decline in the rate of uninsured low-income children since 1997.

(C) During the recent economic downturn, and as the number of uninsured people has climbed to the highest number ever recorded in the United States, CHIP and Medicaid offset losses in employer-sponsored coverage that affected children and parents alike.

(D) While the number of children living in low-income families increased between 2000 and 2005, the number of uninsured children fell due to Medicaid and CHIP.

(E) Children enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid are much more likely to have a usual source of care than uninsured children, and are much more likely than uninsured children to receive well-child care, see a doctor during the year, and get dental care. Studies have found that children enrolled in public insurance programs experienced significant improvement in measures of school performance.

(F) Since CHIP was created, coverage rates have increased significantly among children of all ethnic and racial groups.

(G) According to one Federal evaluation of CHIP, uninsured children who gained coverage through the program received more preventive care, and their parents reported better access to providers and improved communications with their children's doctors.

(2) EVEN WITH THE SUCCESS OF CHIP AND MEDICAID, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF OUR NATION'S CHILDREN.—

(A) There are currently 9,000,000 uninsured children under age 19, accounting for nearly 20 percent of our Nation's uninsured.

(B) Approximately 7 out of every 10 uninsured children are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid.

(C) The cost of unmet health needs among children extends beyond measurable health system costs. For example, problems that could be prevented, managed, or treated with regular access to care can become more serious, resulting in lower school attendance and increased health care costs.

(D) Reducing the number of uninsured children in our country is an essential first step to improve health status. CHIP reauthorization presents an opportunity to secure health care coverage for more children who are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid but not yet enrolled.

(3) WE MUST MAINTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE CHILDREN CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN CHIP.—

(A) When CHIP was created in 1997, Congress allocated $40,000,000,000 for the 10-year authorization.

(B) At current funding levels, nearly 2,000,000 children are at risk of losing their CHIP coverage over the next 5 years because the current CHIP financing structure is inadequate and States are facing CHIP funding shortfalls.

(C) We must eliminate Federal funding shortfalls by providing States with significant new Federal resources for children's health coverage.

(D) CHIP reauthorization offers an opportunity to increase CHIP funding and to provide stable, predictable Federal funding so that States not only have the ability to maintain their current caseloads but also to expand coverage to currently unenrolled children.

(4) WE MUST REACH THE UNINSURED CHILDREN WHO ARE ALREADY ELIGIBLE FOR CHIP OR MEDICAID BUT UNENROLLED.—

(A) More than 6,000,000 uninsured children are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid at any point during the year.

(B) In some States, it is estimated that up to 50 percent of children covered through CHIP do not remain in the program due to reenrollment barriers.

(C) Difficult renewal policies and reenrollment barriers make seamless coverage in CHIP unattainable. Studies indicate that as many as 67 percent of children who were eligible but not enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid had applied for coverage but were denied eligibility due to procedural issues.

(D) States have tools at their disposal to streamline enrollment procedures, but further Federal changes would help States reach more children.

(E) Insuring parents is an effective way to increase children's participation in public programs and to increase children's access to health care services.

(F) To reduce the number of uninsured children, improve our children's health, and continue our progress in reducing health disparities, the reauthorization of CHIP should provide States with the tools and resources necessary to identify, enroll, and maintain coverage for children who are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid.

(5) WE MUST SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE STATES THAT ARE LEADING THE WAY WITH INITIATIVES TO COVER MORE CHILDREN.—

(A) States in every region of the country are seeking to move forward in covering more children, either by reaching already eligible children or further expanding eligibility.

(B) The Federal government should serve as a partner in these efforts by providing sufficient funding to solidify and strengthen this momentum.

(6) WE MUST PROMOTE HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE THAT PROMOTES CHILDREN'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) Children and adolescents deserve better quality care than what they currently receive.

(B) Most States report using some kind of measure to evaluate and improve the quality of care children receive through their CHIP and Medicaid programs. However, State efforts are often hampered by budget constraints, limitations on information technology systems, and a need for improved measurement tools and performance measurement standards.

(C) As we improve access to health coverage as part of CHIP reauthorization, Congress also has an opportunity to enhance quality by improving and standardizing data collection efforts.

(7) WE MUST SUPPORT POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—

(A) There are more than 46,000,000 uninsured Americans today.

(B) No one who is currently covered should lose coverage because of changes to CHIP or Medicaid as part of the reauthorization of CHIP.

(C) Coverage of parents through family coverage waivers furthers the objectives of CHIP in that it promotes children's enrollment, positively impacts children's utilization of services, and improves family well-being.

(D) Coverage of parents through family coverage waivers is also consistent with long-standing CHIP policy – the explicit authorization in the CHIP statute for the Secretary to grant waivers that are consistent with the objectives of CHIP, the parent waiver guidelines for CHIP issued by the Secretary, and the flexibility broadly accorded states through CHIP.

(E) Parent coverage waivers have been granted to States that have made a commitment to cover children first and then to use funding to cover low-income parents.

(F) Research indicates that having an uninsured parent not only decreases the likelihood that a child will have a well-child visit, it also decreases the likelihood that a child will see any medical provider at all.

(G) We strongly support maintaining the current flexibility under CHIP that permits family coverage through waivers to cover parents, while assuring that children remain the primary focus of CHIP.

TITLE I—MAKING CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

SEC. 101. PROVIDING NECESSARY FUNDING FOR CHIP.

Section 2104(a) (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(11) for fiscal year 2008, $8,525,000,000;

''(12) for fiscal year 2009, $10,075,000,000;

''(13) for fiscal year 2010, $11,250,000,000;

''(14) for fiscal year 2011, $13,150,000,000;

''(15) for fiscal year 2012, $15,400,000,000; and

''(16) for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter, the total allotment amount appropriated under this subsection for the preceding fiscal year, multiplied by the adjustment determined for such fiscal year under subsection (i)(2)(C).''.

TITLE II—IMPROVING CHIP FINANCING

SEC. 201. STATE CHIP ALLOTMENTS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO HEALTH CARE COSTS, POPULATION GROWTH, AND THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME UNINSURED CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ANNUAL ALLOTMENTS FOR STATES OTHER THAN TERRITORIES BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2008.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (4), of the total allotment amount appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008 and remaining available after the application of subsection (j) and subsection (c)(5), the Secretary shall allot to each State (as defined for purposes of this subsection in paragraph (5)) the sum of the following:

''(A) The coverage factor, as determined under paragraph (2), based on the State's prior spending adjusted for health care cost growth and child population growth.

''(B) The uninsured children factor, as determined under paragraph (3), based on the number of low-income children without health insurance in the State, adjusted for geographic variation in health care costs.

''(2) COVERAGE FACTOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), subject to subparagraphs (B) and (D), the coverage factor determined for a State is equal to the following:

''(i) FISCAL YEAR 2008.—For fiscal year 2008, the higher of the following:

''(I) The total Federal payments to the State under this title for fiscal year 2007, multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(II) The amount allotted to the State for fiscal year 2007 under subsection (b), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(III) The projected total Federal payments to the State under this title for fiscal year 2007, as reported by the State to the Secretary by the State as of November 2006 (or the projected total Federal payments to the State under this title for fiscal year 2007 as reported by the State to the Secretary as of May 2006 if the projected total Federal payments to the State under this title for such fiscal year were at least $95,000,000 higher than such projected payments as of November 2006), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(IV) The projected total Federal payments to the State under this title for fiscal year 2008, as reported by the State to the Secretary by the State as of February 2007.

''(ii) FISCAL YEAR 2009.—For fiscal year 2009, the amount determined under clause (i), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(iii) FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND EACH SECOND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR REBASING.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (D), for fiscal year 2010 and each second succeeding fiscal year, the total Federal payments to the State under this title for the previous fiscal year attributable to any allotments available to the State in such fiscal year under paragraph (1) and subsection (b) multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(iv) FISCAL YEAR 2011 AND EACH SECOND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—For fiscal year 2011 and each second succeeding fiscal year, the amount determined under clause (iii) for the preceding fiscal year, multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for the State for that fiscal year.

''(B) LIMITATION AND MINIMUMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), if the total of the coverage factors determined under subparagraph (A) for all States exceed in any fiscal year the total allotment amount under subsection (a) for a fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008 remaining available after the application of subsections (c)(5) and (j)(2)(C), each State's coverage factor shall be equal to the total allotment amount under subsection (a) for a fiscal year remaining available after application of such subsections, multiplied by the ratio of—

''(I) the amount of the State's coverage factor determined under subparagraph (A); to

''(II) the total of such coverage factors for all States for such fiscal year.

''(ii) MIMIMUM COVERAGE FACTOR.—At a minimum, the coverage factor for a State for a fiscal year shall not be less than the lesser of—

''(I) the State's total Federal payments attributable to any allotments available to the State in the prior fiscal year under paragraph (1) and subsection (b), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year; and

''(II) the total allotment for the State under paragraph (1) for the prior fiscal year, multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

''(C) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT FOR HEALTH CARE COST GROWTH AND CHILD POPULATION GROWTH.—The annual adjustment with respect to a State for any fiscal year is equal to the product of the amounts determined under clauses (i) and (ii):

''(i) PER CAPITA HEALTH CARE GROWTH.—1 plus the percentage increase (if any) in the projected nominal per capita amount of National Health Expenditures for such fiscal year over the preceding fiscal year, as most recently published by the Secretary before the beginning of the fiscal year involved.

''(ii) CHILD POPULATION GROWTH.—1.01 plus the percentage increase in the population of children under 19 years of age in the United States from July 1 of the previous fiscal year to July 1 of the fiscal year involved, as determined by the Secretary based on the most recent published estimates of the Bureau of the Census before the beginning of the fiscal year involved.

''(D) REBASING RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND EACH SECOND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR FOR CERTAIN STATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2010 and each second succeeding fiscal year, a State receiving reallocated funds under subsection (j) in the prior fiscal year shall receive an additional spending amount equal to the proportion (determined under clause (ii)) of the total allotment amount under subsection (a) for such fiscal year remaining available after the application of subsections (c)(5) and (j)(2)(C), and subparagraphs (A) and (B), if any, multiplied by the ratio of—

''(I) the total Federal payments to the State under this title for the previous fiscal year attributable to any funds made available to the State in the previous fiscal year under subsection (j), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subparagraph (C) for the fiscal year; to

''(II) the total of such payments for all States for the previous fiscal year.

''(ii) PROPORTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the proportion shall equal—

''(I) for fiscal year 2010, 20 percent; and

''(II) for fiscal year 2012 and each second succeeding fiscal year, 40 percent.

''(3) UNINSURED CHILDREN FACTOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), subject to subparagraph (B), the uninsured children factor for a State is equal to the total allotment amount under subsection (a) for a fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008, remaining available after application of subsections (c)(5) and (j)(2)(C) and paragraph (2), multiplied by the following:

''(i) FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND EACH SECOND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—In the case of fiscal year 2008, and each second succeeding fiscal year, the ratio of—

''(I) the uninsured children adjustment for the State determined under subparagraph (B); to

''(II) the sum of the uninsured children adjustments for all States determined under subparagraph (B).

''(ii) FISCAL YEAR 2009 AND EACH SECOND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—In the case of fiscal year 2009, and each second succeeding fiscal year, the ratio determined under clause (i) for the previous fiscal year.

''(B) UNINSURED CHILDREN ADJUSTMENT.—The uninsured children adjustment determined under this subparagraph for a State is equal to the product of the following:

''(i) NUMBER OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE.—The average of the number of low-income children under 19 years of age in the State with no health insurance for a fiscal year, as reported and defined in the 2 most recent March supplement to the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census available prior to the beginning of such fiscal year.

''(ii) GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN HEALTH CARE COSTS.—The adjustment for geographic variation in health care costs, as determined under subsection (b)(3).

''(4) DATA.—In computing the amounts under paragraphs (2) and (3) and subsection (c)(5) that determine the allotments to States for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use the most recent expenditure data for the prior year available to the Secretary before the start of each fiscal year. The Secretary may adjust such amounts and allotments, as necessary, on the basis of the expenditure data for the prior year reported by States on CMS Form 64 or CMS Form 21 not later than November 30 of each fiscal year but in no case shall the Secretary adjust the allotments provided under this subsection or subsection (c)(5) for a fiscal year after December 31 of such year.

''(5) STATE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'State' means one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (h), and (i)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (h), and (i)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting ''and subsection (i)(3)(D)(ii)'' after ''paragraph (1)(A)(ii)''.

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (h), and (i)''.

SEC. 202. 2-YEAR INITIAL AVAILABILITY OF CHIP ALLOTMENTS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES.

Section 2104(e) (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS ALLOTTED.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (j), amounts allotted to a State pursuant to subsections (b), (c), or (i)—

''(1) for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2007, shall remain available for expenditure by the State through the end of the second succeeding fiscal year; and

''(2) for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, shall remain available for expenditure by the State through the end of the succeeding fiscal year.''.

SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMELY AND RESPONSIVE REDISTRIBUTION PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 (42 U.S.C. 1397dd), as amended by section 201, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) TIMELY AND RESPONSIVE REDISTRIBUTIONS BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2008.—

''(1) REALLOCATION TO STATES FACING FEDERAL FUNDING SHORTFALLS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (f), in each fiscal year quarter of fiscal year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate to a shortfall State described in subparagraph (D) from the funds available under paragraph (2) an amount equal to the projected amount of the shortfall for the fiscal year. The Secretary shall only make such a reallocation under this paragraph to the extent that there are amounts available under paragraph (2).

''(B) PRORATION RULE.—If the amounts available under paragraph (2) for any fiscal year quarter for reallocation under subparagraph (A) are less than the total shortfall amounts for the fiscal year determined under subparagraph (A), the reallocated amount to each shortfall State shall be reduced proportionally.

''(C) AVAILABILITY OF REALLOCATED FUNDS.—Any funds made available to a shortfall State described in subparagraph (D) shall remain available to such State through the end of the fiscal year in which such funds are reallocated.

''(D) SHORTFALL STATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a shortfall State is a State (as defined in subsection (i)(5)) that has a State child health plan approved under this title (or waiver of such title approved by the Secretary) for which the Secretary estimates on a quarterly basis using the most recent data available to the Secretary as of such quarter, that the projected expenditures under such plan (or waiver) for the State for the fiscal year will exceed the sum of—

''(i) the amount of the allotments provided under subsection (b) or (i) in fiscal years preceding such fiscal year that remain available to the State;

''(ii) the amount of the allotment under subsection (i) for such fiscal year to the State; and

''(iii) the amount of any reallocated funds made available under subparagraph (A) in previous quarters of such fiscal year to the State.

''(2) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR REALLOCATION.—Amounts available for reallocation in any fiscal year under this subsection shall equal the sum of the following:

''(A) Any allotments remaining unexpended after the period of availability under subsection (e).

''(B) Any amounts available for reallocation and remaining unexpended at the end of the previous fiscal year under paragraph (3).

''(C) Subject to paragraph (4), 5 percent of the total amount available under subsection (a) for such fiscal year.

''(3) CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF UNEXPENDED REALLOCATED FUNDS.—Any unexpended amounts reallocated to a shortfall State remaining available after the period of availability under paragraph (1)(C) and any amounts available for redistribution in a fiscal year that are not reallocated to a shortfall State because the total amount available for reallocation exceeds the total of all reallocated amounts under paragraph (1)(A) shall remain available for reallocation until expended.

''(4) LIMITS ON WITHHOLDING FROM TOTAL ALLOTMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF REALLOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that the total amounts available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for a fiscal year exceeds 10 percent of the total amount available under subsection (a) for that fiscal year, the Secretary shall reduce the percentage under paragraph (2)(C) accordingly so that the total amount available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the fiscal year does not exceed 10 percent of the total amount available under subsection (a) for such fiscal year.''.

SEC. 204. IMPROVING FUNDING FOR THE TERRITORIES UNDER CHIP AND MEDICAID.

(a) UPDATE OF CHIP ALLOTMENTS.—Section 2104(c) (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and paragraphs (5) and (6)'' after ''subsection (d)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(5) ANNUAL ALLOTMENTS FOR TERRITORIES BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2008.—Of the total allotment amount appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008 and remaining available after the application of subsection (j), the Secretary shall allot to each of the commonwealths and territories described in paragraph (3) the following:

''(A) FISCAL YEAR 2008.—For fiscal year 2008, the highest amount of Federal payments to the commonwealth or territory under this title for any fiscal year occurring during the period of fiscal years 1998 through 2007, multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subsection (i)(2)(C) for the fiscal year.

''(B) FISCAL YEAR 2009 AND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2009 and each succeeding fiscal year, the amount determined under clause (i), multiplied by the annual adjustment determined under subsection (i)(2)(C) for the fiscal year.

''(6) REDISTRIBUTIONS FOR TERRITORIES FACING FEDERAL FUNDING SHORTFALLS.—Notwithstanding subsection (f), the Secretary shall determine an appropriate procedure for reallocating to each commonwealth or territory described in paragraph (3) that would, with respect to each fiscal year quarter of fiscal year 2008 be a shortfall State described in subsection (j)(1)(D) if such subsection applied to such commonwealth or territory, from the funds available under subsection (j)(2) for such fiscal year, the same proportion as the proportion of the commonwealth's or territory's allotment under paragraph (2) to such percentage (not to exceed 1.05 percent) as the Secretary determines appropriate of such funds.''.

(b) REMOVAL OF FEDERAL MATCHING PAYMENTS FOR DATA REPORTING SYSTEMS FROM THE OVERALL LIMIT ON PAYMENTS TO TERRITORIES UNDER TITLE XIX.—Section 1108(g) (42 U.S.C. 1308(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM PAYMENT LIMITS.—With respect to fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, if Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa qualify for a payment under subparagraph (A)(i), (A) (iii), (A)(iv), or (B) of section 1903(a)(3) for a calendar quarter of such fiscal year, the limitation on expenditures under title XIX for such commonwealth or territory otherwise determined under subsection (f) and this subsection for such fiscal year shall be determined without regard to such payment.''.

(c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress regarding Federal funding under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program for Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The report shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of all relevant factors with respect to—

(A) eligible Medicaid and CHIP populations in such commonwealths and territories;

(B) historical and projected spending needs of such commonwealths and territories and the ability of capped funding streams to respond to those spending needs;

(C) the extent to which Federal poverty guidelines are used by such commonwealths and territories to determine Medicaid and CHIP eligibility; and

(D) the extent to which such commonwealths and territories participate in data collection and reporting related to Medicaid and CHIP, including an analysis of territory participation in the Current Population Survey versus the American Community Survey.

(2) Recommendations for improving Federal funding under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program for such commonwealths and territories.

SEC. 205. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR QUALIFYING STATES TO USE CHIP ALLOTMENTS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAID EXPENDITURES.

Section 2105(g)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(g)(1)(A)), as amended by section 201(b) of the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–482) is amended by striking ''not more than 20 percent of any

allotment under section 2104 for fiscal year 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, or 2007'' and inserting ''any allotment under subsection (b) or (i) of section 2104 for a fiscal year''.

SEC. 206. STATE OPTION TO EXPAND COVERAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER CHIP UP TO 300 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LINE.

Section 2110(b)(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking '', or'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (ii)(III), by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) is a child—

''(I) whose family income (as determined under the State child health plan) does not exceed 300 percent of the poverty line for a family of the size involved; or

''(II) whose family income exceeds 300 percent of the poverty line but does not exceed 50 percentage points above the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and considering applicable income disregards) applied under the State child health plan on the date of enactment of this clause; and''.

SEC. 207. REQUIRING RESPONSIBLE CHIP ENROLLMENT GROWTH.

(a) LIMITATION ON APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS.—Section 2106(b)(3)(B) (42 U.S.C. 1397ff(b)(3)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) AMENDMENTS TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY BEYOND HIGHEST INCOME ELIGIBILITY PERMITTED.—Any plan amendment that would allow funds made available under this title to be used to provide child health assistance or other health benefits coverage for a child whose family income exceeds the highest income eligibility level permitted under section 2110(b)(1)(B)(iii) (in this clause referred to as an 'expansion amendment') may not take effect, and shall not remain in effect, unless the Secretary determines that the following conditions are met:

''(I) UNINSURED RATE FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IS BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.—With respect to each fiscal year in which the expansion amendment is in effect, the percentage of low-income children without private health coverage who are uninsured is below the national average percentage of such children, for the most recent year for which such data is available (as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the 2 most recent Annual Social and Economic Supplements of the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census).

''(II) OPEN ENROLLMENT; MAINTENANCE OF ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.—The State does not impose any numerical limitation, waiting list, or similar limitation on eligibility for targeted low-income children described in section 2110(b)(1)(B)(iii) under the State child health plan, or to make more restrictive the eligibility standards for such children, while the expansion amendment is in effect.

''(III) IMPLEMENTATION OF SIMPLIFIED OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES.—The State submitting the expansion amendment has implemented procedures to effectively enroll and retain children eligible for medical assistance under title XIX and children eligible for child health assistance under this title by adopting and effectively implementing with respect to such children at least 3 of the following policies and procedures under title XIX and this title:

''(aa) JOINT APPLICATION AND RENEWAL PROCESS THAT PERMITS APPLICATION OTHER THAN IN PERSON.—The application and renewal forms and supplemental forms (if any) and information verification process is the same for purposes of establishing and renewing eligibility for children for medical assistance under title XIX and child health assistance under this title, and such process does not require an application to be made in person or a face-to-face interview.

''(bb) NO ASSETS TEST.—The State does not apply any assets test for eligibility under title XIX and this title with respect to children.

''(cc) 12-MONTHS CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY.—The State has elected the option of continuous eligibility for a full 12 months for children described in section 1902(e)(12) under title XIX, and applies such option under this title.

''(dd) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN.—The State has implemented the option, for purposes of title XIX and this title, of applying presumptive eligibility for children in accordance with sections 1920A and 2107(e)(1)(F).

''(IV) ANNUAL REPORTING OF MEASURES OF QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN.—The State satisfies the requirements of section 1905(y)(2)(B)(iv) (relating to annual reporting of measures of quality of health care for children under title XIX and this title).''.

(b) APPLICATION TO WAIVERS.—Section 2107(f) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking '', the Secretary'' and inserting '':

''(1) The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary may not approve a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project with respect to a State that would allow funds made available under this title to be used to provide child health assistance or other health benefits coverage for a child whose family income exceeds the highest income eligibility level permitted under section 2110(b)(1)(B)(iii) (in this paragraph referred to as an 'expansion waiver') unless the Secretary determines that the conditions described in each of subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 2106(b)(3)(B)(iii) are met (and determines on an ongoing basis, that such conditions continue to be met while the expansion waiver is in effect).''.

TITLE III—ENROLLING UNINSURED CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CHIP AND MEDICAID

SEC. 301. "EXPRESS LANE" OPTION FOR STATES TO DETERMINE COMPONENTS OF A CHILD'S ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID OR CHIP.

(a) MEDICAID.—Section 1902(e) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(13)(A)(i) At the option of the State, notwithstanding any other provision of law, including subsection (a)(46)(B) and sections 1137(d) and 1903(x), the State may rely on a determination made within a reasonable period (as determined by the State) by an Express Lane agency (as defined in subparagraph (F)(i)) to determine whether an individual has met the income, assets or resources, or citizenship status criteria for eligibility for medical assistance under this title (including under a waiver of the requirements of this title).

''(ii) The option under clause (i) shall apply to redeterminations or renewals of eligibility for medical assistance, as well as to initial applications for such assistance.

''(iii) The option under clause (i) shall apply to a child who is under an age specified by the State (not to exceed 21 years of age) and, at State option, may also apply to an individual who is not a child.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to relieve a State of the obligation to determine eligibility for medical assistance under this title if an individual is determined ineligible for such assistance on the basis of information furnished pursuant to this paragraph.

''(C) A State shall inform an individual (or, in the case of a child, the family of the child) enrolled in the State plan under this title and required to pay premiums for such enrollment based on an income determination furnished to the State pursuant to this paragraph that the individual or family may qualify for lower premium payments if directly evaluated for eligibility by the State Medicaid agency.

''(D) If a State applies the eligibility process described in subparagraph (A) to individuals eligible for medical assistance under this title, the State may, at its option, implement its duties under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 2102(b)(3) using either or both of the following approaches:

''(i) The State may—

''(I) establish a threshold percentage of the Federal poverty level (that shall exceed the income eligibility level applicable for a population of individuals under this title by 30 percentage points (as a fraction of the Federal poverty level) or such other higher number of percentage points as the State determines reflects the typical application of income methodologies by the program administered by the Express Lane agency and the State plan under this title); and

''(II) provide that, with respect to any individual within such population whom an Express Lane agency determines has income that does not exceed such threshold percentage for such population, such individual is eligible for medical assistance under this title (regardless of whether such individual would otherwise be determined to be eligible to receive such assistance).

In exercising the approach under this clause, a State shall inform families whose children are enrolled in a State child health plan under title XXI based on having family income above the threshold described in subclause (I) that they may qualify for medical assistance under this title and, at their option, can seek a regular eligibility determination for such assistance for their child, and that if their child is determined to be eligible for such assistance, the child may receive health benefits coverage that is more affordable and comprehensive than the coverage that would be provided to the child under the State child health plan.

''(ii) Regardless of whether a State otherwise provides for presumptive eligibility under section 1920A, a State may provide presumptive eligibility under this title, consistent with subsection (e) of section 1920A, to a child who, based on a determination by an Express Lane agency, would qualify for child health assistance under a State child health plan under title XXI. During such presumptive eligibility period, the State may determine the child's eligibility for medical assistance under this title, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of section 2102(b)(3), based on telephone contact with family members, access to data available in electronic or paper form, and other means of gathering information that are less burdensome to the family than completing an application form on behalf of the child. The procedures described in the previous sentence may be used regardless of whether the State uses similar procedures under other circumstances for purposes of determining eligibility for medical assistance under this title.

''(E)(i) At the option of a State, an individual determined to be eligible for medical assistance pursuant to subparagraph (A), (C), or (D) or other procedures through which eligibility is determined based on data obtained from sources other than the individual, may receive medical assistance under this title if such individual (or, in the case of an individual under age 19 (or if the State elects the

option under subparagraph (A), age 20 or 21) who is not authorized to consent to medical care, the individual's parent, guardian, or other caretaker relative) has acknowledged notice of such determination and has consented to being enrolled in the State plan under this title. The State (at its option) may waive any otherwise applicable requirements for signatures by or on behalf of an individual who has so consented.

''(ii) In the case of an individual enrolled pursuant to clause (i), the State shall inform the individual (or, in the case of an individual under age 19 (or if the State elects the option under subparagraph (A), age 20 or 21), the individual's parent, guardian, or other caretaker relative) about the significance of such enrollment, including appropriate methods to access covered services.

''(F) In this paragraph, the term 'Express Lane agency' means a Federal or State agency, or a public or private entity making such determination on behalf of such agency, specified by the plan, including an agency administering the State program funded under part A of title IV, the State child health plan under title XXI, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, notwithstanding any differences in budget unit, disregard, deeming, or other methodology, but only if—

''(i) the agency or entity has fiscal liabilities or responsibilities affected by such determination;

''(ii) the agency or entity notifies the child's family—

''(I) of the information which shall be disclosed in accordance with this paragraph;

''(II) that the information disclosed will be used solely for purposes of determining eligibility for medical assistance under this title or for child health assistance under title XXI;

''(III) that interagency agreements limit the use of such information to such purposes; and

''(IV) that the family may elect to not have the information disclosed for such purposes; and

''(iii) the requirements of section 1939 are satisfied.''.

(b) CHIP.—Section 2107(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively, and by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) Section 1902(e)(13) (relating to the State option to base a determination of a child's eligibility for assistance on determinations made by an agency other than the State Medicaid agency.''.

(c) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1920A(b)(3)(A)(i) (42 U.S.C. 1396r–1a(b)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ''or (IV)'' and inserting ''(IV) is an agency or entity described in section 1902(e)(13)(F), or (V)''.

(d) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1902(a) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a signature under penalty of perjury shall not be required on an application form for medical assistance as to any element of eligibility for which eligibility is based on information received from a source other than an applicant, rather than on representations from the applicant. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any signature requirement for an application for medical assistance may be satisfied through an electronic signature, as defined in section 1710(1) of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (44 U.S.C. 3504 note).''.

SEC. 302. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIONS TO SIMPLIFY HEALTH COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.

(a) ENHANCED ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USED TO SIMPLIFY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—Section 1903(a)(3)(A) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (i); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) 75 percent of so much of the sums expended during such quarter as are attributable to information technology needed to conduct data matches or for the exchange of electronic information with an Express Lane agency (as defined in 1902(e)(13)(F)) as the Secretary determines is directly related to reducing the need for an individual undergoing an eligibility determination for medical assistance under this title or child health assistance under title XXI (including a determination of a renewal of eligibility for such assistance) to provide information previously submitted by or on behalf of the individual to such agency, and''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 1939 as section 1940; and

(B) by inserting after section 1938 the following new section:

''AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE PERTINENT INFORMATION

''SEC. 1939. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal or State agency or private entity in possession of the sources of data potentially pertinent to eligibility determinations under this title (including eligibility files maintained by Express Lane agencies described in section 1902(e)(13)(F), information described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 1137(a), vital records information about births in any State, and information described in sections 453(i) and 1902(a)(25)(I)) is authorized to convey such data or information to the State agency administering the State plan under this title, if—

''(1) such data or information are used only to establish or verify eligibility or provide coverage under this title; and

''(2) an interagency or other agreement, consistent with standards developed by the Secretary, prevents the unauthorized use, disclosure, or modification of such data and otherwise meets applicable Federal requirements safeguarding privacy and data security.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVEYANCE.—Data or information may be conveyed pursuant to this section only if the following requirements are met:

''(1) The individual whose circumstances are described in the data or information (or such individual's parent, guardian, caretaker relative, or authorized representative) has either provided advance consent to disclosure or has not objected to disclosure after receiving advance notice of disclosure and a reasonable opportunity to object.

''(2) Such data or information are used solely for the purposes of—

''(A) identifying individuals who are eligible or potentially eligible for medical assistance under this title and enrolling such individuals in the State plan; and

''(B) verifying the eligibility of individuals for medical assistance under the State plan.

''(3) An interagency or other agreement, consistent with standards developed by the Secretary—

''(A) prevents the unauthorized use, disclosure, or modification of such data and otherwise meets applicable Federal requirements safeguarding privacy and data security; and

''(B) requires the State agency administering the State plan to use the data and information obtained under this section to seek to enroll individuals in the plan.

''(c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person described in the subsection (a) who publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any manner, or to any extent not authorized by Federal law, any information obtained under this section shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both, for each such unauthorized activity.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The limitations and requirements that apply to disclosure pursuant to this section shall not be construed to prohibit the conveyance or disclosure of data or information otherwise permitted under Federal law (without regard to this section).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TITLE XXI.—Section 2107(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)), as amended by section 301(b), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) Section 1939 (relating to authorization to receive data potentially pertinent to eligibility determinations).''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO ASSURE ACCESS TO NATIONAL NEW HIRES DATABASE.—Section 453(i)(1) (42 U.S.C. 653(i)(1)) is amended by striking ''and programs funded under part A'' and inserting '', programs funded under part A, and State plans approved under title XIX or XXI''.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE CHIP PROGRAMS WITH ACCESS TO NATIONAL INCOME DATA.—Section 6103(l)(7)(D)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''or title XXI'' after ''title XIX''.

(5) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DATA ABOUT ENROLLMENT IN INSURANCE FOR PURPOSES OF EVALUATING APPLICATIONS AND FOR CHIP.—Section 1902(a)(25)(I)(i) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(25)(I)(i)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(and, at State option, individuals who are potentially eligible or who apply)'' after ''with respect to individuals who are eligible''; and

(B) by inserting ''under this title (and, at State option, child health assistance under title XXI)'' after ''the State plan''.

SEC. 303. ENHANCED ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING FOR TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION SERVICES.

Section 1903(a)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) an amount equal to 75 percent of so much of the sums expended during such quarter (as found necessary by the Secretary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan) as are attributable to translation or interpretation services in connection with the enrollment and use of services under this title by individuals for whom English is not their primary language; plus''.

SEC. 304. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE WITH COVERAGE COSTS FOR STATES WITH INCREASING OR HIGH COVERAGE RATES AMONG CHILDREN.

Section 1905 (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''and (4)'' and inserting ''(4)''; and

(B) by inserting '', and (5) the Federal medical assistance percentage with respect to medical assistance provided to individuals who have not attained age 19 for a fiscal year shall be increased, notwithstanding the previous clauses of this sentence, in the case of a State that meets the conditions described in subparagraph (A) of subsection (y)(1) in the preceding fiscal year by the number of percentage points determined under subparagraph (B) of that subsection, in the case of a State that is described in subparagraph (A)

of subsection (y)(2) in the preceding fiscal year, by the number of percentage points determined under subparagraph (D) of that subsection, and, in the case of a State described in both such subparagraphs in the preceding fiscal year, by the greater of the number of percentage points determined under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(D) of subsection (y)'' before the period; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(y) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE IN FMAP FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN FOR CERTAIN STATES.—

''(1) FOR STATES SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING ENROLLMENT OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—

''(A) SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of clause (5) of the first sentence of subsection (b), a State described in this paragraph is a State that satisfies the reporting requirements described in clause (iii) and has a percentage increase in the child caseload in the reference year over the initial reference year that exceeds the benchmark rate of growth.

''(ii) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of clause (i):

''(I) CHILD CASELOAD.—The term 'child caseload' means the average monthly enrollment of individuals under age 19 in the State plan under this title or under a waiver of such title, as determined by the Secretary.

''(II) INITIAL REFERENCE YEAR.—The term 'initial reference year' means the 12-month period preceding August 1, 2007.

''(III) REFERENCE YEAR.—The term 'reference year' means, with respect to a fiscal year, the 12-month period preceding August 1 of such fiscal year.

''(IV) BENCHMARK RATE OF GROWTH.—The term 'benchmark rate of growth' means, with respect to a fiscal year, the product of the projected rate of growth of children in Medicaid at time of enactment, multiplied by the number of fiscal years that have elapsed since the initial reference year.

''(V) PROJECTED RATE OF GROWTH OF CHILDREN IN MEDICAID AT TIME OF ENACTMENT.—The term 'projected rate of growth of children in Medicaid at time of enactment' means the average annual rate of growth for children enrolled in all State plans under this title (or under waivers of such title) during the period beginning with fiscal year 2007 and ending with fiscal year 2010, as projected in March 2007 by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

''(iii) STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The State shall submit to the Secretary such data relating to the average monthly enrollment of individuals who have not attained age 19 under this title and title XXI (including under waivers of such titles) as the Secretary shall specify for the purpose of increasing under clause (5) of subsection (b) the Federal medical assistance percentage for a State for a fiscal year in accordance with this subsection.

''(B) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for purposes of clause (5) of the first sentence of subsection (b), in the case of a State described in subparagraph (A), the number of percentage points determined under this subparagraph is equal to the percentage increase in the State child caseload determined for purposes of subparagraph (A)(i).

''(ii) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—In no event may the Federal medical assistance percentage for a State for a fiscal year exceed 85 percent as a result of an increase under this paragraph.

''(C) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(i) REVIEW AND VERIFICATION OF CHILD CASELOAD DATA.—The Secretary shall review the child caseload data provided by States for purposes of this paragraph and shall conduct data matches on a periodic basis to verify the child caseloads determined for States.

''(ii) NOTICE TO STATES.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008, the Secretary shall inform each State on the extent to which the child caseload in the most recent reference year exceeds or does not exceed the benchmark rate of growth for such fiscal year.

''(2) FOR STATES THAT HAVE ACHIEVED AT LEAST A HIGH PARTICIPATION RATE FOR COVERAGE OF UNINSURED LOW-INCOME CHILDREN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of clause (5) of the first sentence of subsection (b), a State described in this paragraph is a State—

''(i) for which the percentage of low-income children without private health coverage who are uninsured (as determined under subparagraph (D)) is at least 90 percent; and

''(ii) that satisfies the conditions described in subparagraph (B) (with respect to coverage of children under this title and title XXI) and paragraph (1)(A)(iii).

''(B) CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.—The conditions described in this subparagraph are the following:

''(i) CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—The State has elected the option of continuous eligibility for a full 12 months for children described in section 1902(e)(12) under this title, as well as applying such policy under its State child health plan under title XXI.

''(ii) NO WAITING LIST FOR TITLE XXI.—The State does not impose any numerical limitation, waiting list, or similar limitation on eligibility for assistance under title XXI and has not imposed any such limitation or list within the preceding 3 years.

''(iii) NO ASSETS TEST.—The State does not apply any assets test for eligibility under this title or title XXI with respect to children.

''(iv) ANNUAL REPORTING OF MEASURES OF QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN.—The State annually reports on the measures required under section 601 of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007 with respect to the quality of health care for children under the State plan under this title and the State child health plan under title XXI or is otherwise determined by the Secretary to have implemented a comprehensive system for gathering information and reporting on the quality of health care for children enrolled under such plans.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for purposes of clause (5) of the first sentence of subsection (b), in the case of a State described in subparagraph (A), the number of percentage points determined under this subparagraph is equal to the number of percentage points by which the percentage described in subparagraph (A)(i) exceeds 90 percent.

''(ii) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—In no event may the Federal medical assistance percentage for a State for a fiscal year exceed 85 percent as a result of an increase under this paragraph.

''(D) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(i) DETERMINATION OF STATE RATES.—The rates described in subparagraph (A)(i) shall be determined by the Secretary on the basis of the 2 most recent Annual Social and Economic Supplements of the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

''(ii) NOTICE TO STATES.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008, the Secretary shall inform each State on the extent to which the State's participation rate among uninsured low-income children exceeds or does not exceed 90 percent.

''(3) INCREASE IN CAP ON PAYMENTS TO TERRITORIES.—If Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa qualify for an increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage under subsection (b)(5) for a fiscal year, the additional Federal financial participation under this title that results from such increase shall not be counted towards the limitation on total payments under this title for such commonwealth or territory otherwise determined under subsections (f) and (g) of section 1108.

''(4) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage under subsection (b)(5) shall only apply for purposes of payments under section 1903 with respect to medical assistance provided to individuals who have not attained age 19 and shall not apply with respect to—

''(A) disproportionate share hospital payments described in section 1923;

''(B) payments under title IV or XXI; or

''(C) any payments under this title that are based on the enhanced FMAP described in section 2105(b).''.

SEC. 305. ELIMINATION OF COUNTING MEDICAID CHILD PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY COSTS AGAINST TITLE XXI ALLOTMENT.

Section 2105(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(or, in the case of expenditures described in subparagraph (B), the Federal medical assistance percentage (as defined in the first sentence of section 1905(b)))''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(B) [reserved]''.

SEC. 306. STATE OPTION TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO PRESENT SATISFACTORY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OR NATIONALITY FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(46) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(46)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(46)'';

(2) by adding ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) at the option of the State and subject to section 1903(x), require that, with respect to an individual (other than an individual described in section 1903(x)(1)) who declares to be a citizen or national of the United States for purposes of establishing initial eligibility for medical assistance under this title (or, at State option, for purposes of renewing or redetermining such eligibility to the extent that such satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality has not yet been presented), there is presented satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality of the individual (using criteria determined by the State, which shall be no more restrictive than the criteria used by the Social Security Administration to determine citizenship, and which shall accept as such evidence a document issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe evidencing membership or enrollment in, or affiliation with, such tribe (such as a tribal enrollment card or certificate of degree of Indian blood, and, with respect to those federally recognized Indian tribes located within States having an international border whose membership includes individuals who are not citizens of the United States, such other forms of documentation (including tribal documentation, if appropriate) that the Secretary, after consulting with such tribes, determines to be satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality for purposes of satisfying the requirement of this subparagraph));''.

(b) LIMITATION ON WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any provision of section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315), or any other provision of law, the Secretary may not waive the requirements of section 1902(a)(46)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(46)(B)) with respect to a State.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1903 (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (20), by adding ''or'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (21), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraph (22); and

(2) in subsection (x) (as amended by section 405(c)(1)(A) of division B of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432))—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (1);

(C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''section 1902(a)(46)(B)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) In the case of an individual declaring to be a citizen or national of the United States with respect to whom a State requires the presentation of satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality under section 1902(a)(46)(B), the individual shall be provided at least the reasonable opportunity to present satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality under this subsection as is provided under clauses (i) and (ii) of section 1137(d)(4)(A) to an individual for the submittal to the State of evidence indicating a satisfactory immigration status.''.

(d) CLARIFICATION OF RULES FOR CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED STATES TO MOTHERS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID.—Section 1903(x) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(x)), as amended by subsection (c)(2), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

''(D) pursuant to the application of section 1902(e)(4) (and, in the case of an individual who is eligible for medical assistance on such basis, the individual shall be deemed to have provided satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality and shall not be required to provide further documentary evidence on any date that occurs during or after the period in which the individual is eligible for medical assistance on such basis); or''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Nothing in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1902(a)(46), the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, or the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, including section 6036 of such Act, shall be construed as changing the requirement of section 1902(e)(4) that a child born in the United States to an alien mother for whom medical assistance for the delivery of such child is available as treatment of an emergency medical condition pursuant to subsection (v) shall be deemed eligible for medical assistance during the first year of such child's life.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 4).

(2) RESTORATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of an individual who, during the period that began on July 1, 2006, and ends on the date of enactment of this Act, was determined to be ineligible for medical assistance under a State Medicaid program solely as a result of the application of subsections (i)(22) and (x) of section 1903 of the Social Security Act (as in effect during such period), but who would have been determined eligible for such assistance if such subsections, as amended by this section, had applied to the individual, a State may deem the individual to be eligible for such assistance as of the date that the individual was determined to be ineligible for such medical assistance on such basis.

TITLE IV—START HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY

SEC. 401. STATE OPTION TO EXPAND OR ADD COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

(a) MEDICAID.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO EXPAND COVERAGE.—Section 1902(l)(2)(A)(i) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(l)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting ''(or such higher percentage as the State may elect for purposes of expenditures for medical assistance for pregnant women described in section 1905(u)(4)(A))'' after ''185 percent''.

(2) ENHANCED MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS MET.—Section 1905 (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(A) in the fourth sentence of subsection (b), by striking ''or subsection (u)(3)'' and inserting '', (u)(3), or (u)(4)''; and

(B) in subsection (u)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

''(4) For purposes of the fourth sentence of subsection (b) and section 2105(a), the expenditures described in this paragraph are the following:

''(A) CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN.—If the conditions described in subparagraph (B) are met, expenditures for medical assistance for pregnant women described in subsection (n) or in section 1902(l)(1)(A) in a family the income of which exceeds 185 percent of the poverty line, but does not exceed the income eligibility level established under title XXI for a targeted low-income child.

''(B) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this subparagraph are the following:

''(i) The State plans under this title and title XXI do not provide coverage for pregnant women described in subparagraph (A) with higher family income without covering such pregnant women with a lower family income.

''(ii) The State does not apply an effective income level for pregnant women that is lower than the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and considering applicable income disregards) specified under the State plan under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (l)(2)(A) of section 1902, on the date of enactment of this paragraph to be eligible for medical assistance as a pregnant woman.

''(C) DEFINITION OF POVERTY LINE.—In this subsection, the term 'poverty line' has the meaning given such term in section 2110(c)(5).''.

(3) PAYMENT FROM TITLE XXI ALLOTMENT FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS.—Section 2105(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(a)(1)), as amended by section 305, is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(B) for the portion of the payments made for expenditures described in section 1905(u)(4)(A) that represents the additional amount paid for such expenditures as a result of the enhanced FMAP being substituted for the Federal medical assistance percentage of such expenditures;''.

(b) CHIP.—

(1) COVERAGE.—Title XXI (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2111. OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF TARGETED LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMEN.

''(a) OPTIONAL COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a State may provide for coverage, through an amendment to its State child health plan under section 2102, of pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women in accordance with this section, but only if—

''(1) the State has established an income eligibility level for pregnant women under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (l)(2)(A) of section 1902 that is at least 185 percent of the income official poverty line; and

''(2) the State meets the conditions described in section 1905(u)(4)(B).

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this title:

''(1) PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—The term 'pregnancy-related assistance' has the meaning given the term 'child health assistance' in section 2110(a) as if any reference to targeted low-income children were a reference to targeted low-income pregnant women.

''(2) TARGETED LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMAN.—The term 'targeted low-income pregnant woman' means a woman—

''(A) during pregnancy and through the end of the month in which the 60-day period (beginning on the last day of her pregnancy) ends;

''(B) whose family income exceeds the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and considering applicable income disregards) specified under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (l)(2)(A) of section 1902, on January 1, 2008, to be eligible for medical assistance as a pregnant woman under title XIX but does not exceed the income eligibility level established under the State child health plan under this title for a targeted low-income child; and

''(C) who satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(C), (2), and (3) of section 2110(b) in the same manner as a child applying for child health assistance would have to satisfy such requirements.

''(c) REFERENCES TO TERMS AND SPECIAL RULES.—In the case of, and with respect to, a State providing for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance to targeted low-income pregnant women under subsection (a), the following special rules apply:

''(1) Any reference in this title (other than in subsection (b)) to a targeted low-income child is deemed to include a reference to a targeted low-income pregnant woman.

''(2) Any such reference to child health assistance with respect to such women is deemed a reference to pregnancy-related assistance.

''(3) Any such reference to a child is deemed a reference to a woman during pregnancy and the period described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

''(4) In applying section 2102(b)(3)(B), any reference to children found through screening to be eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid plan under title XIX is deemed a reference to pregnant women.

''(5) There shall be no exclusion of benefits for services described in subsection (b)(1) based on any preexisting condition and no waiting period (including any waiting period imposed to carry out section 2102(b)(3)(C)) shall apply.

''(6) In applying section 2103(e)(3)(B) in the case of a pregnant woman provided coverage under this section, the limitation on total annual aggregate cost sharing shall be applied to such pregnant woman.

''(7) The reference in section 2107(e)(1)(F) to section 1920A (relating to presumptive eligibility for children) is deemed a reference to section 1920 (relating to presumptive eligibility for pregnant women).

''(d) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN BORN TO WOMEN RECEIVING PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—If a child is born to a targeted low-income pregnant woman who was receiving pregnancy-related assistance under this section on the date of the child's birth, the child shall be deemed to have applied for child health assistance under the State child health plan and to have been found eligible for such assistance under such plan or to have applied for medical assistance under title XIX and to have been found eligible for such assistance under such title, as appropriate, on the date of such birth and to remain eligible for such assistance until the child attains 1 year of age. During the period in which a child is deemed under the preceding sentence to be eligible for child health or medical assistance, the child health or medical assistance eligibility identification number of the mother shall also serve as the identification number of the child, and all claims shall be submitted and paid under such number (unless the State issues a separate identification number for the child before such period expires).''.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) NO COST SHARING FOR PREGNANCY-RELATED BENEFITS.—Section 2103(e)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(e)(2)) is amended—

(i) in the heading, by inserting ''OR PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES'' after ''PREVENTIVE SERVICES''; and

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''or for pregnancy-related services''.

(B) NO WAITING PERIOD.—Section 2102(b)(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking '', and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) may not apply a waiting period (including a waiting period to carry out paragraph (3)(C)) in the case of a targeted low-income pregnant woman.''.

(c) OTHER AMENDMENTS TO MEDICAID.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY OF A NEWBORN.—Section 1902(e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''so long as the child is a member of the woman's household and the woman remains (or would remain if pregnant) eligible for such assistance''.

(2) APPLICATION OF QUALIFIED ENTITIES TO PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID.—Section 1920(b) (42 U.S.C. 1396r–1(b)) is amended by adding after paragraph (2) the following new flush sentence:

''The term 'qualified provider' includes a qualified entity as defined in section 1920A(b)(3).''.

SEC. 402. COORDINATION WITH THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(b)(3) (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) that operations and activities under this title are developed and implemented in consultation and coordination with the program operated by the State under title V in areas including outreach and enrollment, benefits and services, service delivery standards, public health and social service agency relationships, and quality assurance and data reporting.''.

(b) CONFORMING MEDICAID AMENDMENT.—Section 1902(a)(11) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' before ''(C)''; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', and (D) provide that operations and activities under this title are developed and implemented in consultation and coordination with the program operated by the State under title V in areas including outreach and enrollment, benefits and services, service delivery standards, public health and social service agency relationships, and quality assurance and data reporting''.

SEC. 403. OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

(a) MEDICAID PROGRAM.—Section 1903(v) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(v)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (4)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4)(A) A State may elect (in a plan amendment under this title) to provide medical assistance under this title, notwithstanding sections 401(a), 402(b), 403, and 421 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, for aliens who are lawfully residing in the United States (including battered aliens described in section 431(c) of such Act) and who are otherwise eligible for such assistance, within either or both of the following eligibility categories:

''(i) PREGNANT WOMEN.—Women during pregnancy (and during the 60-day period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy).

''(ii) CHILDREN.—Individuals under 21 years of age, including optional targeted low-income children described in section 1905(u)(2)(B).

''(B) In the case of a State that has elected to provide medical assistance to a category of aliens under subparagraph (A), no debt shall accrue under an affidavit of support against any sponsor of such an alien on the basis of provision of assistance to such category and the cost of such assistance shall not be considered as an unreimbursed cost.''.

(b) CHIP.—Section 2107(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)), as amended by sections 301(b) and 302(b)(2), is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), respectively, and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) Section 1903(v)(4) (relating to optional coverage of categories of lawfully residing immigrant children), but only if the State has elected to apply such section to the category of children under title XIX.''.

SEC. 404. IMPROVING BENCHMARK COVERAGE OPTIONS.

(a) LIMITATION ON USE OF SECRETARY-APPROVED COVERAGE.—Section 2103(a)(4) (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(a)(4)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting '', but only if such determination was made before March 1, 2007.''.

(b) STATE EMPLOYEE COVERAGE BENCHMARK.—Section 2103(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1397(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''A health benefits coverage plan'' and inserting ''The health benefits coverage plan''; and

(2) by inserting ''and that has the largest enrollment among such employees with dependent coverage in either of the previous 2 plan years'' before the period.

SEC. 405. REQUIRING COVERAGE OF DENTAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) REQUIRED COVERAGE OF DENTAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 2103 (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(c)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (c)(5)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (5) and (6) of subsection (c)''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following new paragraph:

''(5) OTHER REQUIRED SERVICES.—The child health assistance provided to a targeted low-income child shall include coverage of the following:

''(A) DENTAL SERVICES.—Dental services described in section 1905(r)(3) and provided in accordance with section 1902(a)(43).

''(B) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Mental health services.''.

(b) STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 2102(a)(7)(B) (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(c)(2)) is amended by inserting ''and services described in section 2103(c)(5)'' after ''emergency services''

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2103(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

SEC. 406. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE EPSDT SERVICES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN BENCHMARK BENEFIT PACKAGES UNDER MEDICAID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1937(a)(1), as inserted by section 6044(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter before clause (i), by striking ''Notwithstanding any other provision of this title'' and inserting ''Subject to subparagraph (E)''; and

(B) by striking ''enrollment in coverage that provides'' and all that follows and inserting ''benchmark coverage described in subsection (b)(1) or benchmark equivalent coverage described in subsection (b)(2).'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(C) STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.—A State, at its option, may provide such additional benefits to benchmark coverage described in subsection (b)(1) or benchmark equivalent coverage described in subsection (b)(2) as the State may specify.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) REQUIRING COVERAGE OF EPSDT SERVICES.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as affecting a child's entitlement to care and services described in subsections (a)(4)(B) and (r) of section 1905 and provided in accordance with section 1903(a)(43) whether provided through benchmark coverage, benchmark equivalent coverage, or otherwise.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the amendment made by section 6044(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

SEC. 407. CHILDHOOD OBESITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT DEMONSTRATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall conduct a demonstration project to develop a comprehensive and systematic model for reducing childhood obesity by awarding grants to eligible entities to carry out such project. Such model shall—

(1) identify, through self-assessment, behavioral risk factors for obesity among children;

(2) identify, through self-assessment, needed clinical preventive and screening benefits among those children identified as target individuals on the basis of such risk factors;

(3) provide ongoing support to such target individuals and their families to reduce risk factors and promote the appropriate use of preventive and screening benefits; and

(4) be designed to improve health outcomes, satisfaction, quality of life, and appropriate use of items and services for which medical assistance is available under title XIX of the Social Security Act or child health assistance is available under title XXI of such Act among such target individuals.

(b) ELIGIBILITY ENTITIES.—For purposes of this section, an eligible entity is any of the following:

(1) A city, county, or Indian tribe.

(2) A local or tribal educational agency.

(3) An accredited university, college, or community college.

(4) A federally-qualified health center.

(5) A local health department.

(6) A health care provider.

(7) A community-based organization.

(8) Any other entity determined appropriate by the Secretary, including a consortia or partnership of entities described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7).

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under this section shall use the funds made available under the grant to—

(1) carry out community-based activities related to reducing childhood obesity, including by—

(A) forming partnerships with entities, including schools and other facilities providing recreational services, to establish programs for after school and weekend community activities that are designed to reduce childhood obesity;

(B) forming partnerships with daycare facilities to establish programs that promote healthy eating behaviors and physical activity; and

(C) developing and evaluating community educational activities targeting good nutrition and promoting healthy eating behaviors;

(2) carry out age-appropriate school-based activities that are designed to reduce childhood obesity, including by—

(A) developing and testing educational curricula and intervention programs designed to promote healthy eating behaviors and habits in youth, which may include—

(i) after hours physical activity programs; and

(ii) science-based interventions with multiple components to prevent eating disorders including nutritional content, understanding and responding to hunger and satiety, positive body image development, positive self-esteem development, and learning life skills (such as stress management, communication skills, problem-solving and decisionmaking skills), as well as consideration of cultural and developmental issues, and the role of family, school, and community;

(B) providing education and training to educational professionals regarding how to promote a healthy lifestyle and a healthy school environment for children;

(C) planning and implementing a healthy lifestyle curriculum or program with an emphasis on healthy eating behaviors and physical activity; and

(D) planning and implementing healthy lifestyle classes or programs for parents or guardians, with an emphasis on healthy eating behaviors and physical activity for children;

(3) carry out activities through the local health care delivery systems including by—

(A) promoting healthy eating behaviors and physical activity services to treat or prevent eating disorders, being overweight, and obesity;

(B) providing patient education and counseling to increase physical activity and promote healthy eating behaviors;

(C) training health professionals on how to identify and treat obese and overweight individuals which may include nutrition and physical activity counseling; and

(D) providing community education by a health professional on good nutrition and physical activity to develop a better understanding of the relationship between diet, physical activity, and eating disorders, obesity, or being overweight; and

(4) provide, through qualified health professionals, training and supervision for community health workers to—

(A) educate families regarding the relationship between nutrition, eating habits, physical activity, and obesity;

(B) educate families about effective strategies to improve nutrition, establish healthy eating patterns, and establish appropriate levels of physical activity; and

(C) educate and guide parents regarding the ability to model and communicate positive health behaviors.

(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to awarding grants to eligible entities—

(1) that demonstrate that they have previously applied successfully for funds to carry out activities that seek to promote individual and community health and to prevent the incidence of chronic disease and that can cite published and peer-reviewed research demonstrating that the activities that the entities propose to carry out with funds made available under the grant are effective;

(2) that will carry out programs or activities that seek to accomplish a goal or goals set by the State in the Healthy People 2010 plan of the State;

(3) that provide non-Federal contributions, either in cash or inkind, to the costs of funding activities under the grants;

(4) that develop comprehensive plans that include a strategy for extending program activities developed under grants in the years following the fiscal years for which they receive grants under this section;

(5) located in communities that are medically underserved, as determined by the Secretary;

(6) located in areas in which the average poverty rate is at least 150 percent or higher of the average poverty rate in the State involved, as determined by the Secretary; and

(7) that submit plans that exhibit multisectoral, cooperative conduct that includes the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, including—

(A) community-based organizations;

(B) local governments;

(C) local educational agencies;

(D) the private sector;

(E) State or local departments of health;

(F) accredited colleges, universities, and community colleges;

(G) health care providers;

(H) State and local departments of transportation and city planning; and

(I) other entities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) PROGRAM DESIGN.—

(1) INITIAL DESIGN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall design the demonstration project. The demonstration should draw upon promising, innovative models and incentives to reduce behavioral risk factors. The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall consult with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the Office of Minority Health, the heads of other agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services, and such professional organizations, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, on the design, conduct, and evaluation of the demonstration.

(2) NUMBER AND PROJECT AREAS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award 1 grant that is specifically designed to determine whether programs similar to programs to be conducted by other grantees under this section should be implemented with respect to the general population of children who are eligible for child health assistance under State child health plans under title XXI of the Social Security Act in order to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity among such population.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date the Secretary implements the demonstration project under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the project, evaluates the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of the project, evaluates the beneficiary satisfaction under the project, and includes any such other information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER.—The term ''Federally-qualified health center'' has the meaning given that term in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B)).

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(3) SELF-ASSESSMENT.—The term ''self-assessment'' means a form that—

(A) includes questions regarding—

(i) behavioral risk factors;

(ii) needed preventive and screening services; and

(iii) target individuals' preferences for receiving follow-up information;

(B) is assessed using such computer generated assessment programs; and

(C) allows for the provision of such ongoing support to the individual as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(4) ONGOING SUPPORT.—The term ''ongoing support'' means—

(A) to provide any target individual with information, feedback, health coaching, and recommendations regarding—

(i) the results of a self-assessment given to the individual;

(ii) behavior modification based on the self-assessment; and

(iii) any need for clinical preventive and screening services or treatment including medical nutrition therapy;

(B) to provide any target individual with referrals to community resources and programs available to assist the target individual in reducing health risks; and

(C) to provide the information described in subparagraph (A) to a health care provider, if designated by the target individual to receive such information.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

SEC. 501. PROMOTING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO COVERED HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION.—Title XIX (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 1901 the following new section:

''MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION

''SEC. 1900. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (in this section referred to as 'MACPAC').

''(b) DUTIES.—

''(1) REVIEW OF ACCESS POLICIES AND ANNUAL REPORTS.—MACPAC shall—

''(A) review policies of the Medicaid program established under this title (in this section referred to as 'Medicaid') and the State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI (in this section referred to as 'CHIP') affecting children's access to covered items and services, including topics described in paragraph (2);

''(B) make recommendations to Congress concerning such access policies;

''(C) by not later than March 1 of each year (beginning with 2009), submit a report to Congress containing the results of such reviews and MACPAC's recommendations concerning such policies; and

''(D) by not later than June 1 of each year (beginning with 2009), submit a report to Congress containing an examination of issues affecting Medicaid and CHIP, including the implications of changes in health care delivery in the United States and in the market for health care services on such programs.

''(2) SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—Specifically, MACPAC shall review and assess the following:

''(A) MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT POLICIES.—Payment policies under Medicaid and CHIP, including—

''(i) the factors affecting expenditures for items and services in different sectors, including the process for updating hospital, skilled nursing facility, physician, Federally-qualified health center, rural health center, and other fees;

''(ii) payment methodologies; and

''(iii) the relationship of such factors and methodologies to access and quality of care for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.

''(B) INTERACTION OF MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT POLICIES WITH HEALTH CARE DELIVERY GENERALLY.—The effect of Medicaid and CHIP payment policies on access to items and services for children and other Medicaid and CHIP populations other than under this title or title XXI and the implications of changes in health care delivery in the United States and in the general market for health care items and services on Medicaid and CHIP.

''(C) OTHER ACCESS POLICIES.—The effect of other Medicaid and CHIP policies on access to covered items and services, including policies relating to transportation and language barriers.

''(3) CREATION OF EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM.—MACPAC shall create an early-warning system to identify provider shortage areas or any other problems that threaten access to care or the health care status of Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.

''(4) COMMENTS ON CERTAIN SECRETARIAL REPORTS.—If the Secretary submits to Congress (or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to access policies, including with respect to payment policies, under Medicaid or CHIP, the Secretary shall transmit a copy of the report to MACPAC. MACPAC shall review the report and, not later than 6 months after the date of submittal of the Secretary's report to Congress, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress written comments on such report. Such comments may include such recommendations as MACPAC deems appropriate.

''(5) AGENDA AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS.—MACPAC shall consult periodically with the chairmen and ranking minority members of the appropriate committees of Congress regarding MACPAC's agenda and progress towards achieving the agenda. MACPAC may conduct additional reviews, and submit additional reports to the appropriate committees of Congress, from time to time on such topics relating to the program under this title or title XXI as may be requested by such chairmen and members and as MACPAC deems appropriate.

''(6) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—MACPAC shall transmit to the Secretary a copy of each report submitted under this subsection and shall make such reports available to the public.

''(7) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—For purposes of this section, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

''(8) VOTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to each recommendation contained in a report submitted under paragraph (1), each member of MACPAC shall vote on the recommendation, and MACPAC shall include, by member, the results of that vote in the report containing the recommendation.

''(9) EXAMINATION OF BUDGET CONSEQUENCES.—Before making any recommendations, MACPAC shall examine the budget consequences of such recommendations, directly or through consultation with appropriate expert entities.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—MACPAC shall be composed of 17 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The membership of MACPAC shall include individuals who have had direct experience as enrollees or parents of enrollees in Medicaid or CHIP and individuals with national recognition for their expertise in Federal safety net health programs, health finance and economics, actuarial science, health facility management, health plans and integrated delivery systems, reimbursement of health facilities, health information technology, pediatric physicians, dentists, and other providers of health services, and other related fields, who provide a mix of different professionals, broad geographic representation, and a balance between urban and rural representatives.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The membership of MACPAC shall include (but not be limited to) physicians and other health professionals, employers, third-party payers, and individuals with expertise in the delivery of health services. Such membership shall also include consumers representing children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, current or former representatives of State agencies responsible for administering Medicaid, and current or former representatives of State agencies responsible for administering CHIP.

''(C) MAJORITY NONPROVIDERS.—Individuals who are directly involved in the provision, or management of the delivery, of items and services covered under Medicaid or CHIP shall not constitute a majority of the membership of MACPAC.

''(D) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall establish a system for public disclosure by members of MACPAC of financial and other potential conflicts of interest relating to such members. Members of MACPAC shall be treated as employees of Congress for purposes of applying title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–521).

''(3) TERMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms of members of MACPAC shall be for 3 years except that the Comptroller General of the United States shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

''(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office. A vacancy in MACPAC shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

''(4) COMPENSATION.—While serving on the business of MACPAC (including travel time), a member of MACPAC shall be entitled to compensation at the per diem equivalent of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code; and while so serving away from home and the member's regular place of business, a member may be allowed travel expenses, as authorized by the Chairman of MACPAC. Physicians serving as personnel of MACPAC may be provided a physician comparability allowance by MACPAC in the same manner as Government physicians may be provided such an allowance by an agency under section 5948 of title 5, United States Code, and for such purpose subsection (i) of such section shall apply to MACPAC in the same manner as it applies to the Tennessee Valley Authority. For purposes of pay (other than pay of members of MACPAC) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges, all personnel of MACPAC shall be treated as if they were employees of the United States Senate.

''(5) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall designate a member of MACPAC, at the time of appointment of the member as Chairman and a member as Vice Chairman for that term of appointment, except that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or Vice Chairmanship, the Comptroller General of the United States may designate another member for the remainder of that member's term.

''(6) MEETINGS.—MACPAC shall meet at the call of the Chairman.

''(d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to such review as the Comptroller General of the United States deems necessary to assure the efficient administration of MACPAC, MACPAC may—

''(1) employ and fix the compensation of an Executive Director (subject to the approval of the Comptroller General of the United States) and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its duties (without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service);

''(2) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate Federal departments and agencies;

''(3) enter into contracts or make other arrangements, as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of MACPAC (without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5));

''(4) make advance, progress, and other payments which relate to the work of MACPAC;

''(5) provide transportation and subsistence for persons serving without compensation; and

''(6) prescribe such rules and regulations as it deems necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of MACPAC.

''(e) POWERS.—

''(1) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—MACPAC may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairman, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to MACPAC on an agreed upon schedule.

''(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out its functions, MACPAC shall—

''(A) utilize existing information, both published and unpublished, where possible, collected and assessed either by its own staff or under other arrangements made in accordance with this section;

''(B) carry out, or award grants or contracts for, original research and experimentation, where existing information is inadequate; and

''(C) adopt procedures allowing any interested party to submit information for MACPAC's use in making reports and recommendations.

''(3) ACCESS OF GAO TO INFORMATION.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of MACPAC, immediately upon request.

''(4) PERIODIC AUDIT.—MACPAC shall be subject to periodic audit by the Comptroller General of the United States.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—MACPAC shall submit requests for appropriations in the same manner as the Comptroller General of the United States submits requests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for MACPAC shall be separate from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General of the United States.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than January 1, 2008, the Comptroller General of the United States shall appoint the initial members of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission established under section 1900 of the Social Security Act (as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 502. INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDY AND REPORT ON CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (in this section referred to as the ''Institute''), to update the data and analyses of the June 1998 report of the Institute entitled, ''America's Children: Health Insurance and Access to Care''. Specifically, the Institute shall—

(A) examine the extent of health insurance coverage for children in the United States; and

(B) analyze the extent to which there is evidence of the relationship between health insurance coverage and children's access to health care.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), the Institute shall focus on a broad range of providers that offer health care services to children, including (but not limited to) providers of oral health care services and mental health care services.

(3) SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide to the Institute any relevant data available to the Secretary during the period in which the study required under paragraph (1) is conducted.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Institute shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2008 such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out this section, not to exceed $1,000,000. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

TITLE VI—STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF CARE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN

SEC. 601. STRENGTHENING CHILD HEALTH QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) UPDATING AND ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY OF CARE MEASURES FOR CHILDREN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Secretary shall do the following:

(A) UPDATE AND ENHANCE QUALITY MEASURES.—In consultation with States, providers, and child health experts, update and enhance the HEDIS measures and other measures that the Secretary recommends States use to annually report on the quality of health care for children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP to include additional and more comprehensive information with respect to health care delivered to children in both ambulatory and inpatient care settings, that can be used to develop national quality measures and perform comparative analyses.

(B) ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY REPORTING.—In consultation with States, develop procedures to encourage States to voluntarily report the same set of measures with respect to the quality of health care for children under Medicaid and CHIP.

(C) ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES.—Develop programs to identify best practices with respect to the quality of health care for children and facilitate the adoption of such best practices, including in areas such as provider reporting compliance, successful quality improvement strategies, and improved efficiency in data collection using health information technology.

(D) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Provide technical assistance to States to help them comply with the measures updated in accordance with subparagraph (A) and adopt the best practices identified in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(b) DISSEMINATION OF HEALTH QUALITY INFORMATION.—

(1) STATE-SPECIFIC REPORT ON CHILD HEALTH QUALITY MEASURES.—Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall collect, analyze, and make publicly available State-specific data on child health quality measures, including State-specific data collected on external quality review activities related to managed care organizations under Medicaid and CHIP.

(2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 1, 2008, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress on—

(A) the status of the Secretary's efforts to improve—

(i) children's health care, including children's needs with respect to preventive, acute, and chronic health care; and

(ii) all domains of quality, including safety, family experience of care, and elimination of disparities; and

(B) the quality of care furnished to ameliorate at least 1 type of physical, mental, or developmental condition recognized as having an effect on growth and development in children and adolescents.

(c) DEVELOPMENT, ENDORSEMENT, AND UPDATING OF CHILD-SPECIFIC HEALTH QUALITY MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Secretary shall establish a program to support the development of quality measures for children's health care services.

(2) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—As part of such program, the Secretary shall award grants and contracts for the—

(A) development of new child health quality measures to supplement or replace, as appropriate, the HEDIS measures updated and enhanced in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A);

(B) advancement (through validation and consensus among the entities described in paragraph (3)) of such new measures and of child health quality measures used as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) updating of such measures as necessary.

(3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out the program required under this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with the following:

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF AREAS OF NEED AND PRIORITIES.—For purposes of identifying gaps in child health quality measures used as of the date of enactment of this Act and establishing priorities for development:

(i) States.

(ii) National pediatric organizations.

(iii) Consumers.

(iv) Other entities with expertise in pediatric quality measures, such as quality improvement organizations.

(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTFOLIO OF MEASURES.—For purposes of developing a portfolio of child health quality measures for use by States, other purchasers, and providers, an organization involved in the advancement of consensus on evidence-based measures of health care, such as the National Quality Forum.

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAID AND CHIP CORE PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES.—For purposes of identifying a core pediatric data set that includes specific quality measures for Medicaid and CHIP, States, health care providers, consumers, purchasers, child health experts, and public and private organizations with experience and expertise in the outreach and enrollment of children in public and private health insurance programs.

(4) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES.—

(A) CORE PEDIATRIC DATA SET.—The core pediatric data set identified under paragraph (3)(C) shall include specific quality measures for Medicaid and CHIP, including with respect to at least the following:

(i) State-specific quality measures for Medicaid and CHIP (including State-specific data on enrollment and retention of eligible children; coordination of Medicaid and CHIP children's coverage; measures of children's access to preventive, acute and chronic care, including the availability of providers and adequacy of provider payments relative to private coverage).

(ii) Quality measures and data for health plans and providers at the State, plan, and provider levels of care.

(B) QUALITY MEASURES.—In identifying quality measures for Medicaid and CHIP, the Secretary shall—

(i) identify measures specific to managed care plans and providers of primary care case management services;

(ii) build on the core set of quality measures reported by States as of the date of enactment of this Act, including the HEDIS measures and evidence-based measures (to the extent such measures are available);

(iii) assure that the measures identified are selected from measures that have been approved through an independent process that includes a broad consensus determined by a voluntary, standard setting organization, with broad participation by providers, patient advocates, health plans, and purchasers;

(iv) assure that the measures place an emphasis on physical and mental conditions for which amelioration is necessary to promote growth and development;

(v) assure that the measures are evidence-based and risk adjusted;

(vi) assure that the measures are designed to identify and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the provision of care;

(vii) assure that the data required for such measures is collected and reported in a standard format that permits comparison of

quality and data at a State, plan, and provider level; and

(viii) periodically update such measures.

(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE AND THE USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to States and child health providers to conduct demonstration projects to evaluate promising ideas for improving the quality of children's health care, including projects to—

(A) experiment with, and evaluate the use of, new measures of the quality of children's health care (including testing the validity and suitability for reporting of such measures);

(B) promote the use of health information technology in care delivery for children; or

(C) evaluate value-based purchasing of health care services for children.

(2) AUTHORITY FOR MULTI-STATE PROJECTS.—A demonstration project conducted with a grant awarded under this subsection may be conducted on a multi-State basis, as needed.

(e) INCREASED MATCHING RATE FOR COLLECTING AND REPORTING ON CHILD HEALTH MEASURES.—Section 1903(a)(3)(A) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(3)(A)), as amended by section 302, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (ii); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) an amount equal to 75 percent of so much of the sums expended during such quarter (as found necessary by the Secretary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan) as are attributable to such developments or modifications of systems of the type described in clause (i) as are necessary for the efficient collection and reporting on child health measures; and''.

(f) DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD FOR CHILDREN.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Secretary shall establish a program to encourage the development and dissemination of a model electronic health record for children. Such model electronic health record should be—

(1) subject to State laws, accessible to parents and other consumers for the sole purpose of demonstrating compliance with school or leisure activity requirements, such as appropriate immunizations or physicals; and

(2) designed to allow interoperable exchanges that conform with Federal and State privacy and security requirements.

(g) DEFINITION OF HEDIS MEASURES.—In this section, the term ''HEDIS measures'' means the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures established by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

(h) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, $20,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 602. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN MANAGED CARE QUALITY SAFEGUARDS TO CHIP.

Section 2107(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)), as amended by sections 301(b), 302(b)(2), and 403(b), is amended by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H), and by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraph:

''(G) Subsections (a)(5), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of section 1932 (relating to requirements for managed care).''.

TITLE VII—OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 701. STRENGTHENING PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IMPROVING THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS STANDARD.—Section 2105(c)(3) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii) and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''Payment may be made'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this paragraph, payment may be made''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) IMPROVEMENTS IN COST-EFFECTIVENESS MEASURE.—

''(i) APPLICATION OF FAMILY-BASED TEST.—Coverage described in subparagraph (A) shall be deemed cost-effective if the State establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the cost of such coverage is less than the expenditures that the State would have made to enroll the family in the State child health plan.

''(ii) AGGREGATE PROGRAM OPERATIONAL COSTS DO NOT EXCEED THE COST OF PROVIDING COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN.—In the case of a State that does not establish cost-effectiveness under clause (i), payment may not be made under subsection (a)(1) for the purchase of any coverage described in subparagraph (A) for a family unless the State establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the aggregate amount of expenditures by the State for the purchase of all such coverage (including administrative expenditures) does not exceed the aggregate amount of expenditures that the State would have made for providing coverage under the State child health plan for all such families.''.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF GROUP HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS.—Section 2105(c)(3) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(3)), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) DISCLOSURE OF GROUP HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the plan administrator of a group health plan in which participants or beneficiaries are covered under a State plan under title XIX or this title, shall disclose to the State, upon request, information about the benefits available under the group health plan in sufficient specificity so that the State may determine—

''(i) whether purchasing coverage for the participant or beneficiary under the group health plan meets the cost-effectiveness standard applied under subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) what additional benefits and cost-sharing assistance must be provided to ensure that the participant or beneficiary receives through the provision of additional benefits by the State, benefits that are equivalent to the coverage that would be provided to such participant or beneficiary under such State plan.''.

(c) APPROVAL OF SECTION 1115 WAIVERS FOR PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—Section 1115 (42 U.S.C. 1315) is amended by inserting after subsection (c), the following new subsection:

''(d) In approving a request by a State for an experimental, pilot, or demonstration project under this section with respect to the purchase of private insurance for individuals eligible for assistance under title XIX or XXI, the Secretary shall not waive compliance with requirements of such titles or treat expenditures under the project as expenditures under the State plans approved under such titles unless the State demonstrates both of the following:

''(1) The fact that an individual is enrolled in a group health plan or an insurance plan purchased on the individual market shall not change the individual's eligibility for assistance under the such State plans.

''(2) The cost to the Federal Government and State of purchasing private insurance for the individual (including administrative costs), as well as any additional costs incurred in providing items and services covered under such State plans but not through the private insurance for such individual, does not exceed, on an average per individual basis, the cost of providing coverage to the individual directly under such State plans.''.

(d) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study cost and coverage issues relating to State premium assistance programs for which Federal matching payments are made under title XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act and submit a report to Congress on the results of such study.

SEC. 702. PERMITTING COVERAGE OF CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES OF A PUBLIC AGENCY IN THE STATE.

Section 2110(b) (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting ''except as provided in paragraph (5),'' before ''a child''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) EXCEPTIONS TO EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES OF A PUBLIC AGENCY IN THE STATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A child shall not be considered to be described in paragraph (2)(B) if—

''(i) the public agency that employs a member of the child's family to which such paragraph applies satisfies subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) subparagraph (C) applies to such child.

''(B) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT WITH RESPECT TO PER PERSON AGENCY CONTRIBUTION FOR FAMILY COVERAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), a public agency satisfies this subparagraph if the amount of annual agency expenditures made on behalf of each employee enrolled in health coverage paid for by the agency that includes dependent coverage for the most recent State fiscal year is not less than the amount of such expenditures made by the agency for the 1997 State fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase in the medical care expenditure category of the Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers (all items: U.S. City Average) for such preceding fiscal year.

''(C) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), this subparagraph applies to a child if the State determines, on a case-by-case basis, that the annual aggregate amount of premiums and cost-sharing imposed for coverage of the family of the child would exceed 5 percent of such family's income for the year involved.''.

SEC. 703. IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION.

(a) INCREASED APPROPRIATION.—Section 2109(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1397ii(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2000'' and inserting ''$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008''.

(b) USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Section 2109(b) (42 U.S.C. 1397ii(b)), as amended by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following new paragraph:

''(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to making the adjustments required to produce the data described in paragraph (1), with respect to data collection occurring for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2008, in appropriate consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the

Secretary of Commerce shall do the following:

''(A) Make appropriate adjustments to the Current Population Survey to develop more accurate State-specific estimates of the number of children enrolled in health coverage under title XIX or this title.

''(B) Make appropriate adjustments to the Current Population Survey to improve the survey estimates used to compile the State-specific and national number of low-income children without health insurance for purposes of sections 1905(y)(2)(A)(i), 2106(b)(3)(B)(iii)(I), and 2104(i)(3)(D)(i).

''(C) Assist in the incorporation of health insurance survey information in the American Community Survey related to children.

''(D) Assess whether American Community Survey estimates, once such survey data are first available, produce more reliable estimates than the Current Population Survey for purposes of section 2104(i)(3)(D)(i).

''(E) Recommend to the Secretary of Health and Human Services whether American Community Survey estimates should be used for purposes of 2104(i)(3)(D)(i).

''(F) Continue making the adjustments described in the last sentence of paragraph (1) with respect to expansion of the sample size used in State sampling units, the number of sampling units in a State, and using an appropriate verification element.''.

SEC. 704. MORATORIUM ON APPLICATION OF PERM REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS DURING PERIOD OF INDEPENDENT STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) MORATORIUM.—Notwithstanding parts 431 and 457 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (2), during the period that begins on the date of enactment of this Act and ends on the final effective date for the regulations required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall not apply the payment error rate measurement (PERM) requirements related to eligibility reviews imposed under such parts with respect to Medicaid or CHIP.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDY.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (in this section referred to as the ''Institute'') to conduct an independent study of the payment error rate measurement (PERM) requirements related to eligibility reviews imposed under parts 431 and 457 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations with respect to Medicaid and CHIP and established in accordance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–300). Such study shall examine and develop recommendations for modifying such requirements in order to—

(A) minimize the administrative cost burden on States under Medicaid and CHIP;

(B) avoid inadvertent error findings with respect to such programs despite compliance with Federal and State policies and procedures in effect as of the date of the submission of the claim or action that led to such finding;

(C) maintain State flexibility to manage such programs; and

(D) ensure that such requirements do not interfere with State efforts to simplify application and renewal procedures that increase enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP and do not reduce beneficiary participation in such programs.

(2) SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide the Institute with any relevant data available to the Secretary during the period in which the study required under paragraph (1) is conducted.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute shall submit to the Secretary and Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under this subsection.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the report required under subsection (b)(3) has been submitted to the Secretary, the Secretary, after taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the report, shall promulgate such regulations revising the PERM requirements as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

(d) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2008 such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out this section, not to exceed $1,000,000. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 705. ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING PROGRAM REFERENCES.

Section 704 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999, as enacted into law by division B of Public Law 106–113 (113 Stat. 1501A–402) is repealed.

TITLE VIII—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 801. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless otherwise provided, subject to subsection (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2007, and shall apply to child health assistance and medical assistance provided on or after that date without regard to whether or not final regulations to carry out such amendments have been promulgated by such date.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR STATE LEGISLATION.—In the case of a State plan under title XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act, which the Secretary determines requires State legislation in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by an amendment made by this Act, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such Act solely on the basis of its failure to meet these additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be considered to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1228. A bill to amend section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding law enforcement emergencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 1228

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 ''Campus Law Enforcement Emergency Response Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCIES.

Section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (15) as paragraphs (10) through (16), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9)(A) Each institution of higher education participating in any program under this title shall develop and distribute as part of the report described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) a statement of policy regarding the institution's law enforcement emergency response program; and

''(ii) statistics concerning the occurrence of law enforcement emergencies on the campus of the institution.

''(B) In this paragraph:

''(i) The term 'campus' has the meaning given the term in paragraph 6(A)(i), except that the term includes—

''(I) a noncampus building or property, as defined in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), of an institution of higher education; and

''(II) any public property, as defined in paragraph (6)(A)(iii), of an institution of higher education.

''(ii) The term 'law enforcement emergency' means a shooting, the presence of an armed and dangerous person, a bomb threat, the presence of an unauthorized hazardous or toxic material that poses a threat to health and safety, a lock-down, a reverse evacuation, or any other comparable type of incident, on the campus of an institution of higher education, that involves the participation of one or more law enforcement agencies.

''(C) The policy described in subparagraph (A) shall address the following:

''(i) Procedures students, employees, and others on the campus of the institution will be directed to follow if a law enforcement emergency occurs.

''(ii) Procedures the institution and law enforcement agencies will follow to inform students, employees, and others on the campus of the institution about a law enforcement emergency on the campus and will follow to direct the actions of the students, employees, and others. Such procedures may include e-mail alerts, telephone alerts, text-message alerts, radio announcements, television alerts, audible alert signals, and public address announcements.

''(D) Each institution participating in any program under this title shall test the institution's law enforcement emergency response policy and procedures on at least an annual basis.

''(E) Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make reports to the students, employees, and others on the campus of the institution, not later than 30 minutes after the discovery of a law enforcement emergency on the campus, through the procedures described in subparagraph (C)(ii).

''(F) The Secretary and the Attorney General shall jointly have the authority—

''(i) to review, monitor, and ensure compliance with this paragraph;

''(ii) to advise institutions of higher education on model law enforcement emergency response policies, procedures, and practices; and

''(iii) to disseminate information concerning those policies, procedures, and practices.

''(G) CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—

''(i) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make grants to institutions of higher education or consortia of such institutions, or enter into contracts with such institutions, consortia, and other organizations, to develop, implement, operate, improve, test, or disseminate campus law enforcement emergency response policies, procedures, or programs.

''(ii) AWARDS.—Grants and contracts under this subparagraph shall be awarded—

''(I) on a competitive basis; and

''(II) for a period not to exceed 1 year.

''(iii) APPLICATIONS.—An institution of higher education, a consortium, or an organization that desires to receive a grant or enter into a contract under this subparagraph shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require by regulation.

''(iv) PARTICIPATION.—In awarding grants and contracts under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall make every effort to ensure—

''(I) the equitable participation of institutions of higher education that are eligible to participate in programs under this title;

''(II) the equitable geographic participation of such institutions; and

''(III) the equitable participation of such institutions with large and small enrollments.

''(v) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subparagraph $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.''.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Campus Law Enforcement Emergency Response Act of 2007. This legislation takes several important steps to enhance the security of college and university campuses, including ensuring that schools have created and tested emergency response procedures and notification systems.

We will never forget the tragic events at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, when a mentally ill gunman brutally murdered 32 men and women over a period of several hours. This horrible incident demonstrated the need for colleges and universities to develop and test procedures for responding to emergency situations that pose a large-scale threat to public safety. In the era we live in today, college campuses may be viewed as inviting targets for those who seek to terrorize or kill. We have to be prepared for the possibility of mass-casualty attacks on our college campuses, and we have to be ready to respond to them if they occur.

Many schools in my home State of Illinois and elsewhere have taken measures, both before and after the Virginia Tech shootings, to safeguard against such emergency incidents. However, there are nearly 4,300 colleges and universities in the country, serving over 17 million students and millions more faculty, staff and campus visitors each year. We need to ensure that all of these institutions have effective law enforcement emergency response procedures in place, and we need to provide guidance and assistance for schools that need it.

The Campus Law Enforcement Emergency Response Act would ensure that institutions of higher education meet baseline preparedness and testing requirements for law enforcement emergencies. The bill would expand the focus of the Clery Act, an existing law that requires colleges and universities to issue annual reports on campus crime and crime security measures, to cover ''law enforcement emergency'' situations. The term ''law enforcement emergency'' as defined in the bill would include situations that occur on a college campus that involve a law enforcement response and that pose a potential threat of continuing danger. Such situations would include ''a shooting, the presence of an armed and dangerous person, a bomb threat, the presence of an unauthorized hazardous or toxic material that poses a threat to health and safety, a lock-down, a reverse evacuation, or any other comparable type of incident on the campus . . . that involves the participation of one or more law enforcement agencies.'' Because of the threat of large-scale dangers that these types of emergency incidents pose to the campus community, additional preparations should be made for them.

First, the bill would require higher education institutions to develop and distribute policies regarding the institution's law enforcement emergency response program. These policies would have to specify the procedures students and employees should follow if a law enforcement emergency occurs and the procedures that the school and its partner law enforcement agencies would follow to inform and guide students and employees in case of such an emergency. Under this bill, schools are encouraged to establish notification procedures such as e-mail alerts, telephone alerts, text-message alerts, radio announcements, television alerts, audible alert signals, and public address announcements.

The bill would also require institutions to test their law enforcement emergency response procedures at least annually. Such testing is crucial for ensuring the efficient and effective coordination of law enforcement response activities with the actions of those on campus.

In addition, this legislation would require institutions to provide notice to the campus community through its notification procedures no later than 30 minutes after the discovery of a law enforcement emergency. Many have pointed out that over 2 hours passed between the discovery of the first shootings on the Virginia Tech campus and the initial threat notification to the Virginia Tech community. In the interim period, the Virginia Tech gunman moved across campus and shot many more victims. A 30-minute notification requirement provides enough time for law enforcement agencies to assess an emergency situation and to issue, at minimum, an alert notifying the campus community about the possibility of further danger.

The bill would give the Departments of Education and Justice joint authority to review, monitor, and ensure compliance with the bill's requirements. Given the Department of Justices experience in dealing with law enforcement emergencies, joint authority and coordination with the Department of Education will provide a significant benefit to schools. Additionally, the bill would authorize the Education and Justice Departments to advise schools on model law enforcement emergency response procedures and to disseminate information about these procedures. The bill would further require schools to report statistics on the actual occurrence of law enforcement emergencies at each school.

Finally, the bill would create a competitive grant program, to be administered by the Department of Education, to help institutions develop, implement, operate, improve, test, and disseminate campus law enforcement emergency response programs. The program would be authorized for 5 years, at $5 million for the first year and for such sums as may be necessary thereafter.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech should cause us to reassess numerous laws in an effort to prevent such tragedies from happening in the future. We need to reevaluate the State and Federal laws that allowed a man to purchase guns and ammunition despite a prior determination of mental illness by a court. We need to take a hard look at mental health in this country and to craft policies that identify and provide support for those with signs of mental illness. We must also work to strengthen the security of our primary and secondary schools in order to safeguard against shootings and other dangerous incidents on those school grounds. These issues will be the subject of discussions in the days to come, and enhancing the preparedness of our college campuses for law enforcement emergencies must be a part of those discussions as well.

Sadly, we cannot guarantee that a mass tragedy will never occur again on an American campus. But it is imperative that the Government, law enforcement agencies, and school administrations work together to guard against mass-casualty threats as best we can and to be ready to respond if they occur. The Campus Law Enforcement Emergency Response Act will help ensure that those who live, work, and study at our colleges and universities can do so more safely. I urge the Congress to pass this important and critical legislation.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1230. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit for contributions to qualified tuition programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the College Saver's Credit Act, a bill designed to open the dream of higher education to many more Americans.

Few choices in life have the economic consequence as the decision to enter college. Compare college-educated workers to their high-school-educated peers: those with a college diploma will earn $1 million more over

the course of a lifetime than their peers without one. That million-dollar difference lays bare the power in college access.

And yet there are literally hundreds of thousands of young men and women who want to choose a college education, and cannot. These young men and women are prepared to enter into our college-educated middle class—prepared in intellect, prepared in maturity, prepared in ambition—and are shut out by the cost of tuition.

This year, 400,000 high school seniors whose families have low or moderate incomes will be priced out of college. Of those, nearly 200,000 will never attend college at all. They will lose their chance at higher education, and as a consequence, they will face almost twice the odds of unemployment.

And unless we take action, the number of excluded Americans is only likely to increase. Over the past 10 years, the cost of attending a 4-year public college has increased by more than $2,800, or 96 percent, and the cost of attending a four-year private college has increased by more than $9,000, or 71 percent. These costs continue to rise today.

We must take steps to break down these barriers to access, starting by making it easier for families to save for higher education. The refundable College Saver's Credit created by this act would do just that—even as it boosts personal and national savings, at a time when these rates are setting new lows. It would provide a powerful complement to the other forms of financial aid available to students, which, I might add, we should also continue to work to strengthen.

The College Saver's Credit would be available to low- and moderate-income taxpayers who save in Section 529 college savings plans: specifically, to joint filers making up to $60,000, heads of households making up to $45,000, and all other taxpayers making up to $30,000, with all numbers indexed for inflation. In other words, the credit is designed to provide the greatest benefit to those who have the greatest difficulty affording college.

Taxpayers could claim a 50 percent credit for Section 529 plan contributions, up to a maximum credit of $2,000. The College Saver's Credit would be fully refundable—meaning that even taxpayers who do not make enough money to have a high tax liability would be eligible to claim the credit's full value—provided that the refunded amount is put towards qualified higher educational expenses. Any refund would be deposited directly and automatically into the taxpayer's or taxpayer's beneficiary's designated 529 college savings plan, taking advantage of the IRS's new ''split refund'' option. Funds attributable to refunds from the College Saver's Credit could accumulate earnings tax-free (like the rest of the taxpayer's savings in a 529 plan), but may only be distributed to pay college costs—otherwise, they must be returned to the Treasury.

In his budget this year, President Bush proposed expanding the Saver's Credit for retirement savings to section 529 college savings plans. Establishing the refundable College Saver's Credit would accomplish this goal in a way that provides the greatest value to those Americans who need it most.

And in doing that, this bill accomplishes two worthy, and linked, goals: It encourages Americans to plan and prepare for the future; and it truly widens the doors to college.

Savings and education: They are pillars of our prosperity—prosperity that will grow even as it is shared more widely.

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. 1230

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 ''College Saver's Credit Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. COLLEGE SAVER'S CREDIT.

(a) ALLOWANCE OF REFUNDABLE CREDIT.—Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to refundable credits) is amended by redesignating section 36 as section 37 and by inserting after section 35 the following new section:

''SEC. 36. COLLEGE SAVER'S CREDIT.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an eligible individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to 50 percent of so much of the qualified college savings contributions made during the taxable year as do not exceed $2,000.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) LIMITATION BASED ON MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount which would (but for this paragraph) be taken into account under subsection (a) for the taxable year shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

''(B) AMOUNT OF REDUCTION.—The amount determined under this subparagraph is the amount which bears the same ratio to the amount which would be so taken into account as—

''(i) the excess of—

''(I) the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year, over

''(II) the applicable amount, bears to

''(ii) the phaseout amount.

''(C) APPLICABLE AMOUNT; PHASEOUT AMOUNT.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the applicable amount and the phaseout amount shall be determined as follows:

	The applicable amount is:	The phase out amount is:
In the case of a joint return	$60,000	$10,000
In the case of a head of household	$45,000	$7,500
In any other case	$30,000	$5,000

''(D) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'modified adjusted gross income' means the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for the taxable year increased by any amount excluded from gross income under section 911, 931, or 933.

''(E) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2008, each of the applicable amounts in the second column of the table in subparagraph (C) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2007' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

Any increase determined under the preceding sentence shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $500.

''(2) EARNED INCOME LIMITATION.—The amount of the credit allowable under subsection (a) to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed the earned income (as defined by section 32(c)(2)) of such taxpayer for such taxable year.

''(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible individual' means any individual if such individual has attained the age of 18 as of the close of the taxable year.

''(2) DEPENDENTS NOT ELIGIBLE.—The term 'eligible individual' shall not include any individual with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowed to another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which such individual's taxable year begins.

''(d) QUALIFIED COLLEGE SAVINGS CONTRIBUTIONS.—The term 'qualified college savings contributions' means, with respect to any taxable year, the aggregate contributions made by the taxpayer to any account which—

''(1) is described in section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii),

''(2) is part of a qualified tuition program, and

''(3) is established for the benefit of—

''(A) the taxpayer,

''(B) the taxpayer's spouse, or

''(C) any dependent of the taxpayer with respect to whom the taxpayer is allowed a deduction under section 151.

''(e) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY DEPENDENT.—If a deduction under section 151 with respect to an individual is allowed to another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which such individual's taxable year begins—

''(1) no credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) to such individual for such individual's taxable year, and

''(2) any qualified college savings contributions made by such individual during such taxable year shall be treated for purposes of this section as made by such other taxpayer.''.

(b) REFUNDABLE AMOUNT CREDITED TO QUALIFIED TUITION PLAN.—

(1) TRANSFER OF REFUND TO QUALIFIED TUITION PLANS.—Section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to authority to make credits or refunds) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) SPECIAL RULE FOR OVERPAYMENTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO COLLEGE SAVER'S CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any overpayment attributable to the credit allowed under section 36, the Secretary shall transfer such amount to the qualified tuition program to which the taxpayer made a qualified college savings contribution.

''(2) TRANSFERS TO MORE THAN 1 QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM.—If the taxpayer made qualified college savings contributions to more than 1 qualified tuition program, the

Secretary shall transfer the overpayment described in paragraph (1) to each such qualified tuition program in an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount of such overpayment as—

''(A) the amount of qualified college savings contributions made by such taxpayer to such qualified tuition program, bears to

''(B) the amount of qualified college savings contribution made by such taxpayer to all qualified tuition programs.

''(3) QUALIFIED COLLEGE SAVINGS CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified college savings contribution' has the meaning given such term by section 36(d).''.

(2) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING FOR REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS.—Section 529 of such Code is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

''(f) SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO COLLEGE SAVER'S CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified tuition program unless it provides separate accounting for contributions transferred by the Secretary under section 6402(l) to an account in the program.

''(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR DISTRIBUTION.—In the case of a distribution under a qualified tuition program which includes any amount transferred by the Secretary under section 6402(l) (including any earnings attributable to such amount) and which is includible in gross income, the tax imposed by this chapter on the person receiving such distribution shall be increased by 100 percent of the amount so includible.

''(3) ORDERING RULES.—For purposes of applying this subsection to any distribution from a qualified tuition program—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), such distribution shall be treated as made—

''(i) first from amounts contributed under the program, and

''(ii) second from amounts transferred by the Secretary under section 6402(l).

''(B) EXCEPTION FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.—In the case of a distribution described in subsection (c)(3), such distribution shall be treated as made—

''(i) first from amounts transferred by the Secretary under section 6402(l), and

''(ii) second from other amounts contributed under the program.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end '', or enacted by the College Saver's Credit Act of 2007''.

(2) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item relating to section 36 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 36. College saver's credit.
''Sec. 37. Overpayments of tax.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS TO INDIVIDUALS INVESTING IN QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) FINANCIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified tuition program unless it requires that financial education materials are distributed to individuals participating in the program.''.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Subsection (g) of section 529 of such Code, as redesignated by this Act, is amended by inserting ''and regulations providing guidance on the types of financial education material required to be provided under subsection (b)(7)'' before the period at the end.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. STUDY ON PARTICIPATION IN QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct a study on the participation of individuals in qualified tuition programs under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) MATTER STUDIED.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall consider—

(1) the income and age of individuals participating in qualified tuition programs, and

(2) the amount of fees charged under each qualified tuition program established or maintained by a State (or agency or instrumentality thereof).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

By Mr. REED:

S. 1231. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance teacher training and teacher preparation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Preparing, Recruiting, and Retaining Education Professionals (PRREP) Act to improve education and student achievement through high-quality preparation, induction, and professional development for teachers, early childhood education providers, principals, and administrators.

Improving teacher quality is the single most effective measure we can take to increase student achievement. As Congress turns to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we must ensure that educators receive the training and support necessary to thrive in our nation's early childhood programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools. We have an opportunity to support the development of educators so they not only have the credentials to be considered a ''highly qualified teacher'' under the No Child Left Behind Act, but also the skills and training to be truly effective in the classroom. By strengthening the teacher preparation grants in Title II of the Higher Education Act, my legislation will accomplish both of these important goals.

Teacher attrition undermines teacher quality and creates teacher shortages. According to the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, one-third of beginning teachers leave the profession within three years, and nearly one-half leave within five years. In high poverty schools turnover rates are even worse—approximately one-third higher than the rate for all teachers. The PRREP Act would create a year-long clinical learning experience for prospective teachers, and establish a comprehensive induction program, including high quality mentoring, for new teachers in at least their first two years of teaching. Research consistently shows that induction programs reduce the number of teachers who leave their schools or the profession. Comprehensive induction programs can cut that number by half or more.

Additionally, my legislation strengthens teacher preparation programs so that teachers will reach their maximum potential to positively affect student achievement. A focus on scientific knowledge of effective teaching skills and methods of student learning will equip teachers to understand and respond to diverse student populations, including students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, and students with different learning styles or special learning needs. The legislation also seeks to ensure that teachers have the ability to integrate technology into the classroom, use assessments to improve instructional practices and curriculum, and communicate with and involve parents in their children's education.

My legislation further focuses on teaching skills and learning strategies by including in the partnership grants academic departments such as psychology, human development, or one with comparable expertise in the disciplines of teaching, learning, and child and adolescent development. The PRREP Act also would include early childhood educators for the first time in teacher preparation programs.

Teacher preparation grants under Title II of the Higher Education Act are currently funded at only $60 million a year—far too small of an investment for this critical enterprise. The stakes are too high, not just in terms of meeting the highly qualified requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, but also for real students in real classrooms. My bill significantly boosts this funding, authorizing $500 million for these vital programs.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and work for its inclusion in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this legislation 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. 1231

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 ''Preparing, Recruiting, and Retaining Education Professionals Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES; DEFINITIONS.

Section 201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 201. PURPOSES; DEFINITIONS.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this part are to—

''(1) improve student achievement;

''(2) improve the quality of the current and future teaching force by improving the preparation of prospective teachers and enhancing ongoing professional development activities;

''(3) encourage partnerships among institutions of higher education, early childhood education programs, elementary schools or secondary schools, local educational agencies, State educational agencies, teacher organizations, and nonprofit educational organizations;

''(4) hold institutions of higher education and all other teacher preparation programs (including programs that provide alternative routes to teacher preparation) accountable in an equivalent manner for preparing—

''(A) teachers who have strong teaching skills, are highly qualified, and are trained in the effective uses of technology in the classroom; and

''(B) early childhood education providers who are highly competent;

''(5) recruit and retain qualified individuals, including individuals from other occupations, into the teaching force for early childhood education programs or in elementary schools or secondary schools;

''(6) improve the recruitment, retention, and capacities of principals to provide instructional leadership and to support teachers in maintaining safe and effective learning environments;

''(7) expand the use of research to improve teaching and learning by teachers, early childhood education providers, principals, and faculty; and

''(8) enhance the ability of teachers, early childhood education providers, principals, administrators, and faculty to communicate with, work with, and involve parents in ways that improve student achievement.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this part:

''(1) ARTS AND SCIENCES.—The term 'arts and sciences' means—

''(A) when referring to an organizational unit of an institution of higher education, any academic unit that offers 1 or more academic majors in disciplines or content areas corresponding to the academic subject matter areas in which teachers provide instruction; and

''(B) when referring to a specific academic subject matter area, the disciplines or content areas in which academic majors are offered by the arts and science organizational unit.

''(2) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term 'early childhood education program' means a family child care program, center-based child care program, prekindergarten program, school program, or other out-of-home child care program that is licensed or regulated by the State serving 2 or more unrelated children from birth until school entry, or a Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act or an Early Head Start program carried out under section 645A of that Act.

''(3) EXEMPLARY TEACHER.—The term 'exemplary teacher' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(4) FACULTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'faculty' means individuals in institutions of higher education who are responsible for preparing teachers.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'faculty' includes professors of education and professors in academic disciplines such as the arts and sciences, psychology, and human development.

''(5) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'high-need local educational agency' means a local educational agency that serves an early childhood education program, elementary school, or secondary school located in an area in which—

''(A)(i) 15 percent or more of the students served by the agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line;

''(ii) there are more than 5,000 students served by the agency from families with incomes below the poverty line; or

''(iii) there are less than 600 students in average daily attendance in all the schools that are served by the agency and all of whose schools are designated with a school locale code of 7 or 8, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B)(i) there is a high percentage of teachers who are not highly qualified; or

''(ii) there is a chronic shortage, or annual turnover rate of 20 percent or more, of highly qualified teachers.

''(6) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term 'high-need school' means an early childhood education program, public elementary school, or public secondary school—

''(A)(i) in which there is a high concentration of students from families with incomes below the poverty line; or

''(ii) that, in the case of a public elementary school or public secondary school, is identified as in need of school improvement or corrective action pursuant to section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

''(B) in which there exists—

''(i) in the case of a public elementary school or public secondary school, a persistent and chronic shortage, or annual turnover rate of 20 percent or more, of highly qualified teachers; and

''(ii) in the case of an early childhood education program, a persistent and chronic shortage of early childhood education providers who are highly competent.

''(7) HIGHLY COMPETENT.—The term 'highly competent' when used with respect to an early childhood education provider means a provider—

''(A) with specialized education and training in development and education of young children from birth until entry into kindergarten;

''(B) with—

''(i) a baccalaureate degree in an academic major in the arts and sciences; or

''(ii) an associate's degree in a related educational area; and

''(C) who has demonstrated a high level of knowledge and use of content and pedagogy in the relevant areas associated with quality early childhood education.

''(8) HIGHLY QUALIFIED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'highly qualified' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(B) SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.—When used with respect to a special education teacher, the term 'highly qualified' has the meaning given the term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

''(9) INDUCTION.—The term 'induction' means a formalized program designed to provide support for, improve the professional performance of, and promote the retention in the teaching field of, beginning teachers, and that—

''(A) shall include—

''(i) mentoring;

''(ii) structured collaboration time with teachers in the same department or field;

''(iii) structured meeting time with administrators; and

''(iv) professional development activities; and

''(B) may include—

''(i) reduced teaching loads;

''(ii) support of a teaching aide;

''(iii) orientation seminars; and

''(iv) regular evaluation of the teacher inductee, the mentors, and the overall formalized program.

''(10) MENTORING.—The term 'mentoring' means a process by which a teacher mentor who is an exemplary teacher, either alone or in a team with faculty, provides active support for prospective teachers and new teachers through a system for integrating evidence-based practice, including rigorous, supervised training in high-quality teaching settings. Such support includes activities specifically designed to promote—

''(A) knowledge of the scientific research on, and assessment of, teaching and learning;

''(B) development of teaching skills and skills in evidence-based educational interventions;

''(C) development of classroom management skills;

''(D) a positive role model relationship where academic assistance and exposure to new experiences is provided; and

''(E) ongoing supervision and communication regarding the prospective teacher's development of teaching skills and continued support for the new teacher by the mentor, other teachers, principals, and administrators.

''(11) PARENT.—The term 'parent' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(12) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.—The term 'parental involvement' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(13) POVERTY LINE.—The term 'poverty line' means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

''(14) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'professional development' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDERS.—The term 'professional development' when used with respect to an early childhood education provider means knowledge and skills in all domains of child development (including cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and approaches to learning) and pedagogy of children from birth until entry into kindergarten.

''(15) TEACHING SKILLS.—The term 'teaching skills' means skills—

''(A) grounded in the disciplines of teaching and learning that teachers use to create effective instruction in subject matter content and that lead to student achievement and the ability to apply knowledge; and

''(B) that require an understanding of the learning process itself, including an understanding of—

''(i) the use of teaching strategies specific to the subject matter;

''(ii) the application of ongoing assessment of student learning, particularly for evaluating instructional practices and curriculum;

''(iii) ensuring successful learning for students with individual differences in ability and instructional needs;

''(iv) effective classroom management; and

''(v) effective ways to communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education.''.

SEC. 3. STATE GRANTS.

Section 202 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 202. STATE GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under section 211(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants under this section, on a competitive basis, to eligible States to enable the eligible States to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

''(b) ELIGIBLE STATE.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this part, the term 'eligible State' means—

''(A) a State educational agency; or

''(B) an entity or agency in the State responsible for teacher certification and preparation activities.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—The eligible State shall consult with the Governor, State board of education, State educational agency, State agency for higher education, State agency with responsibility for child care, prekindergarten, or other early childhood education programs, and other State entities that provide professional development and teacher preparation for teachers, as appropriate, with respect to the activities assisted under this section.

''(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to negate or supersede the legal authority under State law of any State agency, State entity, or State public official over programs that are under the jurisdiction of the agency, entity, or official.

''(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible State shall, at the time of the initial grant application, submit an application to the Secretary that—

''(1) meets the requirements of this section and other relevant requirements for States under this title;

''(2) describes how the eligible State intends to use funds provided under this section in accordance with State-identified needs;

''(3) describes the eligible State's plan for continuing the activities carried out with the grant once Federal funding ceases;

''(4) describes how the eligible State will coordinate activities authorized under this section with other Federal, State, and local personnel preparation and professional development programs; and

''(5) contains such other information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

''(d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible State that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to reform teacher preparation requirements, and to ensure that current and future teachers are highly qualified and possess strong teaching skills and knowledge to assess student academic achievement, by carrying out 1 or more of the following activities:

''(1) REFORMS.—Implementing reforms that hold institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs accountable for, and assist such programs in, preparing teachers who have strong teaching skills and are highly qualified or early childhood education providers who are highly competent. Such reforms shall include—

''(A) State program approval requirements regarding curriculum changes by teacher preparation programs that improve teaching skills based on scientific knowledge—

''(i) about the disciplines of teaching and learning, including effective ways to communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education; and

''(ii) about understanding and responding effectively to students with special needs, including students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, students with low literacy levels, and students with different learning styles or other special learning needs;

''(B) State program approval requirements for teacher preparation programs to have in place mechanisms to measure and assess the effectiveness and impact of teacher preparation programs, including on student achievement;

''(C) assurances from institutions that such institutions have a program in place that provides a year-long clinical experience for prospective teachers;

''(D) collecting and using data, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, schools, and local educational agencies, on teacher retention rates, by school, to evaluate and strengthen the effectiveness of the State's teacher support system; and

''(E) developing methods and building capacity for teacher preparation programs to assess the retention rates of the programs' graduates and to use such information for continuous program improvement.

''(2) CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Ensuring the State's teacher certification or licensure requirements are rigorous so that teachers have strong teaching skills and are highly qualified.

''(3) ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO STATE CERTIFICATION.—Carrying out programs that provide prospective teachers with high-quality alternative routes to traditional preparation for teaching and to State certification for well-prepared and qualified prospective teachers, including—

''(A) programs at schools or departments of arts and sciences, schools or departments of education within institutions of higher education, or at nonprofit educational organizations with expertise in producing highly qualified teachers that include instruction in teaching skills;

''(B) a selective means for admitting individuals into such programs;

''(C) providing intensive support, including induction, during the initial teaching experience;

''(D) establishing, expanding, or improving alternative routes to State certification of teachers for qualified individuals, including mid-career professionals from other occupations, paraprofessionals, former military personnel and recent college graduates with records of academic distinction, that have a proven record of effectiveness and that ensure that current and future teachers possess strong teaching skills and are highly qualified; and

''(E) providing support in the disciplines of teaching and learning to ensure that prospective teachers—

''(i) have an understanding of evidence-based effective teaching practices;

''(ii) have knowledge of student learning methods; and

''(iii) possess strong teaching skills, including effective ways to communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education.

''(4) STATE CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY.—Establishing and promoting reciprocity of certification or licensing between or among States for general and special education teachers and principals, except that no reciprocity agreement developed pursuant to this paragraph or developed using funds provided under this part may lead to the weakening of any State certification or licensing requirement that is shown through evidence-based research to ensure teacher and principal quality and student achievement.

''(5) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.—Developing and implementing effective mechanisms to ensure that local educational agencies, schools, and early childhood program providers are able to effectively recruit and retain highly qualified teachers, highly competent early childhood education providers, and principals, and provide access to ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers, early childhood education providers, and principals, including activities described in subsections (d) and (e) of section 204.

''(6) SOCIAL PROMOTION.—Development and implementation of efforts to address the problem of social promotion and to prepare teachers, principals, administrators, and parents to effectively address the issues raised by ending the practice of social promotion.''.

SEC. 4. PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.

Section 203 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1023) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 203. PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.

''(a) GRANTS.—From amounts made available under section 211(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants under this section, on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to enable the eligible partnerships to carry out the activities described in subsections (d) and (e).

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—In this part, the term 'eligible partnership' means an entity that—

''(A) shall include—

''(i) a partner institution;

''(ii) a school or department of arts and sciences within the partner institution under clause (i);

''(iii) a school or department of education within the partner institution under clause (i);

''(iv)(I) a department of psychology within the partner institution under clause (i);

''(II) a department of human development within the partner institution under clause (i); or

''(III) a department with comparable expertise in the disciplines of teaching, learning, and child and adolescent development within the partner institution under clause (i);

''(v) a high-need local educational agency; and

''(vi)(I) a high-need school served by the high-need local educational agency under clause (v); or

''(II) a consortium of schools of the high-need local educational agency under clause (v); and

''(B) may include a Governor, State educational agency, the State board of education, the State agency for higher education, an institution of higher education not described in subparagraph (A) (including a community college), a public charter school, other public elementary school or secondary school, a combination or network of urban, suburban, or rural schools, a public or private nonprofit educational organization, a business, a teacher organization, or an early childhood education program.

''(2) PARTNER INSTITUTION.—In this section, the term 'partner institution' means a private independent or State-supported public institution of higher education, or a consortium of such institutions, that has not been designated under section 208(a) and the teacher preparation program of which demonstrates that—

''(A) graduates from the teacher preparation program who intend to enter the field of teaching exhibit strong performance on State-determined qualifying assessments and are highly qualified; or

''(B) the teacher preparation program requires all the students of the program to participate in intensive clinical experience, to meet high academic standards, to possess strong teaching skills, and—

''(i) in the case of prospective elementary school and secondary school teachers, to become highly qualified; and

''(ii) in the case of prospective early childhood education providers, to become highly competent.

''(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible partnership desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each such application shall—

''(1) contain a needs assessment of all the partners with respect to the preparation, ongoing training, and professional development of early childhood education providers, general and special education teachers, and principals, the extent to which the program prepares new teachers with strong teaching skills, a description of how the partnership will coordinate strategies and activities with other teacher preparation or professional development programs, and how the activities of the partnership will be consistent with State, local, and other education reform activities that promote student achievement and parental involvement;

''(2) contain a resource assessment that describes the resources available to the partnership, including the integration of funds from other related sources, the intended use of the grant funds, including a description of how the grant funds will be fairly distributed in accordance with subsection (f), and the commitment of the resources of the partnership to the activities assisted under this part, including financial support, faculty participation, time commitments, and continuation of the activities when the grant ends;

''(3) contain a description of—

''(A) how the partnership will meet the purposes of this part, in accordance with the needs assessment required under paragraph (1);

''(B) how the partnership will carry out the activities required under subsection (d) and any permissible activities under subsection (e) based on the needs identified in paragraph (1) with the goal of improving student achievement;

''(C) the partnership's evaluation plan pursuant to section 206(b);

''(D) how faculty at the partner institution will work with, over the term of the grant, principals and teachers in the classrooms of the high-need local educational agency included in the partnership;

''(E) how the partnership will enhance the instructional leadership and management skills of principals and provide effective support for principals, including new principals;

''(F) how the partnership will design, implement, or enhance a year-long, rigorous, and enriching preservice clinical program component;

''(G) the in-service professional development strategies and activities to be supported; and

''(H) how the partnership will collect, analyze, and use data on the retention of all teachers, early childhood education providers, or principals in schools located in the geographic areas served by the partnership to evaluate the effectiveness of its educator support system;

''(4) contain a certification from the partnership that it has reviewed the application and determined that the grant proposed will comply with subsection (f);

''(5) include, for the residency program described in subsection (d)(3)—

''(A) a demonstration that the schools and departments within the institution of higher education that are part of the residency program have relevant and essential roles in the effective preparation of teachers, including content expertise and expertise in the science of teaching and learning;

''(B) a demonstration of capability and commitment to evidence-based teaching and accessibility to, and involvement of, faculty documented by professional development offered to staff and documented experience with university collaborations;

''(C) a description of how the residency program will design and implement an induction period to support all new teachers through not less than the first 2 years of teaching in the further development of their teaching skills, including use of mentors who are trained and compensated by such program for their work with new teachers; and

''(D) a description of how faculty involved in the residency program will be able to substantially participate in an early childhood education program or an elementary or secondary classroom setting, including release time and receiving workload credit for their participation; and

''(6) include an assurance that the partnership has mechanisms in place to measure and assess the effectiveness and impact of the activities to be undertaken, including on student achievement.

''(d) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out the following activities, as applicable to teachers, early childhood education providers, or principals, in accordance with the needs assessment required under subsection (c)(1):

''(1) REFORMS.—Implementing reforms within teacher preparation programs, where needed, to hold the programs accountable for preparing teachers who are highly qualified or early childhood education providers who are highly competent and for promoting strong teaching skills, including integrating reliable evidence-based teaching methods into the curriculum, which curriculum shall include parental involvement training and programs designed to successfully integrate technology into teaching and learning. Such reforms shall include—

''(A) teacher preparation program curriculum changes that improve, and assess how well all new teachers develop, teaching skills;

''(B) use of scientific knowledge about the disciplines of teaching and learning so that all prospective teachers—

''(i) understand evidence-based teaching practices;

''(ii) have knowledge of student learning methods; and

''(iii) possess teaching skills that enable them to meet the learning needs of all students;

''(C) assurances that all teachers have a sufficient base of scientific knowledge to understand and respond effectively to students with special needs, such as providing instruction to diverse student populations, including students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, students with low literacy levels, and students with different learning styles or other special learning needs;

''(D) assurances that the most recent scientifically based research, including research relevant to particular fields of teaching, is incorporated into professional development activities used by faculty; and

''(E) working with and involving parents in their children's education to improve the academic achievement of their children and in the teacher preparation program reform process.

''(2) CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND INTERACTION.—Developing and providing sustained and high-quality preservice clinical education programs to further develop the teaching skills of all general education teachers and special education teachers, at schools within the partnership, at the school or department of education within the partner institution, or at evidence-based practice school settings. Such programs shall—

''(A) incorporate a year-long, rigorous, and enriching activity or combination of activities, including—

''(i) clinical learning opportunities;

''(ii) field experiences; and

''(iii) supervised practice; and

''(B) be offered over the course of a program of preparation and coursework (that may be developed as a 5th year of a teacher preparation program) for prospective general and special education teachers, including mentoring in instructional skills, classroom management skills, collaboration skills, and strategies to effectively assess student progress and achievement, and substantially increasing closely supervised interaction between faculty and new and experienced teachers, principals, and other administrators at early childhood education programs, elementary schools, or secondary schools, and providing support, including preparation time and release time, for such interaction.

''(3) RESIDENCY PROGRAMS FOR NEW TEACHERS.—Creating a residency program that provides an induction period for all new general education and special education teachers for not less than such teachers' first 2 years. Such program shall promote the integration of the science of teaching and learning in the classroom, provide high-quality induction opportunities (including mentoring), provide opportunities for the dissemination of evidence-based research on educational practices, and provide for opportunities to engage in professional development activities offered through professional associations of educators. Such program shall draw directly upon the expertise of teacher mentors, faculty, and researchers that involves their active support in providing a setting for integrating evidence-based practice for prospective teachers, including rigorous, supervised training in high-quality teaching settings that promotes the following:

''(A) Knowledge of the scientific research on teaching and learning.

''(B) Development of skills in evidence-based educational interventions.

''(C) Faculty who model the integration of research and practice in the classroom, and the effective use and integration of technology.

''(D) Interdisciplinary collaboration among exemplary teachers, faculty, researchers, and other staff who prepare new teachers on the learning process and the assessment of learning.

''(E) A forum for information sharing among prospective teachers, teachers, principals, administrators, and participating faculty in the partner institution.

''(F) Application of scientifically based research on teaching and learning generated by entities such as the Institute of Education Sciences and by the National Research Council.

''(4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Creating opportunities for enhanced and ongoing professional development for experienced general education and special education teachers, early childhood education providers, principals, administrators, and faculty that—

''(A) improves the academic content knowledge, as well as knowledge to assess student academic achievement and how to use the results of such assessments to improve instruction, of teachers in the subject matter or academic content areas in which the teachers are certified to teach or in which the teachers are working toward certification to teach;

''(B) promotes strong teaching skills and an understanding of how to apply scientific knowledge about teaching and learning to their teaching practice and to their ongoing classroom assessment of students;

''(C) provides mentoring, team teaching, reduced class schedules, and intensive professional development;

''(D) encourages and supports training of teachers, principals, and administrators to effectively use and integrate technology—

''(i) into curricula and instruction, including training to improve the ability to collect, manage, and analyze data to improve teaching, decisionmaking, school improvement efforts, and accountability; and

''(ii) to enhance learning by children, including students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, students with low literacy levels, and students with different learning styles or other special learning needs;

''(E) offers teachers, principals, and administrators training on how to effectively communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education;

''(F) creates an ongoing retraining loop for experienced teachers, principals, and administrators, whereby the residency program activities and practices—

''(i) inform the research of faculty and other researchers; and

''(ii) translate evidence-based research findings into improved practice techniques and improved teacher preparation programs; and

''(G) includes the rotation, for varying periods of time, of experienced teachers—

''(i) who are associated with the partnership to early childhood education programs, elementary schools, or secondary schools not associated with the partnership in order to enable such experienced teachers to act as a resource for all teachers in the local educational agency or State; and

''(ii) who are not associated with the partnership to early childhood education programs, elementary schools, or secondary schools associated with the partnership in order to enable such experienced teachers to observe how teaching and professional development occurs in the partnership.

''(5) SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR PARTICIPANTS.—Providing support and training for those individuals participating in the required activities under paragraphs (1) through (4) who serve as role models or mentors for prospective, new, and experienced teachers, based on such individuals' experience. Such support—

''(A) also may be provided to the preservice clinical experience participants, as appropriate; and

''(B) may include—

''(i) release time for such individual's participation;

''(ii) receiving course workload credit and compensation for time teaching in the partnership activities; and

''(iii) stipends.

''(6) LEADERSHIP AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Developing and implementing proven mechanisms to provide principals, superintendents, early childhood education program directors, and administrators (and mentor teachers, as practicable) with—

''(i) an understanding of the skills and behaviors that contribute to effective instructional leadership and the maintenance of a safe and effective learning environment;

''(ii) teaching and assessment skills needed to support successful classroom teaching;

''(iii) an understanding of how students learn and develop in order to increase achievement for all students; and

''(iv) the skills to effectively involve parents.

''(B) MECHANISMS.—The mechanisms developed and implemented pursuant to subparagraph (A) may include any of the following:

''(i) Mentoring of new principals.

''(ii) Field-based experiences, supervised practica, or internship opportunities.

''(iii) Other activities to expand the knowledge base and practical skills of principals, superintendents, early childhood education program directors, and administrators (and mentor teachers, as practicable).

''(e) ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section may use such funds to carry out the following activities:

''(1) DISSEMINATION AND COORDINATION.—Broadly disseminating information on effective practices used by the partnership, including teaching strategies and interactive materials for developing skills in classroom management and assessment and how to respond to individual student needs, abilities, and backgrounds, to early childhood education providers and teachers in elementary schools or secondary schools that are not associated with the partnership. Coordinating with the activities of the Governor, State board of education, State higher education agency, and State educational agency, as appropriate.

''(2) CURRICULUM PREPARATION.—Supporting preparation time for early childhood education providers, teachers in elementary schools or secondary schools, and faculty to jointly design and implement teacher preparation curricula, classroom experiences, and ongoing professional development opportunities that promote the acquisition and continued growth of teaching skills.

''(3) COMMUNICATION SKILLS.—Developing strategies and curriculum-based professional development activities to enhance prospective teachers' communication skills with students, parents, colleagues, and other education professionals.

''(4) COORDINATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Coordinating with other institutions of higher education, including community colleges, to implement teacher preparation programs that support prospective teachers in obtaining baccalaureate degrees and State certification or licensure.

''(5) TEACHER RECRUITMENT.—Activities described in subsections (d) and (e) of section 204.

''(6) PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.—Developing, for teacher preparation program improvement purposes, methods and infrastructure to assess retention rates in the teaching field of teacher preparation program graduates and the achievement outcomes of such graduates' students.

''(f) SPECIAL RULE.—No individual member of an eligible partnership shall retain more than 50 percent of the funds made available to the partnership under this section.

''(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an eligible partnership from using grant funds to coordinate with the activities of more than 1 Governor, State board of education, State educational agency, local educational agency, or State agency for higher education.''.

SEC. 5. RECRUITMENT GRANTS.

Section 204 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1024) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 204. RECRUITMENT GRANTS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made available under section 211(3) for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to enable the eligible applicants to carry out activities described in subsections (d) and (e).

''(b) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—In this part, the term 'eligible applicant' means—

''(1) an eligible State described in section 202(b) that has—

''(A) high teacher shortages or annual turnover rates; or

''(B) high teacher shortages or annual turnover rates of 20 percent or more in high-need local educational agencies; or

''(2) an eligible partnership described in section 203(b) that—

''(A) serves not less than 1 high-need local educational agency with high teacher shortages or annual turnover rates of 20 percent or more;

''(B) serves schools that demonstrate great difficulty meeting State challenging academic content standards; or

''(C) demonstrates great difficulty meeting the requirement that teachers be highly qualified.

''(c) APPLICATION.—Any eligible applicant desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(1) a description of the assessment that the eligible applicant, and the other entities with whom the eligible applicant will carry out the grant activities, have undertaken to determine the most critical needs of the participating high-need local educational agencies;

''(2) a description of how the eligible applicant will recruit and retain highly qualified teachers or other qualified individuals, including principals and early childhood education providers, or both, who are enrolled in, accepted to, or plan to participate in teacher preparation programs or professional development activities, as described under section 203, in geographic areas of greatest need, including data on the retention rate, by school, of all teachers in schools located within the geographic areas served by the eligible applicant;

''(3) a description of the activities the eligible applicant will carry out with the grant; and

''(4) a description of the eligible applicant's plan for continuing the activities carried out with the grant once Federal funding ceases.

''(d) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds—

''(1)(A) to award scholarships to help students pay the costs of tuition, room, board, and other expenses of completing a teacher preparation program;

''(B) to provide support services, if needed, to enable scholarship recipients to complete postsecondary education programs;

''(C) for followup services (including induction opportunities, mentoring, and professional development activities) provided to former scholarship recipients during not less than the recipients' first 2 years of teaching; and

''(D) in the case where the eligible applicant also receives a grant under section 203, for support and training for mentor teachers who participate in the residency program; or

''(2) to develop and implement effective mechanisms, including a professional development system and career ladders, to ensure that high-need local educational agencies, high-need schools, and early childhood education programs are able to effectively recruit and retain highly competent early childhood education providers, highly qualified teachers, and principals.

''(e) ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under this section may use the grant funds to carry out the following:

''(1) OUTREACH.—Conducting outreach and coordinating with urban and rural secondary schools to encourage students to pursue teaching as a career.

''(2) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMPENSATION.—For eligible applicants focusing on early childhood education, implementing initiatives that increase compensation of

early childhood education providers who attain degrees in early childhood education.

''(3) PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.—Developing, for teacher preparation program improvement purposes, methods and infrastructure to assess retention rates in the teaching field of teacher preparation program graduates and the achievement outcomes of such graduates' students.

''(f) SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish such requirements as the Secretary finds necessary to ensure that recipients of scholarships under this section who complete teacher education programs subsequently teach in a high-need local educational agency, for a period of time equivalent to the period for which the recipients receive scholarship assistance, or repay the amount of the scholarship. The Secretary shall use any such repayments to carry out additional activities under this section.''.

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 205 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1025) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''**ONE-TIME AWARDS;**'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) COMPOSITION OF PANEL.—The peer review panel shall be composed of experts who are competent, by virtue of their training, expertise, or experience, to evaluate applications for grants under this part. A majority of the panel shall be composed of individuals who are not employees of the Federal Government.'';

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) EVALUATION AND PRIORITY.—The peer review panel shall evaluate the applicants' proposals to improve the current and future teaching force through program and certification reforms, teacher preparation program activities (including implementation and assessment strategies), and professional development activities described in sections 202, 203, and 204, as appropriate. In recommending applications to the Secretary for funding under this part, the peer review panel shall—

''(A) with respect to grants under section 202, give priority to eligible States that—

''(i) have initiatives to reform State program approval requirements for teacher preparation programs that are designed to ensure that current and future teachers are highly qualified and possess strong teaching skills, knowledge to assess student academic achievement, and the ability to use this information in such teachers' classroom instruction;

''(ii) include innovative reforms to hold institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs accountable for preparing teachers who are highly qualified and have strong teaching skills; or

''(iii) involve the development of innovative efforts aimed at reducing the shortage of—

''(I) highly qualified teachers in high-poverty urban and rural areas; and

''(II) highly qualified teachers in fields with persistently high teacher shortages, including special education;

''(B) with respect to grants under section 203—

''(i) give priority to applications from eligible partnerships that involve broad participation within the community, including businesses; and

''(ii) take into consideration—

''(I) providing an equitable geographic distribution of the grants throughout the United States; and

''(II) the potential of the proposed activities for creating improvement and positive change; and

''(C) with respect to grants under section 204, give priority to eligible applicants that have in place, or in progress, articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education and nonprofit providers of professional development with demonstrated experience in professional development activities.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS.—The Secretary may use available funds appropriated to carry out this part to pay the expenses and fees of peer review panel members who are not employees of the Federal Government.''; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than $500,000 or 0.75 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this title for such fiscal year, whichever amount is greater, to provide technical assistance to States and partnerships receiving grants under this part.''.

SEC. 7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION.

Section 206 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1026) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Committee on Labor and Human Resources'' and inserting ''Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions''; and

(ii) by striking ''Committee on Education and the Workforce'' and inserting ''Committee on Education and Labor'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking '', including,'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''as a highly qualified teacher.'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''highly''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''that meet the same standards and criteria of State certification or licensure programs.'';

(D) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) TEACHER AND PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.—

''(A) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSES.—Increasing the percentage of elementary school and secondary school classes taught by teachers—

''(i) who have strong teaching skills and are highly qualified;

''(ii) who have completed preparation programs that provide such teachers with the scientific knowledge about the disciplines of teaching, learning, and child and adolescent development so the teachers understand and use evidence-based teaching skills to meet the learning needs of all students; or

''(iii) who have completed a residency program through not less than their first 2 years of teaching that includes mentoring by faculty who are trained and compensated for their work with new teachers.

''(B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Increasing the percentage of classrooms in early childhood education programs taught by providers who are highly competent.'';

(E) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) DECREASING SHORTAGES.—Decreasing shortages of—

''(A) qualified teachers and principals in poor urban and rural areas; and

''(B) qualified teachers in fields with persistently high teacher shortages, including special education.''; and

(F) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Increasing opportunities for enhanced and ongoing professional development that—

''(A) improves—

''(i) the knowledge and skills of early childhood education providers;

''(ii) the knowledge of teachers in special education;

''(iii) the knowledge of general education teachers, principals, and administrators about special education content and instructional practices;

''(iv) the knowledge and skills to assess student academic achievement and use the results of such assessments to improve instruction;

''(v) the knowledge of subject matter or academic content areas—

''(I) in which the teachers are certified or licensed to teach; or

''(II) in which the teachers are working toward certification or licensure to teach; or

''(vi) the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education;

''(B) promotes strong teaching skills and an understanding of how to apply scientific knowledge about teaching and learning to teachers' teaching practice and to teachers' ongoing classroom assessment of students; and

''(C) provides enhanced instructional leadership and management skills for principals.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''for'' and inserting ''for teachers, early childhood education providers, or principals, as appropriate, according to the needs assessment required under section 203(c)(1), for''; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting the following:

''(1) increased demonstration by program graduates of teaching skills grounded in scientific knowledge about the disciplines of teaching and learning;

''(2) increased student achievement for all students as measured by the partnership, including mechanisms to measure student achievement due to the specific activities conducted by the partnership;

''(3) increased teacher retention in the first 3 years of a teacher's career based, in part, on teacher retention data collected as described in section 203(c)(3)(H);

''(4) increased success in the pass rate for initial State certification or licensure of teachers;

''(5) increased percentage of elementary school and secondary school classes taught by teachers who are highly qualified;

''(6) increased percentage of early childhood education program classes taught by providers who are highly competent;

''(7) increased percentage of early childhood education programs and elementary school and secondary school classes taught by providers and teachers who demonstrate clinical judgment, communication, and problem-solving skills resulting from participation in a residency program;

''(8) increased percentage of highly qualified special education teachers;

''(9) increased number of general education teachers trained in working with students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, and students with different learning styles or other special learning needs;

''(10) increased number of teachers trained in technology; and

''(11) increased number of teachers, early childhood education providers, or principals prepared to work effectively with parents.''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting '', with particular attention to the reports and evaluations provided by the eligible States and eligible partnerships pursuant to this section,'' after ''funded under this part'';

(B) by striking ''Committee on Labor and Human Resources'' and inserting ''Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions''; and

(C) by striking ''Committee on Education and the Workforce'' and inserting ''Committee on Education and Labor''.

SEC. 8. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE TEACHERS.

Section 207 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1027) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(3) in subsection (a), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking '', within 2 years'' and all that follows through ''the following'' and inserting '', on an annual basis and in a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with the definitions and reporting methods previously developed for teacher preparation programs by the Commissioner for Education Statistics, a State report card on the quality of teacher preparation in the State, which shall include not less than the following'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''teaching candidates'' and inserting ''prospective teachers''; and

(ii) by striking ''candidate'' and inserting ''prospective teacher'';

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking ''teaching candidates'' and inserting ''prospective teachers'';

(ii) by striking ''teacher candidate'' and inserting ''prospective teacher''; and

(iii) by striking ''candidate's'' and inserting ''teacher's'';

(D) in paragraph (7), by inserting ''how the State has ensured that the alternative certification routes meet the same State standards and criteria for teacher certification or licensure,'' after ''if any,''; and

(E) in paragraph (8)—

(i) by striking ''teacher candidate'' and inserting ''prospective teacher''; and

(ii) by inserting ''(including the ability to provide instruction to diverse student populations (including students with disabilities, limited-English proficient students, and students with different learning styles or other special learning needs) and the ability to effectively communicate with, work with, and involve parents in their children's education)'' after ''skills'';

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) Information on the extent to which teachers or prospective teachers in each State are prepared to work in partnership with parents and involve parents in their children's education.'';

(4) in subsection (b)(1), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''not later than 6 months of the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and'';

(B) by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)'';

(C) by striking ''Committee on Labor and Human Resources'' and inserting ''Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions'';

(D) by striking ''Committee on Education and the Workforce'' and inserting ''Committee on Education and Labor''; and

(E) by striking ''not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998'';

(5) in subsection (c)(1), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''(9) of subsection (b)'' and inserting ''(10) of subsection (a)''; and

(B) by striking ''and made available not later than 2 years 6 months after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and annually thereafter'' and inserting '', and made available annually''; and

(6) in subsection (e)(1), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and annually thereafter, shall report'' and inserting ''shall report annually''; and

(B) by striking ''methods established under subsection (a)'' and inserting ''reporting methods developed for teacher preparation programs''.

SEC. 9. STATE FUNCTIONS.

Section 208 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1028) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking '', not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998,'';

(B) by inserting ''and within entities providing alternative routes to teacher preparation'' after ''institutions of higher education'';

(C) by inserting ''and entities'' after ''low-performing institutions'';

(D) by inserting ''and entities'' after ''those institutions''; and

(E) by striking ''207(b)'' and inserting ''207(a)'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) TEACHER QUALITY PLAN.—In order to receive funds under this Act, a State shall submit a State teacher quality plan that—

''(1) details how such funds will ensure that all teachers are highly qualified; and

''(2) indicates whether each teacher preparation program in the State that has not been designated as low-performing under subsection (a) is of sufficient quality to meet all State standards and produce highly qualified teachers with the teaching skills needed to teach effectively in the schools of the State.'';

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of Education''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''of this Act''; and

(5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)(2)''.

SEC. 10. ACADEMIES FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE.

Part A of title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 210 as section 211; and

(2) by inserting after section 209 the following:

''SEC. 210. ACADEMIES FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made available under subsection (e), the Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to create Academies for Faculty Excellence.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible entity' means a consortium composed of institutions of higher education that—

''(A) award doctoral degrees in education; and

''(B) are partner institutions (as such term is defined in section 203).

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'eligible entity' may include the following:

''(A) Institutions of higher education that—

''(i) do not award doctoral degrees in education; and

''(ii) are partner institutions (as such term is defined in section 203).

''(B) Nonprofit entities with expertise in preparing highly qualified teachers.

''(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(1) a description of how the eligible entity will provide professional development that is grounded in scientifically based research to faculty;

''(2) evidence that the eligible entity is well versed in current scientifically based research related to teaching and learning across content areas and fields;

''(3) a description of the assessment that the eligible entity will undertake to determine the most critical needs of the faculty who will be served by the Academies for Faculty Excellence; and

''(4) a description of the activities the eligible entity will carry out with grant funds received under this section, how the entity will include faculty in the activities, and how the entity will conduct these activities in collaboration with programs and projects that receive Federal funds from the Institute of Education Sciences.

''(d) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to enhance the caliber of teaching undertaken in preparation programs for teachers, early childhood education providers, and principals and other administrators through the establishment and maintenance of a postdoctoral system of professional development by carrying out the following:

''(1) RECRUITMENT.—Recruit a faculty of experts who are knowledgeable about scientifically based research related to teaching and learning, who have direct experience working with teachers and students in school settings, who are capable of implementing scientifically based research to improve teaching practice and student achievement in school settings, and who are capable of providing professional development to faculty and others responsible for preparing teachers, early childhood education providers, principals, and administrators.

''(2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULA.—Develop a series of professional development curricula to be used by the Academies for Faculty Excellence and disseminated broadly to teacher preparation programs nationwide.

''(3) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES.—Support the development of a range of ongoing professional development experiences (including the use of the Internet) for faculty to ensure that such faculty are knowledgeable about effective evidence-based practice in teaching and learning. Such experiences shall promote joint faculty activities that link content and pedagogy.

''(4) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—Provide fellowships, scholarships, and stipends for teacher educators to participate in various faculty development programs offered by the Academies for Faculty Excellence.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for fiscal

year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 211 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1030), as redesignated by section 10, is amended—

(1) by striking ''part $300,000,000 for fiscal year 1999'' and inserting ''part, other than section 210, $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2008'';

(2) by striking ''4 succeeding'' and inserting ''5 succeeding'';

(3) in paragraph (1), by striking ''45'' and inserting ''20'';

(4) in paragraph (2), by striking ''45'' and inserting ''60''; and

(5) in paragraph (3), by striking ''10'' and inserting ''20''.

By Mr. DODD:

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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007. Food allergies are an increasing food safety and public health concern in this country, especially among young children. I know firsthand just how frightening food allergies can be in a young person's life. My own family has been personally touched by this troubling condition and we continue to struggle with it each and every day. Sadly, there is no cure for food allergies.

In the past 5 years, the number of Americans with food allergies has nearly doubled from 6 million to almost 12 million. While food allergies were at one time considered relatively infrequent, today they rank 3rd among common chronic diseases in children under 18 years of age. Peanuts are among several allergenic foods that can produce life threatening allergic reactions in susceptible children. Peanut allergies have doubled among school age children from 1997–2002.

Clearly, food allergies are of great concern for school age children nationwide, and yet, there are no federal guidelines concerning the management of life threatening food allergies in our Nation's schools.

I have heard from parents, teachers and school administrators that students with severe food allergies often face inconsistent food allergy management approaches when they change schools. Too often, families are not aware of the food allergy policy at their children's school, or the policy is vastly different from the one they knew at their previous school, and they are left wondering whether their child is safe.

Recently, Connecticut became the first State to enact school-based guidelines concerning food allergies and the prevention of life threatening incidents in schools. I am very proud of these efforts, and I know that the parents of children who suffer from food allergies in Connecticut have confidence that their children are safe throughout the school day. States such as Massachusetts and Tennessee have enacted similar guidelines and Vermont, New Jersey, Arizona, Michigan and New York have either passed or have pending legislation to enact statewide guidelines. But too many States across the country have food allergy management guidelines that are inconsistent from one school district to the next. The result is a patchwork of guidelines that not only may vary from state to state, but also from school district to school district.

In my view, this lack of consistency underscores the need for enactment of uniform Federal policies that school districts can choose to adopt and implement. For this reason, I am introducing the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007 today to address the growing need for uniform and consistent school-based food allergy management policy. The bill I am introducing today closely mirrors legislation I introduced last Congress with former Senator Frist. I thank him for his past leadership and commitment to this important legislation.

The legislation does two things. First, it directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop and make available voluntary food allergy management guidelines for preventing exposure to food allergens and assuring a prompt response when a student suffers a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction. The guidelines developed by the Secretary are voluntary, not mandatory. Under the legislation, each school district across the country can voluntarily choose to implement these guidelines. The intent of the legislation is not to mandate individual school policy, but rather to provide for consistency of policies relating to school-based food allergy management by providing schools with consistent guidelines at the Federal level.

Second, the bill provides for incentive grants to school districts to assist them with adoption and implementation of the federal government's allergy management guidelines in all K–12 public schools.

I would like to recognize the leadership of Congresswoman NITA LOWEY who is introducing companion legislation today in the House of Representatives. She has been a longstanding champion for children and for awareness of the devastating impact of food allergies. I also wish to acknowledge and offer my sincere appreciation to the members of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network for their commitment to this legislation and for raising public awareness, providing advocacy, and advancing research on behalf of all individuals who suffer from food allergies.

This legislation is supported by the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. I ask unanimous consent that letters of support from these organizations be printed in the RECORD.

I hope that my colleagues in the Senate and in the House will consider and pass this important legislation before the end of the year so that the Department of Health and Human Services can begin work on developing national guidelines as soon as possible. Schoolchildren across the country deserve nothing less than a safe and healthy learning environment.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY,
ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2007.

Hon. CHRIS DODD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) to express our strong support for your legislation, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007, which would make available to schools appropriate guidelines for the management of students with food allergy who are at risk of anaphylactic shock. The AAAAI is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education.

The number of schoolchildren with food allergies has increased dramatically in recent years. The policy developed under your bill would assist schools in preventing exposure to food allergens and assuring a prompt response when a child suffers a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction.

Strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction as there is no cure for food allergy. Fatalities from anaphylaxis often result from delayed administration of epinephrine. The importance of managing life-threatening food allergies in the school setting has been recognized by our own organization as well as the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology applauds your efforts to address the need to assist schools with the policies and information needed to improve the management of children with food allergy and avoid life-threatening reactions. We are pleased to endorse your legislation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS B. CASALE, *President.*

THE FOOD ALLERGY
& ANAPHYLAXIS NETWORK,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2007.

Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: On behalf of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), I write to express strong support for the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007. This important piece of legislation directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines for schools to

prevent exposure to food allergens and assure a prompt response when a child suffers a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction.

FAAN was established in 1991 to raise public awareness, provide advocacy and education, and advance research on behalf of the more than 12 million Americans affected by food allergies and anaphylaxis. FAAN has nearly 30,000 members worldwide, including families, dietitians, nurses, physicians, and school staff as well as representatives of government agencies and the food and pharmaceutical industries.

An estimated 2 million school age children suffer from food allergies, for which there is no cure. Avoiding any and all products with allergy-causing ingredients is the only way to prevent potentially life-threatening reactions for our children. Reactions often occur at school including severe anaphylaxis, which can kill within minutes unless epinephrine (adrenaline) is administered. Deaths from anaphylaxis are usually a result of delayed administration of epinephrine. Nevertheless, there are no current, standardized guidelines to help schools safely manage students with the disease.

The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network applauds your effort to address the seriousness of food allergies and create a safe learning environment for those children who deal with these issues on a daily basis. We are pleased to endorse your legislation.

Sincerely,

ANNE MUNOZ FURLONG,
Founder and CEO.

S. 1232

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 ''Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Food allergy is an increasing food safety and public health concern in the United States, especially among students.

(2) Peanut allergy doubled among children from 1997 to 2002.

(3) In a 2004 survey of 400 elementary school nurses, 37 percent reported having at least 10 students with severe food allergies and 62 percent reported having at least 5.

(4) Forty-four percent of the elementary school nurses surveyed reported that the number of students in their school with food allergy had increased over the past 5 years, while only 2 percent reported a decrease.

(5) In a 2001 study of 32 fatal food-allergy induced anaphylactic reactions (the largest study of its kind to date), more than half (53 percent) of the individuals were aged 18 or younger.

(6) Eight foods account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soy.

(7) Currently, there is no cure for food allergies; strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent a reaction.

(8) Anaphylaxis is a systemic allergic reaction that can kill within minutes.

(9) Food-allergic reactions are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting, accounting for an estimated 30,000 emergency room visits, 2,000 hospitalizations, and 150 to 200 deaths each year in the United States.

(10) Fatalities from anaphylaxis are associated with a delay in the administration of epinephrine (adrenaline), or when epinephrine was not administered at all. In a study of 13 food allergy-induced anaphylactic reactions in school-age children (6 fatal and 7 near fatal), only 2 of the children who died received epinephrine within 1 hour of ingesting the allergen, and all but 1 of the children who survived received epinephrine within 30 minutes.

(11) The importance of managing life-threatening food allergies in the school setting has been recognized by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and the National Association of School Nurses.

(12) There are no Federal guidelines concerning the management of life-threatening food allergies in the school setting.

(13) Three-quarters of the elementary school nurses surveyed reported developing their own training guidelines.

(14) Relatively few schools actually employ a full-time school nurse. Many are forced to cover more than 1 school, and are often in charge of hundreds if not thousands of students.

(15) Parents of students with severe food allergies often face entirely different food allergy management approaches when their students change schools or school districts.

(16) In a study of food allergy reactions in schools and day-care settings, delays in treatment were attributed to a failure to follow emergency plans, calling parents instead of administering emergency medications, and an inability to administer epinephrine.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ''local educational agency'', ''secondary school'', and ''elementary school'' have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) SCHOOL.—The term ''school'' includes public—

(A) kindergartens;

(B) elementary schools; and

(C) secondary schools.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY FOOD ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a policy to be used on a voluntary basis to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools; and

(2) make such policy available to local educational agencies and other interested individuals and entities to be implemented on a voluntary basis only.

(b) CONTENTS.—The voluntary policy developed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall contain guidelines that address each of the following:

(1) Parental obligation to provide the school, prior to the start of every school year, with—

(A) documentation from the student's physician or nurse—

(i) supporting a diagnosis of food allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis;

(ii) identifying any food to which the student is allergic;

(iii) describing, if appropriate, any prior history of anaphylaxis;

(iv) listing any medication prescribed for the student for the treatment of anaphylaxis;

(v) detailing emergency treatment procedures in the event of a reaction;

(vi) listing the signs and symptoms of a reaction; and

(vii) assessing the student's readiness for self-administration of prescription medication; and

(B) a list of substitute meals that may be offered to the student by school food service personnel.

(2) The creation and maintenance of an individual health care plan tailored to the needs of each student with a documented risk for anaphylaxis, including any procedures for the self-administration of medication by such students in instances where—

(A) the students are capable of self-administering medication; and

(B) such administration is not prohibited by State law.

(3) Communication strategies between individual schools and local providers of emergency medical services, including appropriate instructions for emergency medical response.

(4) Strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas such as cafeterias.

(5) The dissemination of information on life-threatening food allergies to school staff, parents, and students, if appropriate by law.

(6) Food allergy management training of school personnel who regularly come into contact with students with life-threatening food allergies.

(7) The authorization and training of school personnel to administer epinephrine when the school nurse is not immediately available.

(8) The timely accessibility of epinephrine by school personnel when the nurse is not immediately available.

(9) Extracurricular programs such as nonacademic outings and field trips, before- and after-school programs, and school-sponsored programs held on weekends that are addressed in the individual health care plan.

(10) The collection and publication of data for each administration of epinephrine to a student at risk for anaphylaxis.

(c) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this Act or the policy developed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be construed to preempt State law, including any State law regarding whether students at risk for anaphylaxis may self-administer medication.

SEC. 5. SCHOOL-BASED FOOD ALLERGY MANAGEMENT GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants of not more than $50,000 to local educational agencies to assist such agencies with implementing voluntary food allergy management guidelines described in section 4.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a local educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a certification that the food allergy management guidelines described in section 4 have been adopted by the local educational agency;

(B) a description of the activities to be funded by the grant in carrying out the food allergy management guidelines, including—

(i) how the guidelines will be carried out at individual schools served by the local educational agency;

(ii) how the local educational agency will inform parents and students of the food allergy management guidelines in place;

(iii) how school nurses, teachers, administrators, and other school-based staff will be made aware of, and given training on, when

applicable, the food allergy management guidelines in place; and

(iv) any other activities that the Secretary determines appropriate;

(C) an itemization of how grant funds received under this section will be expended;

(D) a description of how adoption of the guidelines and implementation of grant activities will be monitored; and

(E) an agreement by the local educational agency to report information required by the Secretary to conduct evaluations under this section.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Each local educational agency that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds for the following:

(1) Creation of systems and databases related to creation, storage, and maintenance of student records.

(2) Purchase of equipment or services, or both, related to the creation, storage, and maintenance of student records.

(3) In partnership with local health departments, school nurse, teacher, and personnel training for food allergy management.

(4) Purchase and storage of limited medical supplies, including epinephrine and disposable wet wipes.

(5) Programs that educate students as to the presence of, and policies and procedures in place related to, food allergies and anaphylactic shock.

(6) Outreach to parents.

(7) Any other activities consistent with the guidelines described in section 4.

(d) DURATION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary may award grants under this section for a period of not more than 2 years. In the event the Secretary conducts a program evaluation under this section, funding in the second year of the grant, where applicable, shall be contingent on a successful program evaluation by the Secretary after the first year.

(e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ANNUAL AWARDS.—A grant awarded under this section may not be made in an amount that is more than $50,000 annually.

(f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to local educational agencies that receive Federal funding under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—A local educational agency that receives a grant under this section may use not more than 2 percent of the grant amount for administrative costs related to carrying out this section.

(h) PROGRESS AND EVALUATIONS.—At the completion of the grant period referred to in subsection (d), a local educational agency shall provide the Secretary with information on the status of implementation of the food allergy management guidelines described in section 4.

(i) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds received under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds and any other Federal funds available to carry out the activities described in this section.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 6. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The policy developed by the Secretary under section 4(a) and the food allergy management guidelines contained in such policy are voluntary. Nothing in this Act or the policy developed by the Secretary under section 4(a) shall be construed to require a local educational agency or school to implement such policy or guidelines.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may enforce an agreement by a local educational agency to implement food allergy management guidelines as a condition on the receipt of a grant under section 5.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1233. A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitive treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I, along with my good friend and ranking member, Senator CRAIG, introduce comprehensive legislation to improve the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to care for veterans with traumatic brain injuries, otherwise referred to as TBI.

TBI has become the signature wound of the Iraq war. Blast injuries account for over 60 percent of all combat wounds suffered by U.S. forces in Iraq. The brain can be harmed by the shock of an explosion, or by rattling or striking of the head as a consequence of the explosion. The high incidence of powerful explosive attacks means that potentially thousands of OIF/OEF veterans have incurred some form of brain damage or impairment. Many servicemembers who would have perished from their wounds in earlier conflicts are now saved by modern body armor and rapid medical evacuation. Although these individuals survive, many of them suffer brain damage in addition to other injuries. There must be new approaches to best meet the health care needs of these veterans.

On March 27, 2007, I chaired a Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on VA's ability to deal with war injuries, including TBI. The provisions of this bill are a direct outgrowth of that hearing and the testimony given by those who suffer with TBI.

This bill addresses the immediate needs of veterans with TBI for high-quality rehabilitation in their communities, and provides VA clinicians with increased resources to develop the expertise and capacity to meet the lifelong needs of these veterans. The bill has seven core provisions, and authorizes a total of $63 million over 6 years to support new TBI-related initiatives. While this amounts to significant new funding, every dollar was included in our Committee's Views and Estimates Letter to the Budget Committee, and was subsequently included in the Senate-passed Budget Resolution.

I will highlight a few of the provisions of this legislation:

First, VA health care providers would be required to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation and community reintegration plan for each veteran with TBI. A diverse team of VA health care providers would be required to review and refine the plan to adapt to the needs of the veteran. Giving an injured veteran or their caregiver an opportunity to request a review of the rehabilitation plan would ensure VA's responsiveness to the needs of these individuals. This provision stems directly from the hearing testimony of Denise Mettie, whose severely injured son Evan went for months without a coherent, well-thought-out rehabilitation plan.

Second, as we heard from the story by ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff, who himself suffered a TBI, VA's four lead polytrauma centers have developed significant expertise in rehabilitative care, but most other VA facilities lack capacity for specialized TBI services. The bill would require VA to implement the individualized plan through outside providers in cases where VA is unable to provide the required intensity of care or the veteran lives too far away to make VA treatment feasible. This provision is inspired by the hearing testimony of Dr. Bruce Gans, who called for greater private sector involvement in veterans' rehabilitation in those cases where VA lacks capacity or geographic reach. Our goal is to ensure that VA care is the finest in the country. When VA cannot adequately serve veterans with TBI, community providers need to be utilized.

Third, care for veterans with severe TBI often leads to nursing home care. This legislation would give VA providers, in collaboration with the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, the ability to conduct innovative research and treatment to ''re-awaken'' veterans with severe TBI, by making $15 million available for research and care over 5 years.

Finally, the legislation makes available $48 million over 6 years for VA to maximize the independence, quality of life, and community reintegration of veterans with TBI who are unable to manage routine activities of daily living. These funds would be available for an assisted living pilot program for those with TBI, so that veterans who might otherwise be forced into institutional long-term care will instead have an opportunity to live in group homes or under other arrangements. The bill also requires special consideration for rural veteran participation in this pilot program.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this innovative and comprehensive legislation, which will bring hope and progress to many brain injured veterans and their families.

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. 1233

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 ''Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Act of 2007''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Sense of Congress on Department of Veterans Affairs efforts in the rehabilitation and reintegration of veterans with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 3. Individual rehabilitation and community reintegration plans for veterans and others with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 4. Use of non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for implementation of rehabilitation and community reintegration plans for traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 5. Research, education, and clinical care program on severe traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 6. Pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 7. Age-appropriate nursing home care.
Sec. 8. Research on traumatic brain injury.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EFFORTS IN THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Veterans Affairs should have the capacity and expertise to provide veterans who have a traumatic brain injury with patient-centered health care, rehabilitation, and community integration services that are comparable to or exceed similar care and services available to persons with such injuries in the academic and private sector;

(2) rehabilitation for veterans who have a traumatic brain injury should be individualized, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary with the goals of optimizing the independence of such veterans and reintegrating them into their communities;

(3) family support is integral to the rehabilitation and community reintegration of veterans who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, and the Department should provide the families of such veterans with education and support;

(4) the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have made efforts to provide a smooth transition of medical care and rehabilitative services to individuals as they transition from the health care system of the Department of Defense to that of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but more can be done to assist veterans and their families in the continuum of the rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration of wounded or injured veterans into their communities; and

(5) in planning for rehabilitation and community reintegration of veterans who have a traumatic brain injury, it is necessary for the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a system for life-long case management for such veterans.

SEC. 3. INDIVIDUAL REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PLANS FOR VETERANS AND OTHERS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1710B the following new section:

"§ 1710C. Traumatic brain injury: plans for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community

''(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall, for each veteran or member of the Armed Forces who receives inpatient rehabilitation care from the Department for a traumatic brain injury—

''(1) develop an individualized plan for the rehabilitation and reintegration of such individual into the community; and

''(2) provide such plan to such individual before such individual is discharged from inpatient care.

''(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Each plan developed under subsection (a) shall include, for the individual covered by such plan, the following:

''(1) Rehabilitation objectives for improving the physical, cognitive, vocational, and psychosocial functioning of such individual with the goal of maximizing the independence and reintegration of such individual into the community.

''(2) A description of specific interventions, rehabilitative treatments, and other services to achieve the objectives described in paragraph (2), which description shall set forth the type, frequency, duration, and location of such interventions, treatments, and services.

''(3) The name of the case manager designated in accordance with subsection (d) to be responsible for the implementation of such plan.

''(4) Dates on which the effectiveness of the plan will be reviewed in accordance with subsection (f).

''(c) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each plan developed under subsection (a) shall be based upon a comprehensive assessment, developed in accordance with paragraph (2), of—

''(A) the physical, cognitive, vocational, and psychosocial impairments of such individual; and

''(B) the family education and family support needs of such individual after discharge from inpatient care.

''(2) FORMATION.—The comprehensive assessment required under paragraph (1) with respect to an individual is a comprehensive assessment of the matters set forth in that paragraph by a team, composed by the Secretary for purposes of the assessment, from among individuals with expertise in traumatic brain injury as follows:

''(A) A neurologist.

''(B) A rehabilitation physician.

''(C) A social worker.

''(D) A neuropsychologist or neuropsychiatrist.

''(E) A physical therapist.

''(F) A vocational rehabilitation specialist.

''(G) An occupational therapist.

''(H) A rehabilitation nurse.

''(I) Such other health care professionals as the Secretary considers appropriate, including—

''(i) an audiologist;

''(ii) a blind rehabilitation specialist;

''(iii) a recreational therapist;

''(iv) a speech language pathologist; and

''(v) a low vision optometrist.

''(d) CASE MANAGER.—The Secretary shall designate a case manager for each individual described in subsection (a) to be responsible for the implementation of the plan required by such subsection for such individual.

''(e) PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS.—(1) The Secretary shall involve each individual described in subsection (a), and the family of such individual, in the development of the plan for such individual under that subsection to the maximum extent practicable.

''(2) The Secretary shall collaborate in the development of a plan for an individual under subsection (a) with an individual with expertise in the protection of, and advocacy for, individuals with traumatic brain injury if—

''(A) the individual covered by such plan requests such collaboration; or

''(B) if such individual is incapacitated, the family or guardian of such individual requests such collaboration.

''(3) In the case of a plan required by subsection (a) for a member of the Armed Forces who is on active duty, the Secretary shall collaborate with the Secretary of Defense in the development of such plan.

''(4) In developing vocational rehabilitation objectives required under subsection (b)(2) and in conducting the assessment required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall act through the Under Secretary for Health in coordination with the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(f) EVALUATION.—

''(1) PERIODIC REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall periodically review the effectiveness of each plan developed under subsection (a). The Secretary shall refine each such plan as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of such review.

''(2) REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY VETERANS.—In addition to the periodic review required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct a review of the plan of a veteran under paragraph (1) at the request of such veteran, or in the case that such veteran is incapacitated, at the request of the guardian or the designee of such veteran.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1710B the following new item:

''1710C. Traumatic brain injury: plans for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.''.

SEC. 4. USE OF NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PLANS FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1710C, as added by section 3 of this Act, the following new section:

"§ 1710D. Traumatic brain injury: use of non-Department facilities for rehabilitation

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 1710(a)(4) of this title and subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall provide intervention, rehabilitative treatment, or services to implement a plan developed under section 1710C of this title at a non-Department facility with which the Secretary has entered into an agreement for such purpose, to an individual—

''(1) who is described in subsection (a) of such section; and

''(2)(A) to whom the Secretary is unable to provide such intervention, treatment, or services at the frequency or for the duration prescribed in such plan; or

''(B) who resides at such distance, as determined by the Secretary, from a Department medical facility as to make the implementation of such plan through a Department facility infeasible or impracticable.

''(b) STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not provide intervention, treatment, or services as described in subsection (a) at a non-Department facility under such subsection unless such facility maintains standards for the provision of such intervention, treatment, or services established by an independent, peer-reviewed organization that accredits specialized rehabilitation programs for adults with traumatic brain injury.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1710C, as added by section 3 of this Act, the following new item:

''1710D. Traumatic brain injury: use of non-Department facilities for rehabilitation.''.

SEC. 5. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND CLINICAL CARE PROGRAM ON SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is

amended by inserting after section 7330 the following new section:

''§ 7330A. Severe traumatic brain injury research, education, and clinical care program

''(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall establish a program on research, education, and clinical care to provide intensive neuro-rehabilitation to veterans with a severe traumatic brain injury, including veterans in a minimally conscious state who would otherwise receive nursing home care.

''(b) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall establish the program required by subsection (a) in collaboration with the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center of the Department of Defense and academic institutions selected by the Secretary from among institutions having an expertise in research in neuro-rehabilitation.

''(c) EDUCATION REQUIRED.—As part of the program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct educational programs on recognizing and diagnosing mild and moderate cases of traumatic brain injury.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, $3,000,000 to carry out the program required by subsection (a).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330 the following new item:

''7330A. Severe traumatic brain injury research, education, and clinical care program.''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the research to be conducted under the program required by section 7330A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 6. PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of providing assisted living services to eligible veterans to enhance the rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration of such veterans.

(b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(c) PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program shall be carried out at locations selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program. Of the locations so selected—

(A) at least one shall be in each health care region of the Veterans Health Administration that contains a polytrauma center of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) any other locations shall be in areas that contain high concentrations of veterans with traumatic brain injury, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VETERANS IN RURAL AREAS.—Special consideration shall be given to provide veterans in rural areas with an opportunity to participate in the pilot program.

(d) PROVISION OF ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into agreements for the provision of assisted living services on behalf of eligible veterans with either of the following:

(A) A provider of services that has entered into a provider agreement under section 1866(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)).

(B) A provider participating under a State plan under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(2) STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not place, transfer, or admit a veteran to any facility for assisted living services under this program unless the Secretary determines that the facility meets such standards as the Secretary may prescribe for purposes of the pilot program. Such standards shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with the standards of Federal, State, and local agencies charged with the responsibility of licensing or otherwise regulating or inspecting such facilities.

(e) CONTINUATION OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES.—In carrying the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall continue to provide each veteran who is receiving assisted living services under the pilot program with rehabilitative services and shall designate Department health-care employees to furnish case management services for veterans participating in the pilot program.

(f) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional veterans affairs committees a report on the pilot program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the pilot program.

(B) An assessment of the utility of the activities under the pilot program in enhancing the rehabilitation, quality of life, and community reintegration of veterans with traumatic brain injury.

(C) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate regarding the extension or expansion of the pilot program.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''assisted living services'' means services of a facility in providing room, board, and personal care for and supervision of residents for their health, safety, and welfare.

(2) The term ''case management services'' includes the coordination and facilitation of all services furnished to a veteran by the Department of Veterans Affairs, either directly or through contract, including assessment of needs, planning, referral (including referral for services to be furnished by the Department, either directly or through a contract, or by an entity other than the Department), monitoring, reassessment, and followup.

(3) The term ''congressional veterans affairs committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(4) The term ''eligible veteran'' means a veteran who—

(A) is enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system;

(B) has received treatment for traumatic brain injury from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(C) is unable to manage routine activities of daily living without supervision and assistance; and

(D) could reasonably be expected to receive ongoing services after the end of the pilot program under this section under another government program or through other means.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out this section, $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

SEC. 7. AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that young veterans who are injured or disabled through military service and require long-term care should have access to age-appropriate nursing home care.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1710A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) The Secretary shall ensure that nursing home care provided under subsection (a) is provided in an age-appropriate manner.''.

SEC. 8. RESEARCH ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) INCLUSION OF RESEARCH ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY UNDER ONGOING RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in carrying out research programs and activities under the provisions of law referred to in subsection (b), ensure that such programs and activities include research on the sequelae of traumatic brain injury, including—

(1) research on visually-related neurological conditions;

(2) research on seizure disorders; and

(3) research on means of improving the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of such sequelae.

(b) RESEARCH AUTHORITIES.—The provisions of law referred to in this subsection are the following:

(1) Section 3119 of title 38, United States Code, relating to rehabilitation research and special projects.

(2) Section 7303 of title 38, United States Code, relating to research programs of the Veterans Health Administration.

(3) Section 7327 of title 38, United States Code, relating to research, education, and clinical activities on complex multi-trauma associated with combat injuries.

(c) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the research required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with facilities that—

(1) conduct research on rehabilitation for individuals with traumatic brain injury; and

(2) receive grants for such research from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the Department of Education.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report describing in comprehensive detail the research to be carried out in order to fulfill the requirement in subsection (a).

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today as the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to join my distinguished colleague, Senator AKAKA, who serves as the Chairman of the Committee, in introducing this important legislation to assist veterans who suffer from a traumatic brain injury.

Every so often an issue of incredible importance confronts this institution and government as whole. And when it does, it is critical that we here in Congress cut through the politics of this institution and the red tape of government and do what is right and necessary for Americans in need. The bill Senator AKAKA and I are introducing today is one of those times and veterans with traumatic brain injury is one of those issues.

Sadly, hundreds and perhaps even thousands of our dedicated servicemen

and women are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with mild, moderate, and even severe head trauma. Improvised Explosive Devices detonating regularly throughout Iraq have exposed our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines to countless instances in which a TBI can occur. The long-term consequences of these injuries are, in many ways, unknown to us. There's so much modern medicine doesn't know about how the brain functions, let alone how little we know about the consequences of small changes in its functioning.

Still, it is incumbent on us to do everything in our power to provide the best care and services to those servicemembers and veterans in need of TBI care and rehabilitation. To that end, Senator AKAKA and I believe that quality TBI care must include certain elements, which this legislation would impose on VA.

Most important among these new requirements is the directive for VA to provide every veteran who has an inpatient stay for a TBI with an individual plan for rehabilitation and reintegration. This may sound to many of my colleagues like a very simple, and thus unimportant, requirement. But, I believe it is a critical component of recovery.

It is a requirement that patients, families, doctors, nurses, social workers, etc., sit down and develop a detailed plan to maximize the chances of recovery and independent living at some point in the future for an injured servicemember or veteran. In short, it is the start of the road to recovery.

In addition to the requirement for individual plans, VA must be given some flexibility to seek out private care services when the situation or the severity of the traumatic brain injury calls for it. This legislation would establish the parameters for receipt of that care and I believe send an important message to VA and our wounded veterans that we want the best care possible regardless of whether it is obtained through a door with the letters V–A over them or through a door with a different name.

Also, this bill would establish a research, clinical care, and education program for traumatic brain injury. The program would be modeled on VA's very successful Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Care program as well as the special programs for Parkinson's disease and geriatric medicine. The nation must invest in learning more about the debilitating conditions that accompany a traumatic brain injury so that one day we might look forward to better treatment and, most importantly, a better quality of life for these heroes.

Finally, the legislation would create a pilot program for assisted living for veterans with severe traumatic brain injury. I recognize that generally assisted living is not a program that VA has embraced in the past. But, the sheer number of those suffering with TBI and the severity of those conditions demand that we once again consider assisted living as a viable means of providing some quality of life to veterans and their families. And I am proud that assisted living will once again be a component of care provided by VA.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. The Chairman and I are very proud of the work we've done together in this legislation. I see a lot of progress in VA with respect to the care they are providing all of our wounded soldiers and veterans. But, more can be done.

I think this bill will move VA further in the direction they are heading and provide veterans with traumatic brain injuries an opportunity to achieve a full and productive life.

With that, again, I want to again thank Chairman AKAKA for his work.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1234. A bill to strengthen the liability of parent companies for violations of sanctions by foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Stop Business With Terrorists Act of 2007. Senator CLINTON is joining me as an original cosponsor of this important bill. This bill will shut down a source of revenue that flows to terrorists and rogue regimes that threaten our nation's security.

President Bush has made the statement that money is the lifeblood of terrorist operations. He could not be more right. Amazingly, some of our corporations are providing revenue to terrorists by doing business with these rogue regimes. My bill is simple. It closes a loophole in the law that allows American companies to do business with our enemies.

Our current sanctions laws prohibit United States companies from doing business directly with Iran, but the law contains a loophole. It enables an American company to create a foreign-based subsidiary that can do business with that prohibited country. As long as this loophole is in place, our sanctions laws have no teeth.

My bill will close this loophole once and for all and will cut off a major source of revenue for terrorists. It will require foreign subsidiaries that are majority controlled by a U.S. parent company to follow U.S. sanctions laws. For those companies that would need to divest from such a situation, they would have 90 days to do so. This is a simple concept with significant impact.

It is critical that we starve these rogue regimes and the terrorists they support at the source. Of the companies that are taking advantage of this loophole, the country that has benefited the most has been Iran. And as we know, Iran funds Hamas, Hezbollah, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist organizations. We should not allow American-controlled companies to provide cash to Iran so that they can convert these funds into bullets and bombs to be used against us and our allies.

It is inexcusable for American companies to engage in any business practice that provides revenues to terrorists, and we have to stop it. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to close the terror funding loophole.

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. 1234

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 ''Stop Business with Terrorists Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ENTITY.—The term ''entity'' means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, or other organization.

(2) PARENT COMPANY.—The term ''parent company'' means an entity that is a United States person and—

(A) the entity owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in another entity;

(B) board members or employees of the entity hold a majority of board seats of another entity; or

(C) the entity otherwise controls or is able to control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of another entity.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States or who owes permanent allegiance to the United States; and

(B) an entity that is organized under the laws of the United States, any State or territory thereof, or the District of Columbia, if natural persons described in subparagraph (A) own, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest in such entity.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY OF PARENT COMPANIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which an entity engages in an act outside the United States that, if committed in the United States or by a United States person, would violate the provisions of Executive Order 12959 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) or Executive Order 13059 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), or any other prohibition on transactions with respect to Iran imposed under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the parent company of the entity shall be subject to the penalties for the act to the same extent as if the parent company had engaged in the act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a parent company of an entity on which the President imposed a penalty for a violation described in subsection (a) that was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act if the parent company divests or terminates its business with such entity not later than 90 days after such date of enactment.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1236. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1965 regarding highly qualified teachers, growth models, adequate yearly progress, Native American language programs, and parental involvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak about legislation I am introducing entitled the School Accountability Improvements Act. We all know about No Child Left Behind, the Federal legislation that was introduced in 2001. We recognize that NCLB made significant changes to Federal requirements for school districts in our States. Many of these changes have been very positive and truly quite necessary. Because of No Child Left Behind, there is clearly more national attention being paid to ensure that school districts and the States are held accountable for the achievement of students with disabilities and for those who are economically disadvantaged and for minority students.

In Alaska, this has meant, for example, that more of our urban school districts are paying closer attention than ever to the needs of our Alaska Native students. People across the Nation are also more aware that a teacher's knowledge of the subject matter and his or her ability to teach that subject are perhaps the most important factors in a child's achievement in school. Teachers, parents, administrators, and communities have more data now than they have ever had, more data about the achievement of the individual students and the subgroups of students and about our schools. With that data, we are making changes to school policies and procedures, and more students are now getting the help they need to succeed.

While these are just a few of the positive effects of No Child Left Behind, we recognize there have been problems. This is not surprising, as it is quite difficult to write one law that will work for a large urban city such as New York City in the East and have that be made generally applicable to a small remote rural community such as Nuiqsuit, AK.

My bill, the School Accountability Improvements Act, is meant to address five issues that we have identified in Alaska that are of particular concern to our State and of equal concern to other States. The first area we are focusing on would give flexibility to States regarding NCLB's highly qualified teacher requirements. In very small rural schools, particularly in my State, we will see a school where you have one teacher who is tasked with teaching multiple course subjects in the middle and in the high school grades.

Under NCLB, the requirement is that the teacher must be highly qualified in each of these subject matter areas. But I have been listening to some of the teachers out in my remote communities. They may be hired to be the English teacher, but in a remote community with a small school, something may happen during the year. Say, the science teacher or the math teacher has left in the middle of the school year—not an uncommon situation—they are not able to get anyone into that school to help. So now the English teacher is tasked to teach another subject.

Under NCLB, he or she would then be required to be highly qualified in every subject they teach. So what my legislation would allow is for middle and high school teachers who work in schools with fewer than 200 students and that have difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers in these areas to be deemed to be ''highly qualified'' if they have a degree or they pass a rigorous subject matter test in one of the core subjects they teach, as long as they can demonstrate they are highly effective at delivering instruction on a State-developed performance assessment.

We are doing this in the State of Alaska now, where essentially a teacher can demonstrate, through the use of a video, their teaching methodology. But we must recognize we will have situations in our smaller schools, in our rural schools, where in order to be highly qualified in every core subject area they are teaching, we simply are not able to meet that. So we are asking for a level of flexibility for the States.

We recognize it is vital that the teachers know the subjects they teach. This is critical. But it is also unreasonable to expect teachers in these very tiny schools to meet the current requirements in every single subject they may end up teaching. It is almost impossible for school districts to find and then hire such teachers. So this provision is offered as a compromise in these limited situations.

The second area the legislation focuses on is how we determine or how we calculate Adequate Yearly Progress. My legislation would require the U.S. Department of Education to approve a State's use of a growth model for calculating Adequate Yearly Progress if that model meets the core requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Now, we know it can be useful for teachers, certainly for the administrators, to know how one group of third grade students, how one class compares to, say, the next year's class. But it is much more useful for educators, students, and parents to know how well each individual child has mastered each year's State standards.

As a parent, yes, I want to know how my son's class is advancing as a whole. But as a parent, I want to know how he is doing from year to year, not just how his third grade class did and how the next class coming up behind him is going to do. I want to know what it means for me and my child as an individual.

Schools should be held accountable for how well they are addressing each child's needs. Is the child proficient? Is he or she on track to be proficient? Or is he or she falling behind? These are things parents want to know. Are the schools making great progress in bringing all children to great proficiency, or are they maybe just missing the mark, or are they having very systemic difficulties? We know so many of the States now have very robust data systems that will allow them to track this information. NCLB should allow them to use the statistical model that is going to be most useful. It will actually be the best indicator of how each child is doing.

Another area the legislation addresses is the issue of school choice and tutoring. As you know, No Child Left Behind gives parents an opportunity to move their children out of a dysfunctional school. If the school fails to meet AYP 2 years running, then the next choice that is offered the parent is your child can go to another school. In some parts of my State, that is geographically, physically impossible, and we have made accommodations around that. In the more urban school districts in Alaska, what we have found is parents are not choosing, as a general rule, to exercise that option. They are looking for something else. The law requires school districts to offer the school choice and to set aside funds to pay for the transportation in year 2 of improvement status. Then, in year 3, schools are required to offer tutoring if they reach that needs improvement status then.

What I am suggesting in my legislation as to school choice is that moving children in year 2, if we fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, is too early in the process. Schools should be given the opportunity to address their deficiencies first, addressing them first within the school before they transport the students all over town. I think most parents agree with this. This is why, at least in Alaska, we are seeing fewer than 2 percent of parents choosing to transfer their children to another school. They would rather have those supplemental services offered in the school to see if they can't help address the needs of the child. Then if it still does not work, let's look to the next option.

So my bill would flip the school choice and the tutoring. It would also limit the requirement for schools to offer these options to students who are not proficient rather than to all the children, including those who are being well served by the school. It would also allow the school districts to provide tutoring to students even if they are in improvement status. It is recognizing, again, we should look at the individual child and see if we can't tailor this to make it more responsive.

As you know, assessing whether a child is proficient on State standards in a reliable and valid way is difficult. It is even more difficult when the child has a disability or has limited English proficiency. Research has not caught up with assessments for these subgroups, and no one is completely sure

whether the tests they are giving these students are measuring what they know. Yet, NCLB requires that if a school does not make AYP for any subgroup for 6 years, the school district has the option to completely restructure that school. Similarly, a State has the option to restructure an entire school district.

For those truly dysfunctional schools and districts, that may be appropriate as determined by the individual district or State. But if we do not even know if the assessment scores are valid and reliable, how do we justify taking over a school, firing its teachers, turning its governance over to another entity, or other such drastic measures? We cannot. But we recognize that each child with a disability, and each child who is limited English proficient deserves the best possible education.

So that is why my bill would not allow a school or a school district to be restructured if: No. 1, the school missed AYP for one or both of those subgroups alone; and, No. 2, the school can show through a growth model that the students in those two subgroups are on track to be proficient.

Another area in the legislation we focus on is our Native heritage languages. In Alaska, Hawaii, and several other States, Native Americans are working hard to keep their heritage languages and their cultures alive. Teachers will tell you, and the research backs them up, that Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and American Indian students learn better when their heritage is a respected and vibrant part of their education. This is true of any child, but I think particularly true for these groups of Americans.

Many schools around the country that serve these students have incorporated native language programs into their early curriculums—the curriculums in grades K–3. The problem is that in many instances, there is no valid and reliable way to assess whether the students have learned their State standards in that language. Neither is it valid to test what a student knows in a language they do not speak well.

The example I will give you is that in the Lower Kuskokwim School District, in many of the schools, in an effort to get the children to connect with their education and to connect with their Yupik heritage, Yupik is taught in grades K–3. It is an immersion level program. If you go out there, the children are reading in Yupik. They are doing their math in Yupik. They are doing science experiments in Yupik. But then, in grade 3, they are required to test, under NCLB, in English.

Now, not surprisingly, the children are not doing well on these tests. We need to anticipate the results. If you have not taught a child in a language in which they are going to be tested, perhaps, initially, they are not going to be performing at the level we want.

I want to impress upon my colleagues the importance I believe we should place on allowing for those heritage languages to be preserved, to encourage our students in languages. Our research tells us—and I can tell you from a very personal experience with my two boys, who were part of a Spanish immersion program from the time they were in kindergarten through 8th grade in the public schools in Anchorage, they learned their sciences and math and geography and all their subjects in Spanish as well as English. Initially, you are a little anxious because: Are the test scores going to measure up? But what we can tell you is that by the time the children are being tested, certainly up in middle school, they are not only testing strong—very strong in both languages—but they know a second language very well.

What my legislation will do in this area is allow schools with Native American language programs in States where there is no assessment in that heritage language to count the third graders—the first time they take the standardized tests—to count the students for participation rate only. It would then allow the school to make AYP if those students are proficient or on track to be proficient in grades 4 through 7.

Then, the final area of my legislation is what I am calling the parent piece. As a parent, we know—you know; my colleague from the State of Washington was very involved with education before she came to the Senate as well—we all know as parents how important it is to be involved in our children's education.

At the end of the day, not only did my husband and I check on our boys' homework, we asked them: What happened today? What is going on? I was PTA president at my kids' elementary school.

NCLB recognizes that in many ways it is very important that parents are part of a child's education. But we also recognize we can be doing more. My bill would amend title II of NCLB, which authorizes subgrants for preparing, training, and recruiting teachers and principals, to allow—but not mandate—these funds to be used to develop parental engagement strategies, to train educators to communicate more effectively with parents, and better involve parents in their schools.

We all know how great our Nation's teachers are. But our reality is, very few of them graduate from college having had a course on how to effectively communicate with parents. They know how important it is, but they are taught no techniques. Teachers are busy people. When a parent shows up at a classroom door and says: Hey, I am here to help, teachers often do not know how to react, how to allow them to help. Many teachers have difficulty communicating with parents, who may be working two jobs or have a different cultural background or language. This section of the bill would allow schools to spend some of their teacher training funds on these sorts of issues if they feel it would benefit their students.

I know these five issues are not the only ones my colleagues and Americans may have with the No Child Left Behind Act. I have been talking with Alaskans all over the State about NCLB since I first came to the Senate. I look forward to working very hard on the reauthorization of the law this year with my colleagues. These, though, are the five issues that educators and parents in Alaska have told me are the most urgent for them, and I look forward to working to include them in the reauthorization as we move forward.

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. 1236

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 ''School Accountability Improvements Act''.

SEC. 2. HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN SMALL SCHOOLS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure that teachers in public elementary and secondary schools know the subject matter and curriculum that they are teaching and can convey the subject matter to students.

(b) HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS OF MULTIPLE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS IN SMALL SCHOOLS.—Section 1119(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EXCEPTION FOR MULTI-SUBJECT TEACHERS IN SMALL SCHOOLS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 9101(23) or any other provision of this Act, a middle or secondary school teacher who is employed to teach multiple core academic subjects in a school designated as a small school under subparagraph (B) but who is not highly qualified as the term is defined in such section, shall be deemed to be highly qualified for purposes of this Act if the teacher—

''(i) meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) of such section;

''(ii) meets the requirements of subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii) of such section for 1 or more of the core academic subjects that the teacher teaches; and

''(iii) demonstrates highly effective delivery of instruction on a performance assessment, developed or adopted by the State within which the small school is located, that assesses skills that are widely accepted as necessary for the effective delivery of instruction.

''(B) SMALL SCHOOL.—A State educational agency shall designate a school as a small school for a school year if the State educational agency determines, based on evidence provided by the local educational agency serving the school, that the school—

''(i) has unique staffing or hiring challenges that require 1 or more teachers at the school to teach multiple core academic subjects for such year;

''(ii) has made a reasonable effort to recruit and retain for such year middle or secondary school teachers who meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) and either subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 9101(23), to teach all students attending the school; and

''(iii) had an average daily student membership of less than 200 students for the previous full school year.''.

SEC. 3. GROWTH MODELS.

Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(L) GROWTH MODELS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State that desires to satisfy the requirements of a single, statewide State accountability system under subparagraph (A) through the use of a growth model, the Secretary shall approve such State's use of the growth model if—

''(I) the State plan ensures that 100 percent of students in each group described in subparagraph (C)(v)—

''(aa) meet or exceed the State's proficient level of academic achievement on the State assessments under paragraph (3) by the 2013–2014 school year; or

''(bb) are making sufficient progress to enable each student to meet or exceed the State's proficient level on such assessments for the student's corresponding grade level not later than the student's final year in secondary school;

''(II) the State plan complies with all of the requirements of this paragraph, except as provided in clause (ii);

''(III) the growth model is based on a fully approved assessment system;

''(IV) the growth model calculates growth in student proficiency for the purposes of determining adequate yearly progress either by individual students or by cohorts of students, and may use methodologies, such as confidence intervals and the State-approved minimum designations, that will yield statistically reliable data;

''(V) the growth model includes all students; and

''(VI) in the case of a growth model that tracks individual students, the State has the capacity to track and manage the data efficiently and effectively.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of any provision that requires the calculation of a number or percentage of students who must meet or exceed the proficient level of academic achievement on a State assessment under paragraph (3), a State using a growth model approved under clause (i) shall calculate such number or percentage by counting—

''(I) the students who meet or exceed the proficient level of academic achievement on the State assessment; and

''(II) the students who, as demonstrated through the growth model, are making sufficient progress to enable each student to meet or exceed the proficient level on the assessment for the student's corresponding grade level not later than the student's final year in secondary school.''.

SEC. 4. SCHOOL CHOICE AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

(a) SCHOOL CHOICE AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.—Section 1116(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

''(E) SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.—In the case of a school identified for school improvement under this paragraph, the local educational agency shall, not later than the first day of the school year following such identification, make supplemental educational services available consistent with subsection (e)(1).''; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (F);

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) FAILURE TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS AFTER IDENTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any school served under this part that fails to make adequate yearly progress, as set out in the State's plan under section 1111(b)(2), by the end of the first full school year after identification under paragraph (1), the local educational agency serving such school shall—

''(i) provide students in grades 3 through 12 who are enrolled in the school and who did not meet or exceed the proficient level on the most recent State assessment in mathematics or in reading or language arts with the option to transfer to another public school served by the local educational agency in accordance with subparagraph (B);

''(ii) continue to make supplemental educational services available consistent with subsection (e)(1); and

''(iii) continue to provide technical assistance.

''(B) PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subparagraph (A)(i) with respect to a school, the local educational agency serving such school shall, not later than the first day of the school year following such identification, provide all students described in subparagraph (A)(i) with the option to transfer to another public school served by the local educational agency, which may include a public charter school, that has not been identified for school improvement under this paragraph, unless such an option is prohibited by State law.

''(ii) RULE.—In providing students the option to transfer to another public school, the local educational agency shall give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families, as determined by the local educational agency for purposes of allocating funds to schools under section 1113(c)(1).

''(C) TRANSFER.—Students who use the option to transfer under subparagraph (A)(i), paragraph (7)(C)(i) or (8)(A)(i), or subsection (c)(10)(C)(vii) shall be enrolled in classes and other activities in the public school to which the students transfer in the same manner as all other children at the public school.''; and

(3) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking ''all''.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDERS.—Section 1116(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) RULE REGARDING PROVIDERS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (13)(B), a local educational agency identified under subsection (c) that is required to arrange for the provision of supplemental educational services under this subsection may serve as a provider of such services in accordance with this subsection.''; and

(3) in paragraph (13)(A) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by inserting '', who is in any of grades 3 through 12 and who did not meet or exceed the proficient level on the most recent State assessment in mathematics or in reading or language arts'' before the semicolon.

SEC. 5. CALCULATING ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as amended by section 4) (20 U.S.C. 6316) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) PARTIAL SATISFACTION OF AYP.—

''(1) SCHOOLS.—Notwithstanding this section or any other provision of law, in the case of a school that failed to make adequate yearly progress under section 1111(b)(2) solely because the school did not meet or exceed 1 or more annual measurable objectives set by the State under section 1111(b)(2)(G) for the subgroup of students with disabilities or students with limited English proficiency, or both such subgroups—

''(A) if such school is identified for school improvement under subsection (b)(1), such school shall only be required to develop or revise and implement a school plan under subsection (b)(3) with respect to each such subgroup that did not meet or exceed each annual measurable objective; and

''(B) if such school is identified for restructuring under subsection (b)(8), the local educational agency serving such school shall not be required to implement subsection (b)(8)(B) if the local educational agency demonstrates to the State educational agency that the school would have made adequate yearly progress for each assessment and for each such subgroup for the most recent school year if the percentage of students who met or exceeded the proficient level of academic achievement on the State assessment was calculated by counting—

''(i) the students who met or exceeded such proficient level; and

''(ii) the students who are making sufficient progress to enable each such student to meet or exceed the proficient level on the assessment for the student's corresponding grade level not later than the student's final year in secondary school, as demonstrated through a growth model that meets the requirements described in subclauses (III) through (VI) of section 1111(b)(2)(L)(i).

''(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding this section or any other provision of law, in the case of a local educational agency that is identified for corrective action under subsection (c)(10) solely because the local educational agency did not meet or exceed 1 or more annual measurable objectives set by the State under section 1111(b)(2)(G) for the subgroup of students with disabilities or students with limited English proficiency, or both such subgroups, the State educational agency shall not be required to implement subsection (c)(10) if the State educational agency demonstrates to the Secretary that the school would have made adequate yearly progress for each assessment and for each such subgroup if the percentage of students who met or exceeded the proficient level of academic achievement on the State assessment was calculated by counting—

''(A) the students who meet or exceed such proficient level; and

''(B) the students who are making sufficient progress to enable each such student to meet or exceed the proficient level on the assessment for the student's corresponding grade level not later than the student's final year in secondary school, as demonstrated through a growth model that meets the requirements described in subclauses (III) through (VI) of section 1111(b)(2)(L)(i).''.

SEC. 6. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.

Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as amended by section 3) (20 U.S.C. 6316(b)(2)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(M) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (I) or any other provision of law—

''(i) a school serving students who receive not less than a half day of daily Native language instruction in an American Indian language, an Alaska Native language, or Native Hawaiian in at least grades kindergarten through grade 2 for a school year that does

not have State assessments under paragraph (3) available in the Native American language taught at the school as provided for in paragraph (3)(C)(ix)(III)—

''(I) shall assess students in grade 3 as required under paragraph (3), and such students shall be included in determining if the school met the participation requirements for all groups of students as required under subparagraph (I)(ii) for such school year; and

''(II) shall not include such assessment results for students in grade 3 in determining if the school met or exceeded the annual measurable objectives for all groups of students as required under subparagraph (I)(i) for such school year; and

''(ii) in the case of a school serving students in any of grades 4 through 8 who received such Native American language instruction, such school shall count for purposes of calculating the percentage of students who met or exceeded the proficient level of academic achievement on the State assessment—

''(I) the students who met or exceeded such proficient level; and

''(II) the students who are making sufficient progress to enable each such student to meet or exceed such proficient level on the assessment for the student's corresponding grade level by the time the student enters grade 7, as demonstrated through a growth model that meets the requirements described in subclauses (III) through (VI) of paragraph (L)(i).''.

SEC. 7. IMPROVING EFFECTIVE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.

Section 2134 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6634) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by inserting ''one or more parent teacher associations or organizations,'' after ''such local educational agencies,'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) OPTIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that receives a subgrant under this section may use subgrant funds remaining after carrying out all of the activities described in subsection (a) for—

''(1) developing parental engagement strategies, with accountability goals, as a key part of the ongoing school improvement plan under section 1116(b)(3)(A) for a school identified for improvement under section 1116(b)(1); or

''(2) providing training to teachers, principals, and parents in skills that will enhance effective communication, which training shall—

''(A) include the research-based standards and methodologies of effective parent or family involvement programs; and

''(B) to the greatest extent possible, involve the members of the local and State parent teacher association or organization in such training activities and in the implementation of school improvement plans under section 1116(b)(3)(A).''.

SEC. 8. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as amended by sections 4 and 5) (20 U.S.C. 6316) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(F), by striking ''(1)(E),'';

(B) in paragraph (7)(C)(i), by striking ''paragraph (1)(E) and (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (5)'';

(C) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking ''paragraph (1)(E) and (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (5)'';

(D) in paragraph (9)—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (1)(E)'' and inserting ''paragraph (5)(B)''; and

(ii) by striking ''(1)(A), (5),'' and inserting ''(5)(A),''; and

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking ''(1)(A),'';

(2) in subsection (c)(10)(C)(vii), by striking ''subsections (b)(1)(E) and (F),'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(5)'';

(3) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting ''(1),'' after ''described in paragraph'';

(4) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(ii), by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(b)(5)''; and

(5) in subsection (g)(3)(A), by striking ''subsection (b)(1)(E)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5)(B)''.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1240. A bill to provide for the provision by hospitals receiving Federal funds through the Medicare program or Medicaid program of emergency contraceptives to women who are survivors of sexual assault; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, in recognition of National Crime Victim's Week, I am proud to reintroduce the ''Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act,'' a bill that will help rape and incest survivors across the country get the medical care they need and deserve.

Women deserve access to emergency contraception. For millions of women, it represents peace of mind. For survivors of rape and incest, it allows them to avoid the additional trauma of facing an unintended pregnancy. This bill makes emergency contraception available for survivors of rape and incest at any hospital receiving public funds.

Every 2 minutes a woman is sexually assaulted in the U.S. and each year, 25 to 32,000 women become pregnant as a result of rape or incest. According to a study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 50 percent of those pregnancies end in abortion.

By providing access to emergency contraception, up to 95 percent of those unintended pregnancies could be prevented if emergency contraception is administered within the first 24 to 72 hours.

I am proud that for 4 years, this has already been law in New York State. Survivors of rape and incest receive information and access to emergency contraception at every hospital in the State. In New York City, women are benefiting from Mayor Bloomberg's significant initiative to expand access to emergency contraception and family planning services and improve maternal and infant outcomes. I applaud this focus on increasing awareness about emergency contraception—to all women—so that we can work together at decreasing the rate of unintended pregnancy in this country.

Last year, the FDA made emergency contraception available over the counter for women 18 years of age and older. Despite the ideologically driven agenda against Plan B, research shows that emergency contraception is safe and effective for preventing pregnancy. More than 70 major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommended that Plan B be made available over the counter. This bill will make sure hospitals provide women in crisis with the necessary information to evaluate this option for themselves. In addition, the bill ensures that patients can receive post-exposure treatment for sexually transmitted infections for which the deferral of treatment either would significantly reduce treatment efficacy or would pose substantial risk to the individual's health.

Public health employees at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention include access to emergency contraception as a protocol and viable option for these victims. The U.S. Department of Justice guidelines, however, make no reference to emergency contraception as a potential option for rape and incest victims. This is why I'm introducing this legislation today.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues join me in the fight to better protect and serve our Nation's rape and incest survivors.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1241. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify student housing eligible for the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a bill introduced by me today to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify student housing eligible for the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes, 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. 1241

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF STUDENT HOUSING ELIGIBLE FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subclause (I) of section 42(i)(3)(D)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain students not to disqualify unit) is amended to read as follows:

''(I) single parents and their children and such parents are not dependents (as defined in section 152, determined without regard to subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), and (d)(1)(B) thereof) of another individual and such children are not dependents (as so defined) of another individual other than a parent of such children, or.''

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to—

(1) housing credit amounts allocated before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) buildings placed in service before, on, or after such date to the extent paragraph (1) of section 42(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 does not apply to any building by reason of paragraph (4) thereof.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and Farm Security

and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a biofuel pilot program to offer crop insurance to producers of experimental biofuel crops and a program to make loans and loan guarantees to producers of experimental biofuel crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise here today to introduce the Biofuel Crop Insurance Act to provide a safety net to innovative American farmers.

America's addiction to foreign oil is one of the greatest threats to our national security and our economy. At the same time climate change is threatening the world as we know it. We are experiencing wildly shifting weather patterns, prolonged drought, intense hurricanes and melting glaciers and icecaps. We need to do something to change our energy sources to clean and domestic options, and our farmers and rural communities are leading the way.

Unfortunately, some of the best potential crops for biofuel production lack the same government safety nets like crop insurance and loans that our commodity crops have. This legislation is designed to change that by allowing the USDA to expedite the process for approving insurance to dedicated biofuel crops.

In the last few years the ethanol industry has experienced explosive growth. Ethanol is good for farmers, rural communities and our consumers. I for one would rather buy my fuel from farmers in the Midwest than dictators in the Mideast.

Corn will continue to be king of ethanol for some time. But we need to start using other crops for ethanol and biodiesel production, because if there is one thing that our recent energy crisis has taught us it is that diversity is critical. We need to expand the use of crops that don't compete with our food system that can be grown in different parts of the country, are more affordable, and require fewer inputs than corn.

In Montana, farmers are planting an oil seed crop called camelina because it can be grown on marginal lands, with few inputs, and high profits. Its oil can be crushed and made into biodiesel on farms and small communities' rural landscapes. Camelina can be used in rotation with other crops such as wheat and barley and bring new money and new development to rural States like Montana, Washington, Idaho, and the Dakotas. Montana State University is one of several academic institutions that have done extensive research into the crop in regards to what it needs to grow, where to grow it, and what farmers can expect it to produce. All their tests are positive and this year we expect that up to 20,000 acres of camelina will be planted in Montana alone. Unfortunately, farmers are hesitant to seize this opportunity because they lack an insurance safety net, and their banks won't loan them money to plant crops that aren't insured.

Being a farmer myself, I know how agriculture is beholden to Mother Nature. A dry year, a bad hail storm or a late frost can destroy a year's worth of work. Farmers need safety nets, not handouts. Crop insurance is a market mechanism that can mitigate risk for farmers. The legislation I'm introducing today will be directly responsible for extensive growth of camelina, and the emergence of a biodiesel industry for States like Montana.

If I wasn't here right now, I would be sitting on my tractor in Big Sandy, MT, planting oil seed crops on my farm and learning how to process and crush oil seeds to make biodiesel. I use 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel a year on my farm, and anxiously await the day when I can use fuel grown on my land or bought from my neighbors instead of imported from overseas.

This bill sets up a pilot insurance program for dedicated biofuel crops that displace petroleum products, and provides loans for stabilization of farm income and marketing assistance. It also creates grants for research into planting and harvesting techniques and grants to study the use of biofuel meal used as animal feeds.

I believe this bill will spark a biodiesel industry across the Northern Great Plains and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation as it moves forward.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1244. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for certain violators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Protecting America's Workers Act.

This week, on Workers' Memorial Day, we remember those who have been killed or injured on the job, and we reaffirm our commitment to workers and their families to do all we can to end these senseless tragedies.

We've made progress in protecting worker safety since we passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970.

But too many workers still are not safe. In 2005 alone, over 5,700 workers were killed on the job. Over 4 million became ill or were injured. That's nearly 16 deaths and 12,000 workplace injuries or illnesses each and every day.

Last year, the tragic deaths of miners at Sago and Alma mines showed us the gaps and shortcomings in mine safety. Across the country, America saw the senseless deaths of workers and the suffering of their families and friends. Every day, workers in other industries are facing equally dangerous conditions. Those dangers may not make headlines, but they continue to threaten workers' health, their lives, and their families' security.

One of the most obvious problems is that literally millions of employees today are not covered by our safety laws. Too many other firms blatantly ignore the law and refuse to do what is necessary to keep their employees safe.

Too often, as well, we find that those responsible for administering our safety laws aren't doing their job—not issuing new safety standards, not vigorously enforcing the law, and not even going after the worst offenders.

Many companies are doing too little to deal with this challenge. Some employers blatantly ignore the law, but are rarely held accountable, even when their actions or neglect kill a loyal employee who works for them. Criminal penalties are so low that prosecutors don't pursue these cases. And employers who repeatedly violate the law—time and time again—pay only minimal fines, which they treat as just another cost of doing business.

American workers and their families are paying the price. This includes people like Mike Morrison, who was killed while installing pipes at a construction site in Florida, when the nine-foot-deep trench he was working in collapsed. An OSHA investigation found that the trench had not been secured properly before workers were sent into it. The employer whose failures had killed Mike was fined a mere $21,000, a slap on the wrist. Two years earlier, the company had been cited and fined for other safety violations. As Mike's stepdaughter Michelle says, ''If the penalties had been more substantial two years ago, maybe Mike's company would have complied with the law and protected him properly, and maybe he'd still be with us today.''

Or Eleazar Torres-Gomez, who was killed working at a laundry facility in Tulsa, OK, where he had been employed for seven years. Eleazar was dragged into an industrial dryer, where the temperatures were near 300 degrees. The company he worked for had been previously fined for not installing protective guards on a similar dryer and belt at one of its other plants. Eleazar's eldest son Emanuel said, ''If the company had added the guards, which it knew were required by OSHA, my father would be alive today. The sorrow we feel is overwhelming.''

And they include workers like Tracee Binion, a science teacher in Pinson, AL. Tracee became ill after renovations on her school exposed her to chemicals in unventilated classrooms. She developed chemical pneumonitis and chemically-induced asthma, lost weeks of school and to this day must manage her asthma with medication. In Alabama, Tracee and thousands of

teachers like her are not covered by our safety laws. They have no one to call when they need protection from workplace hazards.

We need to do everything we can to see that other workers and their families don't have to suffer the same grief.

Congress can take concrete steps to address many of these failures. That's why today we are reintroducing the Protecting America's Workers Act. This legislation will do several key things:

It expands the coverage of our safety laws to protect 8.6 million public employees and transportation workers.

It requires OSHA to investigate every case where a worker is killed or seriously injured. And it gives family members greater rights to be part of accident investigations.

It also protects workers who speak up about unsafe conditions on the job, by bringing OSHA whistleblower laws in line with protections in other areas.

It puts real teeth in our safety laws by increasing penalties. These penalties have not been raised since 1990. This bill sets a minimum penalty of $50,000 for a worker's death caused by a willful safety violation. And it increases the maximum criminal penalty for killing or seriously injuring a worker to ten years of prison, instead of six months.

Beyond this legislation, we must also find new and smarter ways of keeping workers safe. We must shine a light on OSHA to ensure that our safety laws are implemented the way they were intended—to protect workers by preventing hazards on the job. The administration needs to put workers first and get the job done.

It's time to send a message to those who put their employees in harm's way that life and health must be valued above profit and greed. It's time to redouble our efforts and make our commitment a reality. It's time for Congress to act, so that the hardworking men and women of our country get what they deserve at last—the security of a safe and healthy workplace.

I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting for safe workplaces for all of America's workers. The best way for Congress to honor the Nation's hardworking men and women on this Worker's Memorial Day is to end our complacency and see that the full promise of OSHA becomes a genuine reality for every working family in every community in America.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1245. A bill to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that will improve mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region. Senators MIKULSKI and WARNER are original cosponsors of my bill.

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 contains provisions for cooperation among the National Capital Region's jurisdictions in the event of a regional or national emergency. Since that time, a model mutual aid agreement has been approved by 20 of the 21 jurisdictions in the Washington Council of Governments, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The model mutual aid agreement is designed to append operational plans across the spectrum of public safety disciplines, including police, fire and rescue, public health, water supply, and debris removal, among others. This has opened the way for the region's governments to begin hammering out the details of how emergency responses will actually be executed.

As the jurisdictions began working on the mutual aid agreements, concern arose that drinking water and wastewater utilities were not included in the original language. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments brought this issue to my attention. Today's legislation will remedy the situation by providing a commonsense solution that will allow our drinking water and wastewater facilities' staffs to participate as appropriate in the mutual aid agreements.

Current law allows the jurisdictions in the Washington metropolitan area to share their personnel freely in the event of a national emergency. Firefighters in Fairfax County, for example, could be enlisted to support their counterparts in the District of Columbia or in Maryland in the event of a national or regional emergency. Similarly, emergency responders in Montgomery and Prince George's counties could support their counterparts in Alexandria or Arlington.

This legislation simply extends that same commonsense approach to drinking water and wastewater treatment authorities. If a drinking water plant were to become disabled because of a natural disaster or terrorist attack, this bill would allow licensed engineers to cross jurisdictional boundaries to come to the aid of the disabled system and the thousands of regional residents who depend on these vital systems for safe drinking water.

This legislation has the support of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the National Capital Region Water Security Workgroup, chaired by the Fairfax County Water Authority.

One section of the legislation requires some explanation. That section relates to the terms ''agent'' and ''volunteer.'' It is anticipated that the region's localities will rely on a variety of authorized agents and volunteers to assist in fulfilling their mutual aid response obligations. The act currently includes agents and volunteers in the definition of ''employee'' and requires that all agents and volunteers be ''committed in a mutual aid agreement'' to prepare for or respond to an emergency. It has become apparent in developing operational plans, however, that it is not likely that a complete list of agents and volunteers will be identified and become parties to a mutual aid agreement with one or more of the region's localities. Instead, it is more likely that agents and volunteers will be associated with a locality through a mechanism other than an actual mutual aid agreement. Moreover, it is probable that the association with an agent or volunteer will arise only in direct response to a particular emergency. For example, a locality may find it necessary to call upon volunteer fire companies to respond to a particular fire-related event that threatens to overwhelm the localities' resources. In such an instance, the agent and volunteers, as well as the locality that has called upon them, should be accorded the liability protections of the act. Perhaps more importantly, it is preferred by the region's localities that a list of agents and volunteers not be brought within the scope of the act prospectively and on a continuous basis, but only as the need arises on a case-by-case basis.

The legislation I am introducing today simply strikes ''agents and volunteers'' from the definition of ''employee'' and expressly extends the liability protections of the act to agents. This term, consistent with common dictionary usage, would encompass authorized volunteers. The proposed language was drafted and approved by members of the Council of Governments' Attorneys Committee, consisting of the lead counsel of all 21 COG jurisdictions, with participation by the two State's Attorneys General offices.

In short, this legislation will give local jurisdictions the ability to respond fully and appropriately to the full range of emergencies that they may face. I urge the Senate to pass this bill as expeditiously as possible so that we can give these local and State governments the tools they need to meet the challenges that the future may present.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

S. 1245

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REFORM OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.

Section 7302 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 5196 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking '', including its agents or authorized volunteers,''; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking ''or town'' and all that follows and inserting ''town, or other governmental agency, governmental

authority, or governmental institution with the power to sue or be sued in its own name, within the National Capital Region.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and any other governmental agency or authority''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''or employees'' each place that term appears and inserting '', employees, or agents''.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1246. A bill to establish and maintain a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator AKAKA, and I are introducing legislation that establishes a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance to enhance preparedness and awareness of emerging infectious diseases.

More than 60 percent of the approximately 1,400 currently known infectious diseases are shared between wildlife and humans. Over the past 30 years we have had many emerging infectious disease outbreaks, including hantavirus, plague, ebola, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and H5N1 influenza. In fact, more than 35 new infectious diseases have emerged in humans since 1980, which means that approximately one new infectious disease in humans has appeared every 8 months. These diseases have resulted in many deaths and billions of dollars in costs.

Millions of wild animals are traded globally and come into contact with humans and dozens of other species, contributing to the introduction of new diseases in humans. There are numerous examples of these spreading viruses that pose significant threats across the globe. For instance, the spreading H5N1 virus, a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain, is a significant threat to global human health, the global poultry industry, and the global economy more generally. The emerging infectious disease HIV/AIDS, whose origin has been traced back to the human consumption of African nonhuman primates, has had a devastating impact in the developing world, with over 40 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS and 3 million AIDS deaths globally in 2006. Despite the threats that these and future diseases pose, we lack a comprehensive and coordinated approach to monitoring these emerging infectious diseases and the nexus between wildlife, people, and domestic animals.

Our legislation would establish a Wildlife Global Animal Information Network for Surveillance (GAINS). This Wildlife GAINS system would include Federal and State agency partners, multilateral agency partners, conservation organizations with expertise in wildlife monitoring and surveillance, veterinary and medical schools, and other national and international partners. The legislation encourages the establishment of critical public-private partnerships because of the unique strengths and capabilities that NGOs have in developing countries. They will play a key role in assisting developing countries develop much needed surveillance mechanisms and in facilitating the dissemination of critical data to all partners.

USAID has taken a leadership role and already committed $192 million for avian influenza preparedness and response activities in developing countries affected by the H5N1 virus. Congress must support these efforts establishing a comprehensive worldwide wildlife health surveillance system to detect and track emerging infectious diseases.

Wildlife GAINS would be a comprehensive tool to prevent the outbreak and spread of new diseases that have no treatments or cures. We must prevent and detect the next generation of infectious diseases to prevent the pain and suffering that diseases such as HIV/AIDS and H5N1 have caused millions all over the world.

Mr. AKAKA. President, I rise to join my colleagues, Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWNBACK in introducing legislation establishing a wildlife global animal information network for detection of emerging, highly contagious diseases in non-agricultural animals. This bill is an important part of efforts to prevent and respond to natural or intentional pandemic disease outbreaks in the U.S.

Our legislation focuses on the source of nearly all pandemic disease outbreaks over the last 30 years—zoonotic diseases, or diseases that originate in animals, either agricultural or non-agricultural, and, through mutation, are passed to humans. Avian influenza, West Nile Virus and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) are all zoonotic diseases originating in animals and subsequently transmitted to humans. The prevalence of such diseases underscores the need to link veterinary health and public health arenas. America's infrastructure for pandemic flu preparedness and response should therefore include the ability to monitor zoonotic diseases, creating an early warning and response system which will alert public health officials and animal health experts at the emergence of highly contagious diseases before they are passed to humans.

The global animal information network for surveillance proposed in this bill has its roots in the activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist countries dealing with the most recent outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. In close cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Departments of State, Defense, Agriculture, Homeland Security and the Wildlife Conservation Society, USAID is providing assistance to those countries most hard hit by avian influenza. To date, animal outbreaks have been reported in 55 countries, and 12 countries have had confirmed human cases. A total of 291 humans have been infected, resulting in 172 deaths. This translates into a case fatality rate of roughly 60 percent.

To date, USAID has committed a total of $192 million for avian influenza assistance activities in these countries for preparedness and response. The goal of its activities is to lower the amount of circulating virus and limiting the opportunity for people to become infected with avian flu.

Despite these efforts, many of which have demonstrated the effectiveness of interventions being used to control the spread of avian flu, this zoonotic disease continues to mutate and as such, persist as a threat, both to animals and to people. The animal surveillance network being proposed in this bill is one critical tool to detect other wildlife-based emergent contagious diseases before they impact humans and agricultural animals.

While detecting and preventing these highly contagious diseases is critical for human health and economic stability, I would like to emphasize that, as the Government Accountability Office (GAO) observed in a 2000 report entitled ''West Nile Virus Outbreak: Lessons for Public Health Preparedness'', on the West Nile Virus outbreak in New York City, ''Because a bioterrorist event could look like a natural outbreak, bioterrorism preparedness rests in large part on public health preparedness.'' Creating early warning tools such as this one can aid efforts to protect the U.S. from natural outbreaks and deliberate bioterrorist attacks. While the network alone does not protect us, it does contribute to the mosaic of homeland security activities designed to protect Americans, and those in other countries most vulnerable to bioterrorist attacks.

It is for this reason that I am pleased to join Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWNBACK in introducing this bill and urge its support.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 173—DESIGNATING AUGUST 11, 2007, AS ''NATIONAL MARINA DAY''

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 173

Whereas the citizens of the United States highly value recreation time and their ability to access 1 of the greatest natural resources of the United States, its waterways;

Whereas, in 1928, the word ''marina'' was used for the first time by the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers to define a recreational boating facility;

Whereas the United States is home to over 12,000 recreational boating facilities that contribute substantially to their local communities by providing safe, reliable gateways to boating for members of their communities and welcomed guests;

Whereas marinas of the United States also serve as stewards of the environment, actively seeking to protect their surrounding waterways not only for the enjoyment of the current generation, but for generations to come; and

Whereas marinas of the United States also provide their communities and visitors a place where friends and families, united by a passion for the water, can come together for recreation, rest, and relaxation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the marinas of the United States for providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating for the citizens of, and the visitors to the United States; and

(2) designates August 11, 2007, as the sixth annual ''National Marina Day'' in order—

(A) to honor the marinas of the United States for their many contributions to their local communities; and

(B) to make citizens, policy makers, elected officials, and employees more aware of the overall contributions marinas make to their well-being.

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2007

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 174

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than ⅔ of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all exporters and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as ''National Small Business Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small business concerns and their employees, whose hard work and commitment to excellence have made them a key part of the Nation's economic vitality;

(3) recognizes the work of the Small Business Administration and its resource partners in providing assistance to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

(4) strongly urges the President to take steps to ensure that—

(A) the applicable procurement goals for small business concerns, including the goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, are reached by all Federal agencies;

(B) guaranteed loans, including microloans and microloan technical assistance, for start-up and growing small business concerns and venture capital are made available to all qualified small business concerns;

(C) the management assistance programs delivered by resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with the Federal resources necessary to do their jobs; and

(D) reforms to the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration are implemented as quickly as possible; and

(5) urges that, as was the case in the President's budget for fiscal year 2008, the Small Business Administration continue to be designated as a major agency in the President's budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration have an active role as a member of the President's Cabinet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent country;

Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State;

Whereas Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with an opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas Israel has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including—

(1) the freedom of speech;

(2) the freedom of religion;

(3) the freedom of association;

(4) the freedom of the press; and

(5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

(1) regularly holding free and fair elections;

(2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

(3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 24, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both countries to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and

(5) extends the best wishes of the Senate to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 29—ENCOURAGING THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES AND THEIR PLAYERS ON MAY 20TH OF EACH YEAR

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 29

Whereas even though African-Americans were excluded from playing in the Major Leagues of their time with their white counterparts, the desire of many African-Americans to play baseball could not be repressed;

Whereas Major League Baseball did not fully integrate its leagues until July 1959;

Whereas African-Americans began organizing their own professional baseball teams in 1885;

Whereas the skills and abilities of Negro League players eventually made Major League Baseball realize the need to integrate the sport;

Whereas 7 separate baseball leagues, known collectively as the ''Negro Baseball Leagues'', were organized by African-Americans between 1920 and 1960;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues included exceptionally talented players who played the game at its highest level;

Whereas on May 20, 1920, the Negro National League, the first successful Negro League, played its first game;

Whereas Andrew ''Rube'' Foster founded the Negro National League on February 13, 1920, at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri, and also managed and played for the Chicago American Giants, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Leroy ''Satchel'' Paige, who began his long career in the Negro Leagues and did not make his Major League debut until the age of 42, is considered one of the greatest pitchers the game has ever seen, and during his long career thrilled millions of baseball fans with his skill and legendary showboating, helping the Cleveland Indians win the pennant in his first big league victory beginning with his first game on July 15, 1948, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Josh Gibson, who was the greatest slugger of the Negro Leagues, tragically died months before the integration of baseball, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began with the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African-American to play in the Major Leagues in April 1947, was named Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year in 1947, subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series championship, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Larry Doby, whose career began with the Negro League Newark Eagles, became the first African-American to play in the American League in July 1947, was an All-Star 9 times in Negro League and Major League Baseball, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas John Jordan ''Buck'' O'Neil was a player and manager of the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 1962, served on the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, chaired the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Board of Directors, and worked tirelessly to promote the history of the Negro Leagues;

Whereas James ''Cool Papa'' Bell played, coached, and managed in the Negro Leagues from 1922 to 1950, discovered, trained, and assisted numerous Negro League players into the Major Leagues, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Minnie Minoso played in the Negro Leagues for several years before being allowed to play in the Major Leagues and was denied admission to the Hall of Fame, because during his prime years, he was a victim of racial discrimination;

Whereas the talents of such players as Josh Gibson, James ''Cool Papa'' Bell, and Oscar Charleston earned them recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame as well as the Sporting News List of Baseball Greatest Players, but they were denied admission to the Major Leagues due to the color of their skin;

Whereas Autozone Park in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted the inaugural Civil Rights Game between the defending World Champion St. Louis Cardinals and the Cleveland Indians in commemoration of the civil rights movement, on March 31, 2007; and

Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African-American baseball players helped break down color barriers and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to both baseball and our Nation; and

(2) encourages the observation of Negro Leaguers Recognition Day on May 20 of each year.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I, along with Senators REID, LEAHY, SPECTER, OBAMA, CLINTON, BROWNBACK, and MARTINEZ, have proudly submitted a concurrent resolution honoring the Negro Baseball Leagues and their players by encouraging the recognition of Negro Leaguers Recognition Day May 20 of each year. My relationship with the Negro Leagues players began when I successfully worked to persuade Major League Baseball to give pension benefits to former players. In 2004, Major League Baseball agreed to put up $1 million for monthly payments to 27 former Negro Leaguers. Last year, I worked with the families of several of the most notable Negro Leaguers to pass a Senate resolution designating May 20, 2006—the date on which the Negro National League played its first game—as Negro Leaguers Recognition Day.

I am submitting a resolution honoring the Negro Leaguers again this year—in cooperation with Representative COHEN in the House—to demonstrate the support in both Chambers for recognizing Negro Leaguers Recognition Day on May 20 of each year. I hope that this will be a day when Negro Leaguers and their families will return to the ballpark to be honored for their historic contributions to the game of baseball and to bridging racial divisions in our country.

Since 1885, long before Major League Baseball was integrated in 1947, African-Americans organized their own professional leagues. These leagues did not succeed because of racial prejudice and lack of adequate financial backing. However, this changed dramatically with the inception of the first successful Negro league—the Negro National League. Its creation was the result of the efforts of an African-American player and manager named Andrew ''Rube'' Foster. Mr. Foster's success inspired the formation of other leagues.

As a result, on October 3, 1924, the first Negro League World Series game was played between the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted 10 games, covered a span of almost 3 weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship.

Some of the names we know and some we don't. Among them are Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to break the baseball color barrier; Satchel Paige, who was considered one of the greatest pitchers of all time; Josh Gibson, who was a prolific home-run hitter; Larry Doby, the first African-American to play in the American League in July 1947; Buck O'Neil, who was the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues and who went on to head the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; Cool Papa Bell, who was known as the fastest man in baseball; and Minnie Minoso; the ''Cuban Comet,'' who played on the New York Cubans when they won the Negro League World Series, and broke the color barrier on the Chicago White Sox when he joined the team in 1951.

It is important that we remember and honor these players and their teammates in the Negro Leagues. In breaking down baseball's color barrier, these pioneers dealt a blow to hatred and prejudice across America. Today, we can honor them by recognizing May 20 each year as Negro Leaguers Recognition Day.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on legal issues regarding individuals detained by the Department of Defense as unlawful enemy combatants.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss clean coal technology.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Finance which will meet on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 1 p.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on ''Coal: A Clean Future''.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 462, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Water Rights Settlement Act.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 3 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Air Force and Navy Aviation in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, be authorized to hold a hearing on OSHA during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 10 a.m. in SD–628.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26th, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 169, to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System; S. 312/H.R. 497, to authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion; S. 580, to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails; S. 686, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail; S. 722, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona; S. 783, to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana; S. 890, to provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission; and H.R. 1047, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, MO, as a unit of the National Park System.

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

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007, the Senate passed S. 761 as follows:

S. 761

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 ''America COMPETES Act'' or the ''America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act''.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into 5 divisions as follows:

(1) DIVISION A.—Commerce and Science.

(2) DIVISION B.—Department of Energy.

(3) DIVISION B.—Education.

(4) DIVISION D.—National Science Foundation.

(5) DIVISION E.—General Provisions.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.
DIVISION A—COMMERCE AND SCIENCE
Sec. 1001. Short title.
TITLE I—OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY; GOVERNMENT-WIDE SCIENCE
Sec. 1101. National Science and Technology Summit.
Sec. 1102. Study on barriers to innovation.
Sec. 1103. National Innovation Medal.
Sec. 1104. Release of scientific research results.
Sec. 1105. Semiannual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Days.
Sec. 1106. Study of service science.
TITLE II—INNOVATION PROMOTION
Sec. 1201. President's Council on Innovation and Competitiveness.
Sec. 1202. Innovation acceleration research.
TITLE III—NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
Sec. 1301. NASA's contribution to innovation.
Sec. 1302. Aeronautics Institute for Research.
Sec. 1303. Basic research enhancement.
Sec. 1304. Aging workforce issues program.
Sec. 1305. Conforming amendments.
Sec. 1306. Fiscal year 2008 basic science and research funding.
TITLE IV—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
Sec. 1401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 1402. Amendments to the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980.
Sec. 1403. Innovation acceleration.
Sec. 1404. Manufacturing extension.
Sec. 1405. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology.
Sec. 1406. Technical amendments to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act and other technical amendments.
Sec. 1407. Clarification of eligible contributions in connection with regional Centers responsible for implementing the objectives of the hollings manufacturing partnership program.
TITLE V—OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERIC PROGRAMS
Sec. 1501. Ocean and atmospheric research and development program.
Sec. 1502. NOAA ocean and atmospheric science education programs.
Sec. 1503. NOAA's contribution to innovation.
Sec. 1504. NOAA accountability and transparency.
DIVISION B—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Sec. 2001. Short title.
Sec. 2002. Definitions.
Sec. 2003. Mathematics, science, and engineering education at the Department of Energy.
Sec. 2004. Department of Energy early-career research grants.
Sec. 2005. Advanced Research Projects Authority-Energy.
Sec. 2006. Authorization of appropriations for the Department of Energy for basic research.
Sec. 2007. Discovery science and engineering innovation institutes.
Sec. 2008. Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE) graduate fellowship program.
Sec. 2009. Title IX compliance.
Sec. 2010. High-risk, high-reward research.
Sec. 2011. Distinguished scientist program.
DIVISION C—EDUCATION
Sec. 3001. Findings.
Sec. 3002. Definitions.
TITLE I—TEACHER ASSISTANCE
Subtitle A—Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow
Sec. 3111. Purpose.
Sec. 3112. Definitions.
Sec. 3113. Programs for baccalaureate degrees in mathematics, science, engineering, or critical foreign languages, with concurrent teacher certification.

Sec. 3114. Programs for master's degrees in mathematics, science, technology, or critical foreign languages education.
Sec. 3115. General provisions.
Sec. 3116. Authorization of appropriations.
Subtitle B—Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs
Sec. 3121. Purpose.
Sec. 3122. Definitions.
Sec. 3123. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs.
Subtitle C—Promising Practices in Mathematics, Science, Technology, and Engineering Teaching
Sec. 3131. Promising practices.
TITLE II—MATHEMATICS
Sec. 3201. Math Now for elementary school and middle school students program.
Sec. 3202. Summer term education programs.
Sec. 3203. Math skills for secondary school students.
TITLE III—FOREIGN LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
Sec. 3301. Findings and purpose.
Sec. 3302. Definitions.
Sec. 3303. Program authorized.
Sec. 3304. Authorization of appropriations.
TITLE IV—ALIGNMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Sec. 3401. Alignment of secondary school graduation requirements with the demands of 21st century postsecondary endeavors and support for P–16 education data systems.
TITLE V—MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP BONUS GRANTS
Sec. 3501. Mathematics and science partnership bonus grants.
Sec. 3502. Authorization of appropriations.
DIVISION D—NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Sec. 4001. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 4002. Strengthening of education and human resources directorate through equitable distribution of new funds.
Sec. 4003. Graduate fellowships and graduate traineeships.
Sec. 4004. Professional science master's degree programs.
Sec. 4005. Increased support for science education through the National Science Foundation.
Sec. 4006. Meeting critical national science needs.
Sec. 4007. Reaffirmation of the merit-review process of the National Science Foundation.
Sec. 4008. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
Sec. 4009. Encouraging participation.
Sec. 4010. Cyberinfrastructure.
Sec. 4011. Federal information and communications technology research.
Sec. 4012. Robert Noyce Teacher Program.
Sec. 4013. Sense of the Senate regarding the mathematics and science partnership programs of the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.
Sec. 4014. National Science Foundation teacher institutes for the 21st century.
Sec. 4015. Partnerships for access to laboratory science.
DIVISION E—GENERAL PROVISIONS
Sec. 5001. Collection of data relating to trade in services.
Sec. 5002. Sense of the Senate regarding small business growth and capital markets.
Sec. 5003. Government Accountability Office Review of Activities, Grants, and Programs.
Sec. 5004. Prohibition against funding anticompetitiveness.
Sec. 5005. Feasibility study on free online college degree program.
Sec. 5006. Sense of the Senate regarding deemed exports.
Sec. 5007. Sense of the Senate regarding capital markets.

DIVISION A—COMMERCE AND SCIENCE

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''American Innovation and Competitiveness Act''.

TITLE I—OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY; GOVERNMENT-WIDE SCIENCE

SEC. 1101. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall convene a National Science and Technology Summit to examine the health and direction of the United States' science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enterprises. The Summit shall include representatives of industry, small business, labor, academia, State government, Federal research and development agencies, non-profit environmental and energy policy groups concerned with science and technology issues, and other nongovernmental organizations, including representatives of science, technology, and engineering organizations and associations that represent individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the conclusion of the Summit, the President shall issue a report on the results of the Summit. The report shall identify key research and technology challenges and recommendations, including recommendations to increase the representation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in science, engineering, and technology enterprises, for areas of investment for Federal research and technology programs to be carried out during the 5-year period beginning on the date the report is issued.

(c) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—Beginning in 2008, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall publish and submit to Congress an annual report that contains recommendations for areas of investment for Federal research and technology programs, including a justification for each area identified in the report. Each report submitted during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the conclusion of the Summit shall take into account any recommendations made by the Summit.

SEC. 1102. STUDY ON BARRIERS TO INNOVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct and complete a study to identify, and to review methods to mitigate, new forms of risk for businesses beyond conventional operational and financial risk that affect the ability to innovate, including studying and reviewing—

(1) incentive and compensation structures that could effectively encourage long-term value creation and innovation;

(2) methods of voluntary and supplemental disclosure by industry of intellectual capital, innovation performance, and indicators of future valuation;

(3) means by which government could work with industry to enhance the legal and regulatory framework to encourage the disclosures described in paragraph (2);

(4) practices that may be significant deterrents to United States businesses engaging in innovation risk-taking compared to foreign competitors;

(5) costs faced by United States businesses engaging in innovation compared to foreign competitors, including the burden placed on businesses by high and rising health care costs;

(6) means by which industry, trade associations, and universities could collaborate to support research on management practices and methodologies for assessing the value and risks of longer term innovation strategies;

(7) means to encourage new, open, and collaborative dialogue between industry associations, regulatory authorities, management, shareholders, labor, and other concerned interests to encourage appropriate approaches to innovation risk-taking;

(8) incentives to encourage participation among institutions of higher education, especially those in rural and underserved areas, to engage in innovation;

(9) relevant Federal regulations that may discourage or encourage innovation;

(10) all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including tax provisions, compliance costs, and reporting requirements, that discourage innovation;

(11) the extent to which Federal funding promotes or hinders innovation;

(12) the extent to which individuals are being equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century workforce, as measured by—

(A) elementary school and secondary school student academic achievement on the State academic assessments required under section 1111(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 (b)(3)), especially in mathematics, science, and reading, identified by ethnicity, race, and gender;

(B) the rate of student entrance into institutions of higher education, identified by ethnicity, race, and gender, by type of institution, and barriers to access to institutions of higher education;

(C) the rates of—

(i) students successfully completing postsecondary education programs, identified by ethnicity, race, and gender; and

(ii) certificates, associate degrees, and baccalaureate degrees awarded in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, identified by ethnicity, race, and gender; and

(D) access to, and availability of, high quality job training programs;

(13) the projected outcomes of increasing the number of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; and

(14) the identification of strategies to increase the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after entering into the contract required by subsection (a) and 4 years after entering into such contract, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under such subsection.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Academy of Sciences $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 for the purpose of carrying out the study required under this section.

SEC. 1103. NATIONAL INNOVATION MEDAL.

Section 16 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting ''**SEC. 16. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MEDAL.**''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''Technology Medal'' and inserting ''Technology and Innovation Medal''.

SEC. 1104. RELEASE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RESULTS.

(a) PRINCIPLES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the heads of all Federal civilian agencies that conduct scientific research, shall develop and issue an overarching set of principles to ensure the communication and open exchange of data and results to other agencies, policymakers, and the public of research conducted by a scientist employed by a Federal civilian agency and to prevent the intentional or unintentional suppression or distortion of such research findings. The principles shall encourage the open exchange of data and results of research undertaken by a scientist employed by such an agency and shall be consistent with existing Federal laws, including chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Bayh-Dole Act'').

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall ensure that all civilian Federal agencies that conduct scientific research develop specific policies and procedures regarding the public release of data and results of research conducted by a scientist employed by such an agency consistent with the principles established under subsection (a). Such polices and procedures shall—

(1) specifically address what is and what is not permitted or recommended under such policies and procedures;

(2) be specifically designed for each such agency;

(3) be applied uniformly throughout each such agency; and

(4) be widely communicated and readily accessible to all employees of each such agency and the public.

SEC. 1105. SEMIANNUAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS DAYS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy should—

(1) encourage all elementary and middle schools to observe a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Day twice in every school year for the purpose of bringing in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics mentors to provide hands-on lessons to excite and inspire students to pursue the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields (including continuing education and career paths);

(2) initiate a program, in consultation with Federal agencies and departments, to provide support systems, tools (from existing outreach offices), and mechanisms to allow and encourage Federal employees with scientific, technological, engineering, or mathematical responsibilities to reach out to local classrooms on such Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Days to instruct and inspire school children, focusing on real life science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related applicable experiences along with hands-on demonstrations in order to demonstrate the advantages and direct applications of studying the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; and

(3) promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Days involvement by private sector and institutions of higher education employees, including partnerships with scientific, engineering, and mathematical professional organizations representing individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b), in a manner similar to the Federal employee involvement described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 1106. STUDY OF SERVICE SCIENCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of United States enterprises and institutions and to prepare the people of the United States for high-wage, high-skill employment, the Federal Government should better understand and respond strategically to the emerging management and learning discipline known as service science.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, through the National Academy of Sciences, shall conduct a study and report to Congress regarding how the Federal Government should support, through research, education, and training, the emerging management and learning discipline known as service science.

(c) OUTSIDE RESOURCES.—In conducting the study under subsection (b), the National Academy of Sciences shall consult with leaders from 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), leaders from corporations, and other relevant parties.

(d) SERVICE SCIENCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''service science'' means curricula, training, and research programs that are designed to teach individuals to apply scientific, engineering, and management disciplines that integrate elements of computer science, operations research, industrial engineering, business strategy, management sciences, and social and legal sciences, in order to encourage innovation in how organizations create value for customers and shareholders that could not be achieved through such disciplines working in isolation.

TITLE II—INNOVATION PROMOTION

SEC. 1201. PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a President's Council on Innovation and Competitiveness.

(b) DUTIES.—The Council's duties shall include—

(1) monitoring implementation of public laws and initiatives for promoting innovation, including policies related to research funding, taxation, immigration, trade, and education that are proposed in this Act or in any other Act;

(2) providing advice to the President with respect to global trends in competitiveness and innovation and allocation of Federal resources in education, job training, and technology research and development considering such global trends in competitiveness and innovation;

(3) in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, developing a process for using metrics to assess the impact of existing and proposed policies and rules that affect innovation capabilities in the United States;

(4) identifying opportunities and making recommendations for the heads of executive agencies to improve innovation, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of such recommendations;

(5) developing metrics for measuring the progress of the Federal Government with respect to improving conditions for innovation, including through talent development, investment, and infrastructure improvements; and

(6) submitting to the President and Congress an annual report on such progress.

(c) MEMBERSHIP AND COORDINATION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of the Secretary or head of each of the following:

(A) The Department of Commerce.

(B) The Department of Defense.

(C) The Department of Education.

(D) The Department of Energy.

(E) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(F) The Department of Homeland Security.

(G) The Department of Labor.

(H) The Department of the Treasury.

(I) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(J) The Securities and Exchange Commission.

(K) The National Science Foundation.

(L) The Office of the United States Trade Representative.

(M) The Office of Management and Budget.

(N) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(O) The Environmental Protection Agency.

(P) The Small Business Administration.

(Q) Any other department or agency designated by the President.

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Commerce shall serve as Chairperson of the Council.

(3) COORDINATION.—The Chairperson of the Council shall ensure appropriate coordination between the Council and the National Economic Council, the National Security Council, and the National Science and Technology Council.

(4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet on a semi-annual basis at the call of the Chairperson and the initial meeting of the Council shall occur not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATION AGENDA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall develop a comprehensive agenda for strengthening the innovation and competitiveness capabilities of the Federal Government, State governments, academia, and the private sector in the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—The comprehensive agenda required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of current strengths and weaknesses of the United States investment in research and development.

(B) Recommendations for addressing weaknesses and maintaining the United States as a world leader in research and development and technological innovation, including strategies for increasing the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

(C) Recommendations for strengthening the innovation and competitiveness capabilities of the Federal government, State governments, academia, and the private sector in the United States.

(3) ADVISORS.—

(A) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences, in consultation with the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council, shall develop and submit to the President a list of 50 individuals that are recommended to serve as advisors to the Council during the development of the comprehensive agenda required by paragraph (1). The list of advisors shall include appropriate representatives from the following:

(i) The private sector of the economy.

(ii) Labor.

(iii) Various fields including information technology, energy, engineering, high-technology manufacturing, health care, and education.

(iv) Scientific organizations.

(v) Academic organizations and other nongovernmental organizations working in the area of science or technology.

(vi) Nongovernmental organizations, such as professional organizations, that represent individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in the areas of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics.

(B) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date that the National Academy of Sciences submits the list of recommended individuals to serve as advisors, the President shall designate 50 individuals to serve as advisors to the Council.

(C) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT.—The Council shall develop the comprehensive agenda required by paragraph (1) in consultation with the advisors.

(4) INITIAL SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.—

(A) INITIAL SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Council shall submit to Congress and the President the comprehensive agenda required by paragraph (1).

(B) UPDATES.—At least once every 2 years, the Council shall update the comprehensive agenda required by paragraph (1) and submit each such update to Congress and the President.

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 101(b) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)) is amended by striking ''an'' in the first sentence and inserting ''a distinct''.

(f) OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c), the President may designate an existing council to carry out the requirements of this section.

SEC. 1202. INNOVATION ACCELERATION RESEARCH.

(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The President, through the head of each Federal research agency, shall establish a program, to be known as the Innovation Acceleration Research Program, to support and promote innovation in the United States through research projects that can yield results with far-ranging or wide-ranging implications but are considered too novel or span too diverse a range of disciplines to fare well in the traditional peer review process. Priority in the awarding of grants under this program shall be given to research projects that—

(1) meet fundamental technology or scientific challenges;

(2) involve multidisciplinary work; and

(3) involve a high degree of novelty.

(b) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

(1) FUNDING GOALS.—The President shall ensure that it is the goal of each Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code) that finances research in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology to allocate approximately 8 percent of the agency's total annual research and development budget to funding research, including grants, under the Innovation Acceleration Research Program.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Executive agency participating in the Innovation Acceleration Research Program under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a plan for implementing the research program within such Executive agency. An implementation plan may incorporate existing initiatives of the Executive agencies that promote research in innovation as described in subsection (a).

(B) REQUIRED METRICS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Executive agency submitting an implementation plan pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include metrics upon which grant funding decisions will be made and metrics for assessing the success of the grants awarded.

(ii) METRICS FOR BASIC RESEARCH.—The metrics developed under clause (i) to assess basic research programs shall assess management of the programs and shall not assess specific scientific outcomes of the research conducted by the programs.

(C) GRANT DURATION AND RENEWALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any grants issued by an Executive agency under this section shall be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

(ii) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days prior to the expiration of a grant issued under this section, the Executive agency that approved the grant shall complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of the grant based on the metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (B). In its evaluation, the Executive agency shall consider the extent to which the program funded by the grant met the goals of quality improvement and job creation.

(iii) PUBLICATION OF REVIEW.—The Executive agency shall publish and make available to the public the review of each grant approved pursuant to this section.

(iv) FAILURE TO MEET METRICS.—Any grant that the Executive agency awarding the grant determines has failed to satisfy any of the metrics developed pursuant to subparagraph (B), shall not be eligible for a renewal.

(v) RENEWAL.—A grant issued under this section that satisfies all of the metrics developed pursuant to subparagraph (B), may be renewed once for a period of not more than 3 years. Additional renewals may be considered only if the head of the Executive agency makes a specific finding that the program being funded involves a significant technology or scientific advance that requires a longer time frame to complete critical research, and the research satisfies all the metrics developed pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(vi) WAIVER.—The head of the Executive agency may authorize a waiver of the requirement of clauses (iv) and (v) related to satisfying metric requirements if he or she determines that the grant failed to meet a small number of metrics and the failure was not significant for the overall performance of the grant.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL RESEARCH AGENCY.—The term ''Federal research agency'' means a major organizational component of a department or agency of the Federal Government, or other establishment of the Federal Government operating with appropriated funds, that has as its primary purpose the performance of scientific research.

(2) MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENT.—The term ''major organizational component'', with respect to a department, agency, or other establishment of the Federal Government, means a component of the department, agency, or other establishment that is administered by an individual whose rate of basic pay is not less than the rate of basic pay payable under level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

TITLE III—NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 1301. NASA'S CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION.

(a) PARTICIPATION IN INTERAGENCY ACTIVITIES.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities.

(b) HISTORIC FOUNDATION.—In order to carry out the participation described in subsection (a), the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall build on the historic role of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in stimulating excellence in the advancement of physical science and engineering disciplines and in providing opportunities and incentives for the pursuit of academic studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(c) BALANCED SCIENCE PROGRAM AND ROBUST AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.—The balanced science program authorized by section 101(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16611) shall be an element of the contribution by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to such interagency programs. It is the sense of Congress that a robust National Aeronautics and Space Administration, funded at the levels authorized for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 under sections 202 and 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16631 and 16632) and at appropriate levels in subsequent fiscal years would enable a fair balance among science, aeronautics, education, exploration, and human space flight programs and allow full participation in any interagency efforts to promote innovation and economic competitiveness.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress and the President an annual report describing the activities conducted pursuant to this section, including a description of the goals and the objective metrics upon which funding decisions were made.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, with regard to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A description of each program.

(B) The amount spent on each program.

(C) The number of students or teachers served by each program.

(D) Measurement of how each program improved student achievement, including with regard to challenging State achievement standards.

SEC. 1302. AERONAUTICS INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall establish within the Administration an Aeronautics Institute for Research for the purpose of managing the aeronautics research carried out by the Administration.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The Institute shall be headed by a Director with appropriate experience in aeronautics research and development.

(b) DUTIES.—The Institute shall implement the programs authorized under title IV of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16701 et seq.).

(c) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall operate in conjunction with relevant programs in

the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Homeland Security, including the activities of the Joint Planning and Development Office established under the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176; 117 Stat. 2490).

(2) RESOURCES.—The Director of the Institute may accept assistance, staff, and funding from those Departments and other Federal agencies. Any such funding shall be in addition to funds authorized for aeronautics under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–155).

(3) OTHER COORDINATION.—The Director of the Institute may utilize the Next Generation Air Transportation Senior Policy Committee established under section 710 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note) to coordinate its programs with other Departments and agencies.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In developing and carrying out its plans, the Institute shall consult with the public and ensure the participation of experts from the private sector including representatives of commercial aviation, general aviation, aviation labor groups, aviation research and development entities, aircraft and air traffic control suppliers, and the space industry.

SEC. 1303. BASIC RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Commerce shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate basic and fundamental research activities related to physical sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF BASIC RESEARCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—In order to ensure effective application of resources to basic science activity and to facilitate cooperative basic and fundamental research activities with other governmental organizations, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall establish within the Administration a Basic Research Executive Council to oversee the distribution and management of programs and resources engaged in support of basic research activity.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Basic Research Executive Council shall consist of the most senior agency official representing each of the following areas of research:

(1) Space Science.

(2) Earth Science.

(3) Life and Microgravity Sciences.

(4) Aeronautical Research.

(d) LEADERSHIP.—The Basic Research Executive Council shall be chaired by an individual appointed for that purpose who shall have, as a minimum, a appropriate graduate degree in a recognizable discipline in the physical sciences, and appropriate experience in the conduct and management of basic research activity. The Chairman of the Council shall report directly to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(e) SUPPORTING RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL.—The Chairman of the Basic Research Executive Council shall be provided with adequate administrative staff support to conduct the activity and functions of the Council.

(f) DUTIES.—The Basic Research Executive Council shall have, at minimum, the following duties:

(1) To establish criteria for the identification of research activity as basic in nature.

(2) To establish, in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, and other appropriate external organizations, a prioritization of fundamental research activity to be conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, taking into consideration evolving national research priorities.

(3) To monitor, review, and evaluate all basic research activity of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for compliance with basic research priorities established under paragraph (2).

(4) To make recommendations to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration regarding adjustments in the basic research activities of the Administration to ensure consistency with the research priorities established under this section.

(5) To provide an annual report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives outlining the activities of the Council during the preceding year and the status of basic research activity within the Administration. The initial such report, to serve as a baseline document, shall be provided within 90 days after the establishment and initial operations of the Council.

SEC. 1304. AGING WORKFORCE ISSUES PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should implement a program to address aging work force issues in aerospace that—

(1) documents technical and management experiences before senior people leave the Administration, including—

(A) documenting lessons learned;

(B) briefing organizations;

(C) providing opportunities for archiving lessons in a database; and

(D) providing opportunities for near-term retirees to transition out early from their primary assignment in order to document their career lessons learned and brief new employees prior to their separation from the Administration;

(2) provides incentives for retirees to return and teach new employees about their career lessons and experiences; and

(3) provides for the development of an award to recognize and reward outstanding senior employees for their contributions to knowledge sharing.

SEC. 1305. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 101(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16611(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon in paragraph (2)(B);

(2) by striking ''Act.'' in paragraph (2)(C) and inserting ''Act; and'';

(3) by adding at the end of paragraph (2) the following:

''(D) the number and content of science activities which are undertaken in support of science missions described in subparagraph (A), and the number and content of science activities which may be considered as fundamental, or basic research, whether incorporated within specific missions or conducted independently of any specific mission.''; and

(4) by adding at the end of paragraph (3) the following:

''(H) How NASA science activities can best be structured to ensure that basic and fundamental research can be effectively maintained and coordinated in response to national goals in competitiveness and innovation, and in contributing to national scientific, technology, engineering and mathematics leadership.''.

SEC. 1306. FISCAL YEAR 2008 BASIC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH FUNDING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall increase funding for basic science and research, including for the Explorer Program, for fiscal year 2008 by $160,000,000 by transferring such amount for such purpose from accounts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The transfer shall be contingent upon the availability of unobligated balances to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 1401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the use of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) for fiscal year 2008, $703,611,000, of which $115,000,000 shall be used for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program;

(2) for fiscal year 2009, $773,972,000, of which $122,005,000 shall be used for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program;

(3) for fiscal year 2010, $851,369,000, of which $131,766,000 shall be used for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program; and

(4) for fiscal year 2011, $936,506,000, of which $142,300,000 shall be used for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.

SEC. 1402. AMENDMENTS TO THE STEVENSON-WYDLER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ACT OF 1980.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3704) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology.''.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (3); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (13) as paragraphs (1) through (11), respectively.

(3) REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 21(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3713(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''sections 5, 11(g), and 16'' and inserting ''sections 11(g) and 16''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$500,000 is authorized only for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of the Japanese technical literature program established under section 5(d) of this Act;''.

(4) HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACT OF 1991.—Section 208 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5528) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(5) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.—Section 6(b)(4)(B)(v) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3005(b)(4)(B)(v)) is amended by striking ''the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce,'' and inserting ''the National Institute of Standards and Technology,''.

SEC. 1403. INNOVATION ACCELERATION.

(a) PROGRAM.—In order to implement section 1202 of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) establish a program linked to the goals and objectives of the measurement laboratories, to be known as the ''Standards and

Technology Acceleration Research Program'', to support and promote innovation in the United States through high-risk, high-reward research; and

(2) set aside, from funds available to the measurement laboratories, an amount equal to not less than 8 percent of the funds available to the Institute each fiscal year for such Program.

(b) EXTERNAL FUNDING.—The Director shall ensure that at least 80 percent of the funds available for such Program shall be used to award competitive, merit-reviewed grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to public or private entities, including businesses and universities. In selecting entities to receive such assistance, the Director shall ensure that the project proposed by an entity has scientific and technical merit and that any resulting intellectual property shall vest in a United States entity that can commercialize the technology in a timely manner. Each external project shall involve at least one small or medium-sized business and the Director shall give priority to joint ventures between small or medium-sized businesses and educational institutions. Any grant shall be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

(c) COMPETITIONS.—The Director shall solicit proposals annually to address areas of national need for high-risk, high-reward research, as identified by the Director.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year the Director shall issue an annual report describing the program's activities, including include a description of the metrics upon which grant funding decisions were made in the previous fiscal year, any proposed changes to those metrics, metrics for evaluating the success of ongoing and completed grants, and an evaluation of ongoing and completed grants. The first annual report shall include best practices for management of programs to stimulate high-risk, high-reward research.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—No more than 5 percent of the finding available to the program may be used for administrative expenses.

(f) HIGH-RISK, HIGH-REWARD RESEARCH DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''high-risk, high-reward research'' means research that—

(1) has the potential for yielding results with far-ranging or wide-ranging implications;

(2) addresses critical national needs related to measurement standards and technology; and

(3) is too novel or spans too diverse a range of disciplines to fare well in the traditional peer review process.

SEC. 1404. MANUFACTURING EXTENSION.

(a) MANUFACTURING CENTER EVALUATION.—Section 25(c)(5) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(c)(5)) is amended by inserting ''A Center that has not received a positive evaluation by the evaluation panel shall be notified by the panel of the deficiencies in its performance and shall be placed on probation for one year, after which time the panel shall reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not addressed the deficiencies identified by the panel, or shown a significant improvement in its performance, the Director shall conduct a new competition to select an operator for the Center or may close the Center.'' after ''at declining levels.''.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Centers program, the Secretary and Director also may accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and under section 2(c)(7) from the private sector for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing. Such funds from the private sector, if allocated to a Center or Centers, shall not be considered in the calculation of the Federal share of capital and annual operating and maintenance costs under subsection (c).''.

SEC. 1405. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology shall re-establish the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology. The purpose of the program shall be to strengthen the technological competitiveness of those States that have historically received less Federal research and development funds than a majority of the States have received.

(b) ARRANGEMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Director shall cooperate with State, regional, or local science and technology-based economic development organization and with representatives of small business firms and other appropriate technology-based businesses.

(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Director may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to provide for—

(1) technology research and development;

(2) technology transfer from university research;

(3) technology deployment and diffusion; and

(4) the strengthening of technological and innovation capabilities through consortia comprised of—

(A) technology-based small business firms;

(B) industries and emerging companies;

(C) institutions of higher education including community colleges; and

(D) State and local development agencies and entities.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR MAKING AWARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In making awards under this section, the Director shall ensure that the awards are awarded on a competitive basis that includes a review of the merits of the activities that are the subject of the award, giving special emphasis to those projects which will increase the participation of women, Native Americans (including Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives), and underrepresented groups in science and technology.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The non-Federal share of the activities (other than planning activities) carried out under an award under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent of the cost of those activities.

(e) CRITERIA FOR STATES.—The Director shall establish criteria for achievement by each State that participates in the program. Upon the achievement of all such criteria, a State shall cease to be eligible to participate in the program.

(f) COORDINATION.—To the extent practicable, in carrying out this subsection, the Director shall coordinate the program with other programs of the Department of Commerce.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives a report that meets the requirements of this subsection.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORT.—The report required by this subsection shall contain—

(A) a description of the structure and procedures of the program;

(B) a management plan for the program;

(C) a description of the merit-based review process to be used in the program;

(D) milestones for the evaluation of activities to be assisted under the program in fiscal year 2008;

(E) an assessment of the eligibility of each State that participates in the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research of the National Science Foundation to participate in the program under this subsection; and

(F) the evaluation criteria with respect to which the overall management and effectiveness of the program will be evaluated.

SEC. 1406. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT AND OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—Section 18 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–1) is amended by striking ''up to 1 per centum of the'' in the first sentence.

(b) FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS.—

(1) CLARIFICATION.—Section 2(b)(4) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)(4)) is amended by inserting ''and grants and cooperative agreements,'' after ''arrangements,''.

(2) MEMBERSHIPS.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon in paragraph (21);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as paragraph (23); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (21) the following:

''(22) notwithstanding subsection (b)(4) of this section, sections 6301 through 6308 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Grants and Cooperative Agreements Act'), sections 3551 through 3556 of such title (commonly known as the 'Competition in Contracting Act'), and the Federal Acquisition Regulations set forth in title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, to expend appropriated funds for National Institute of Standards and Technology memberships in scientific organizations, registration fees for attendance at conferences, and sponsorship of conferences in furtherance of technology transfer; and''.

(c) OUTDATED SPECIFICATIONS.—

(1) REDEFINITION OF METRIC SYSTEM.—Section 2 of the Act of July 28, 1866, entitled ''An Act to authorize the Use of the Metric System of Weights and Measures'' (15 U.S.C. 205; 14 Stat. 339) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. METRIC SYSTEM DEFINED.

''The metric system of measurement shall be defined as the International System of Units as established in 1960, and subsequently maintained, by the General Conference of Weights and Measures, and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.''.

(2) REPEAL OF REDUNDANT AND OBSOLETE AUTHORITY.—The Act of July 21, 1950, entitled, ''An Act To redefine the units and establish the standards of electrical and photometric measurements of 1950'' (15 U.S.C. 223) is hereby repealed.

(3) IDAHO TIME ZONE.—Section 3 of the Act of March 19, 1918, (commonly known as the ''Calder Act'') (15 U.S.C. 264) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**third zone**'' and inserting ''**fourth zone**''; and

(B) by striking ''third zone'' and inserting ''fourth zone''.

(4) STANDARD TIME.—Section 1 of the Act of March 19, 1918, (commonly known as the ''Calder Act'') (15 U.S.C. 261) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''For the purpose'';

(B) by striking the second sentence and the extra period after it and inserting ''Except as provided in section 3(a) of the Uniform Time

Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a), the standard time of the first zone shall be Coordinated Universal Time retarded by 4 hours; that of the second zone retarded by 5 hours; that of the third zone retarded by 6 hours; that of the fourth zone retarded by 7 hours; that of the fifth zone retarded 8 hours; that of the sixth zone retarded by 9 hours; that of the seventh zone retarded by 10 hours; that of the eighth zone retarded by 11 hours; and that of the ninth zone shall be Coordinated Universal Time advanced by 10 hours.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Coordinated Universal Time' means the time scale maintained through the General Conference of Weights and Measures and interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce in coordination with the Secretary of the Navy.''.

(d) NON-ENERGY INVENTIONS PROGRAM.—Section 27 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278m) is repealed.

SEC. 1407. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH REGIONAL CENTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Paragraph (3) of section 25(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nonprofit institution, or group thereof, or consortia of nonprofit institutions, including entities existing on August 23, 1988, may submit to the Secretary an application for financial support under this subsection, in accordance with the procedures established by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register under paragraph (2).

''(B) CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS.—In order to receive assistance under this section, an applicant for financial assistance under subparagraph (A) shall provide adequate assurances that non-Federal assets obtained from the applicant and the applicant's partnering organizations will be used as a funding source to meet not less than 50 percent of the costs incurred for the first 3 years and an increasing share for each of the last 3 years. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the costs incurred means the costs incurred in connection with the activities undertaken to improve the management, productivity, and technological performance of small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

''(C) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the 50 percent requirement, it is anticipated that a Center will enter into agreements with other entities such as private industry, universities, and State governments to accomplish programmatic objectives and access new and existing resources that will further the impact of the Federal investment made on behalf of small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies. All non-Federal costs, contributed by such entities and determined by a Center as programmatically reasonable and allocable are includable as a portion of the Center's contribution.

''(D) ALLOCATION OF LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant under subparagraph (A) shall also submit a proposal for the allocation of any legal right associated with any invention that may result from an activity of a Center for which such applicant receives financial assistance under this section.''.

TITLE V—OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERIC PROGRAMS

SEC. 1501. OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall establish a coordinated program of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric research and development, in collaboration with academic institutions and other nongovernmental entities, that shall focus on the development of advanced technologies and analytical methods that will promote United States leadership in ocean and atmospheric science and competitiveness in the applied uses of such knowledge.

SEC. 1502. NOAA OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall conduct, develop, support, promote, and coordinate formal and informal educational activities at all levels to enhance public awareness and understanding of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science and stewardship by the general public and other coastal stakeholders, including underrepresented groups in ocean and atmospheric science and policy careers. In conducting those activities, the Administrator shall build upon the educational programs and activities of the agency.

(b) NOAA SCIENCE EDUCATION PLAN.—The Administrator, appropriate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs, ocean atmospheric science and education experts, and interested members of the public shall develop a science education plan setting forth education goals and strategies for the Administration, as well as programmatic actions to carry out such goals and priorities over the next 20 years, and evaluate and update such plan every 5 years.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the application of section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232a) or sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794 and 794d).

SEC. 1503. NOAA'S CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION.

(a) PARTICIPATION IN INTERAGENCY ACTIVITIES.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities.

(b) HISTORIC FOUNDATION.—In order to carry out the participation described in subsection (a), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall build on the historic role of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in stimulating excellence in the advancement of ocean and atmospheric science and engineering disciplines and in providing opportunities and incentives for the pursuit of academic studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SEC. 1504. NOAA ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITH NOAA FUNDS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Department of Commerce shall conduct routine, independent reviews of the activities carried out with grants or other financial assistance made available by the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Such reviews shall include cost-benefit analysis of such activities and reviews to determine if the goals of such activities are being accomplished.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The Administrator shall make each review conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) available to the public through the website of the Administration not later than 60 days after the date such review is completed.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF NOAA FUNDS FOR MEETINGS.—No funds made available by the Administrator through a grant or contract may be used by the person who received such grant or contract, including any subcontractor to such person, for a banquet or conference, other than a conference related to training or a routine meeting with officers or employees of the Administration to discuss an ongoing project or training.

(c) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Each person who receives funds from the Administrator through a grant or contract shall submit to the Administrator a certification stating that none of such funds will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest or other conflict of interest with the person who received such funds from the Administrator.

DIVISION B—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Protecting America's Competitive Edge Through Energy Act'' or the ''PACE–Energy Act''.

SEC. 2002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Under Secretary for Science appointed under section 202(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)).

SEC. 2003. MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

(a) SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 3164 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) ORGANIZATION OF MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

''(1) DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science (referred to in this subsection as the 'Under Secretary'), shall appoint a Director of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education (referred to in this subsection as the 'Director') with the principal responsibility for administering mathematics, science, and engineering education programs across all functions of the Department.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Director shall be an individual, who by reason of professional background and experience, is specially qualified to advise the Under Secretary on all matters pertaining to mathematics, science, and engineering education at the Department.

''(3) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

''(A) oversee all mathematics, science, and engineering education programs of the Department;

''(B) represent the Department as the principal interagency liaison for all mathematics, science, and engineering education programs, unless otherwise represented by the Secretary or the Under Secretary;

''(C) prepare the annual budget and advise the Under Secretary on all budgetary issues for mathematics, science, and engineering education programs of the Department;

''(D) increase, to the maximum extent practicable, the participation and advancement of women and underrepresented minorities at every level of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education; and

''(E) perform other such matters related to mathematics, science, and engineering education as are required by the Secretary or the Under Secretary.

''(4) STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall assign to the Director such personnel and other resources as the Secretary considers necessary to permit the Director to carry out the duties of the Director.

''(5) ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy, not later than 5 years after, and not later than 10 years after, the date of enactment of this paragraph, shall assess the performance of the mathematics, science, and engineering education programs of the Department.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—An assessment under this paragraph shall be conducted taking into consideration, where applicable, the effect of mathematics, science, and engineering education programs of the Department on student academic achievement in math and science.

''(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.''; and

(3) by striking subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) and inserting the following:

''(d) MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION FUND.—The Secretary shall establish a Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education Fund, using not less than 0.3 percent of the amount made available to the Department for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for each fiscal year, to carry out sections 3165, 3166, and 3167.''.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the Secretary of Education regarding activities authorized under subpart B of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (as added by subsection (d)(3)) to improve mathematics and science education; and

(2) otherwise make available to the Secretary of Education reports associated with programs authorized under that section.

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 3168 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term 'National Laboratory' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).''.

(d) MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 3162 the following:

''Subpart A—Science Education Enhancement'';

(2) in section 3169, by striking ''part'' and inserting ''subpart''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''Subpart B—Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education Programs

''SEC. 3170. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subpart:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education.

''(2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term 'National Laboratory' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

''CHAPTER 1—ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY SCHOOLS FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

''SEC. 3171. SPECIALTY SCHOOLS FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide assistance to States to establish or expand public, statewide specialty secondary schools that provide comprehensive mathematics and science (including engineering and technology) education to improve the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science.

''(b) DEFINITION OF SPECIALTY SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.—In this chapter, the term 'specialty school for mathematics and science' means a public secondary school (including a school that provides residential services to students) that—

''(1) serves students residing in the State in which the school is located; and

''(2) offers to those students a high-quality, comprehensive mathematics and science (including engineering and technology) curriculum designed to improve the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science.

''(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts authorized under subsection (i), the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to States in order to provide assistance to the States for the costs of establishing or expanding public, statewide specialty schools for mathematics and science.

''(2) RESOURCES.—The Director shall ensure that appropriate resources of the Department, including the National Laboratories, are available to schools funded under this section in order to—

''(A) increase experiential, hands-on learning opportunities in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology for students attending such schools; and

''(B) provide ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers employed at such schools.

''(3) ASSISTANCE.—Consistent with sections 3165 and 3166, the Director shall make available necessary funds for a program using scientific and engineering staff of the National Laboratories, during which the staff—

''(A) assists teachers in teaching courses at the schools funded under this section;

''(B) uses National Laboratory scientific equipment in teaching the courses; and

''(C) uses distance education and other technologies to provide assistance described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) to schools funded under this section that are not located near the National Laboratories.

''(4) RESTRICTION.—No State shall receive funding for more than 1 specialty school for mathematics and science for a fiscal year.

''(d) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARES.—

''(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c)(1) shall not exceed 50 percent.

''(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c)(1) shall be—

''(A) not less than 50 percent; and

''(B) provided from non-Federal sources, in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services.

''(e) APPLICATION.—Each State desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may require that describes—

''(1) the process by which and selection criteria with which the State will select and designate a school as a specialty school for mathematics and science in accordance with this section;

''(2) how the State will ensure that funds made available under this section are used to establish or expand a specialty school for mathematics and science—

''(A) in accordance with the activities described in subsection (g); and

''(B) that has the capacity to improve the academic achievement of all students in all core academic subjects, and particularly in mathematics and science;

''(3) how the State will measure the extent to which the school increases student academic achievement on State academic achievement standards in mathematics, science, and, to the extent applicable, technology and engineering;

''(4) the curricula and materials to be used in the school;

''(5) the availability of funds from non-Federal sources for the non-Federal share of the costs of the activities authorized under this section; and

''(6) how the State will use technical assistance and support from the Department, including the National Laboratories, and other entities with experience and expertise in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering education, including institutions of higher education.

''(f) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall—

''(1) ensure a wide, equitable distribution among States that propose to serve students from urban and rural areas; and

''(2) provide equal consideration to States without National Laboratories.

''(g) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds made available through the grant to—

''(A) employ proven strategies and methods for improving student learning and teaching in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering;

''(B) integrate into the curriculum of the school comprehensive mathematics and science education, including instruction and assessments in mathematics, science, and to the extent applicable, technology and engineering that are aligned with the State's academic content and student academic achievement standards (within the meaning of section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311)), classroom management, professional development, parental involvement, and school management; and

''(C) provide high-quality and continuous teacher and staff professional development.

''(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Grant funds under this section may be used for activities described in paragraph (1) only if the activities are directly related to improving student academic achievement in mathematics, science, and to the extent applicable, technology and engineering.

''(h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

''(1) STATE EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

''(A) EVALUATION.—Each State that receives a grant under this section shall develop and carry out an evaluation and accountability plan for the activities funded through the grant that measures the impact of the activities, including measurable objectives for improved student academic achievement on State mathematics, science, and, to

the extent applicable, technology and engineering assessments.

''(B) REPORT.—The State shall submit to the Director a report containing the results of the evaluation and accountability plan.

''(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the PACE–Energy Act, the Director shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress detailing the impact of the activities assisted with funds made available under this section.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(3) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

''(4) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

''CHAPTER 2—EXPERIENTIAL-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

''SEC. 3175. EXPERIENTIAL-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

''(a) INTERNSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts authorized under subsection (f), the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish a summer internship program for middle school and secondary school students that shall—

''(A) provide the students with internships at the National Laboratories;

''(B) promote experiential, hands-on learning in mathematics, science, technology, or engineering; and

''(C) be of at least 2 weeks in duration.

''(2) RESIDENTIAL SERVICES.—The Director may provide residential services to students participating in the Internship authorized under this chapter.

''(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish criteria to determine the sufficient level of academic preparedness necessary for a student to be eligible for an internship under this section.

''(2) PARTICIPATION.—The Director shall ensure the participation of students from a wide distribution of States, including States without National Laboratories.

''(3) STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.—The Director may consider the academic achievement of middle and secondary school students in determining eligibility under this section, in accordance with subsection (1) and (2).

''(c) PRIORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall give priority for an internship under this section to a student who meets the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b) and who attends a school—

''(A)(i) in which not less than 30 percent of the children enrolled in the school are from low-income families; or

''(ii) that is designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the Secretary of Education; and

''(B) for which there is—

''(i) a high percentage of teachers who are not teaching in the academic subject areas or grade levels in which the teachers were trained to teach;

''(ii) a high teacher turnover rate; or

''(iii) a high percentage of teachers with emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licenses.

''(2) COORDINATION.—The Director shall consult with the Secretary of Education in order to determine whether a student meets the priority requirements of this subsection.

''(d) OUTREACH AND EXPERIENTIAL-BASED PROGRAMS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, in cooperation with Hispanic-serving institutions, historically Black colleges and universities, tribally controlled colleges and universities, Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, and other minority-serving institutions and nonprofit entities with substantial experience relating to outreach and experiential-based learning projects, shall establish outreach and experiential-based learning programs that will encourage underrepresented minority students in kindergarten through grade 12 to pursue careers in math, science, and engineering.

''(2) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that the programs established under paragraph (1) involve, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(A) participation by parents and educators; and

''(B) the establishment of partnerships with business organizations and appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.

''(3) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the programs established under paragraph (1) are located in diverse geographic regions of the United States, to the maximum extent practicable.

''(e) EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.—The Director shall develop an evaluation and accountability plan for the activities funded under this chapter that objectively measures the impact of the activities.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

''CHAPTER 3—NATIONAL LABORATORIES CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION

''SEC. 3181. NATIONAL LABORATORIES CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION.

''(a) DEFINITION OF HIGH-NEED PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL.—In this chapter, the term 'high-need public secondary school' means a secondary school—

''(1) with a high concentration of low-income individuals (as defined in section 1707 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537)); or

''(2) designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the Secretary of Education.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish at each of the National Laboratories a program to support a Center of Excellence in Mathematics, Science, Technology, and Engineering at 1 high-need public secondary school located in the region of the National Laboratory to provide assistance in accordance with subsection (f).

''(c) PARTNERSHIP.—Each high-need public secondary school selected as a Center of Excellence shall form a partnership with a department that provides training for teachers and principals at an institution of higher education for purposes of compliance with subsection (g).

''(d) SELECTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish criteria to guide the National Laboratories in selecting the sites of the Centers of Excellence.

''(2) PROCESS.—The National Laboratories shall select the sites of the Centers of Excellence through an open, widely publicized, and competitive process.

''(e) GOALS.—The Secretary shall establish goals and performance assessments for each Center of Excellence authorized under subsection (b).

''(f) ASSISTANCE.—Consistent with sections 3165 and 3166, the Director shall make available necessary funds for a program using scientific and engineering staff of the National Laboratories, during which the staff—

''(1) assists teachers in teaching courses at the Centers of Excellence in Mathematics, Science, Technology, and Engineering; and

''(2) uses National Laboratory scientific equipment in the teaching of the courses.

''(g) SPECIAL RULE.—Each Center of Excellence shall ensure—

''(1) provision of clinical practicum, student teaching, or internship experiences for mathematics, science, and technology teacher candidates as part of its teacher preparation program;

''(2) provision of supervision and mentoring for teacher candidates in the teacher preparation program; and

''(3) to the maximum extent practicable, provision of professional development for veteran teachers in the public secondary schools in the region.

''(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall consider the results of performance assessments required under subsection (e) in determining the contract award fee of a National Laboratory management and operations contractor.

''(i) PLAN.—The Director shall—

''(1) develop an evaluation and accountability plan for the activities funded under this chapter that objectively measures the impact of the activities; and

''(2) disseminate information obtained from those measurements.

''(j) NO EFFECT ON SIMILAR PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section displaces or otherwise affects any similar program being carried out as of the date of enactment of this subpart at any National Laboratory under any other provision of law.

''CHAPTER 4—SUMMER INSTITUTES

''SEC. 3185. SUMMER INSTITUTES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNER.—The term 'eligible partner' means—

''(A) the mathematics, science, or engineering department at an institution of higher education, acting in coordination with a department at an institution of higher education that provides training for teachers and principals; or

''(B) a nonprofit entity with expertise in providing professional development for mathematics, science, or technology teachers.

''(2) SUMMER INSTITUTE.—The term 'summer institute' means an institute, conducted during the summer, that—

''(A) is conducted for a period of not less than 2 weeks;

''(B) includes, as a component, a program that provides direct interaction between students and faculty, including personnel of 1 or more National Laboratories who have scientific expertise; and

''(C) provides for follow-up training, during the academic year, that is conducted in the classroom.

''(b) SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish or expand programs of summer institutes at each of the National Laboratories to provide additional training to strengthen the mathematics, science, technology, and engineering teaching skills of teachers employed at public schools for kindergarten through grade 12, in accordance with the activities authorized under subsections (c) and (d).

''(2) PROGRAMS WITH ELIGIBLE PARTNERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall identify and provide assistance to eligible partners to establish or expand programs of summer institutes that provide additional training to strengthen the mathematics, science, technology, and engineering teaching skills of teachers employed at public schools for kindergarten through grade 12, in accordance with the activities authorized under subsections (c) and (d).

''(B) ASSISTANCE.—Consistent with sections 3165 and 3166, the Director shall make available necessary funds for a program using scientific and engineering staff of the National Laboratories, during which the staff—

''(i) assists in providing training to teachers at summer institutes; and

''(ii) uses National Laboratory scientific equipment in the training.

''(C) LIMITATION OF AMOUNT.—To carry out this paragraph, the Director may use not more than 50 percent of the amounts authorized under subsection (h) for a fiscal year.

''(c) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each program authorized under subsection (b) shall—

''(1) create opportunities for enhanced and ongoing professional development for teachers that improves the mathematics, science, technology, and engineering content knowledge of such teachers;

''(2) include material pertaining to recent developments in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering pedagogy;

''(3) provide training on the use and integration of technology in the classroom;

''(4) directly relate to the curriculum and academic areas in which the teachers provide instruction;

''(5) enhance the ability of the teachers to understand and use the challenging State academic content standards for mathematics, science, and, to the extent applicable, technology and engineering and to select appropriate curricula;

''(6) train teachers to use curricula that are—

''(A) based on scientific research;

''(B) aligned with challenging State academic content standards; and

''(C) object-centered, experiment-oriented, and concept- and content-based;

''(7) provide professional development activities, including supplemental and follow-up activities; and

''(8) allow for the exchange of best practices among the participants.

''(d) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A program authorized under subsection (b) may include—

''(1) a program that provides teachers with opportunities to work under the guidance of experienced teachers and college faculty;

''(2) instruction in the use and integration of data and assessments to inform and instruct classroom practice; and

''(3) extended master teacher programs.

''(e) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Director shall ensure that each summer institute program authorized under subsection (b) provides training to—

''(1) teachers from a wide range of school districts;

''(2) teachers from disadvantaged school districts; and

''(3) teachers from groups underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering teaching, including women and members of minority groups.

''(f) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—The Director shall consult and coordinate with the Secretary of Education and the Director of the National Science Foundation regarding the implementation of the programs authorized under subsection (b).

''(g) EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop an evaluation and accountability plan for the activities funded under this section that measures the impact of the activities.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The evaluation and accountability plan shall include—

''(A) measurable objectives to increase the number of mathematics, science, and technology teachers who participate in the summer institutes involved; and

''(B) measurable objectives for improved student academic achievement on State mathematics, science, and to the extent applicable, technology and engineering assessments.

''(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress with the annual budget submission of the Secretary a report on how the activities assisted under this section improve the mathematics, science, technology, and engineering teaching skills of participating teachers.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(3) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

''(4) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

''CHAPTER 5—NUCLEAR SCIENCE EDUCATION

''SEC. 3191. NUCLEAR SCIENCE TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to address the decline in the number of and resources available to nuclear science programs of institutions of higher education; and

''(2) to increase the number of graduates with degrees in nuclear science, an area of strategic importance to the economic competitiveness and energy security of the United States.

''(b) DEFINITION OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE.—In this section, the term 'nuclear science' includes—

''(1) nuclear science;

''(2) nuclear engineering;

''(3) nuclear chemistry;

''(4) radio chemistry; and

''(5) health physics.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish in accordance with this section a program to expand and enhance institution of higher education nuclear science educational capabilities.

''(d) NUCLEAR SCIENCE PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall award up to 3 competitive grants for each fiscal year to institutions of higher education that establish new academic degree programs in nuclear science.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, an applicant shall partner with a National Laboratory or other eligible nuclear-related entity, as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) CRITERIA.—Criteria for a grant awarded under this subsection shall be based on—

''(A) the potential to attract new students to the program;

''(B) academic rigor; and

''(C) the ability to offer hands-on learning opportunities.

''(4) DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

''(A) DURATION.—A grant under this subsection shall be 5 years in duration.

''(B) AMOUNT.—An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this subsection shall be eligible for up to $1,000,000 for each year of the grant period.

''(5) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this subsection may use the grant to—

''(A) recruit and retain new faculty;

''(B) develop core and specialized course content;

''(C) encourage collaboration between faculty and researchers in the nuclear science field; or

''(D) support outreach efforts to recruit students.

''(e) NUCLEAR SCIENCE COMPETITIVENESS GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director shall award up to 10 competitive grants for each fiscal year to institutions of higher education with existing academic degree programs that produce graduates in nuclear science.

''(2) CRITERIA.—Criteria for a grant awarded under this subsection shall be based on the potential for increasing the number and academic quality of graduates in the nuclear sciences who enter into careers in nuclear-related fields.

''(3) DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

''(A) DURATION.—A grant under this subsection shall be 5 years in duration.

''(B) AMOUNT.—An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this subsection shall be eligible for up to $500,000 for each year of the grant period.

''(4) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this subsection may use the grant to—

''(A) increase the number of graduates in nuclear science that enter into careers in the nuclear science field;

''(B) enhance the teaching of advanced nuclear technologies;

''(C) aggressively pursue collaboration opportunities with industry and National Laboratories;

''(D) bolster or sustain nuclear infrastructure and research facilities of the institution of higher education, such as research and training reactors or laboratories; and

''(E) provide tuition assistance and stipends to undergraduate and graduate students.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) NUCLEAR SCIENCE PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (d)—

''(A) $9,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(B) $13,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(C) $18,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

''(D) $22,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

''(2) NUCLEAR SCIENCE COMPETITIVENESS GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (e)—

''(A) $11,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(B) $16,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(C) $22,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

''(D) $27,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

''CHAPTER 6—ADMINISTRATION

''SEC. 3195. MENTORING PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the programs established under chapters 1, 3, and 4, the Director shall establish a program to recruit and provide mentors for women and underrepresented minorities who are interested in careers in mathematics, science, and engineering. The program shall pair mentors with women and minorities who are in programs of study at specialty schools for mathematics and science, Centers of Excellence, and summer institutes established under chapters 1, 3, and 4, respectively.

''(b) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall annually—

''(1) use metrics to evaluate the success of the programs established under subsection (a); and

''(2) submit to Congress a report that describes the results of each evaluation.''.

''CHAPTER 7—NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

''SEC. 3196. NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to enable all students to reach or exceed grade-level academic achievement standards and to enhance the knowledge of the students of the science of energy, the sources of

energy, the uses of energy in society, and the environmental consequences and benefits of all energy sources and uses by—

''(1) improving instruction in science related to energy for students in kindergarten through grade 9 through the implementation of energy education programs and with the support of comprehensive science education initiatives that are based on the best available evidence of effectiveness; and

''(2) providing professional development and instructional leadership activities for teachers and, if appropriate, for administrators and other school staff, on the implementation of comprehensive mathematics initiatives designed—

''(A) to improve the understanding of students of the scientific, economic, and environmental impacts of energy;

''(B) to improve the knowledge of teachers, administrators, and other school staff related to the scientific content of energy;

''(C) to increase the use of effective instructional practices; and

''(D) to reflect science content that is consistent with State academic achievement standards in mathematics described in section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)).

''(b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary (acting through the Director) (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') shall provide grants to States to assist the States in establishing or expanding programs to enhance the quality of science education in elementary schools with respect to conventional and emerging energy sources and uses.

''(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall use and coordinate with existing State and national programs that have a similar mission.

''(d) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, under this section to States to pay the Federal share of the costs of establishing or expanding high-quality energy education curricula and programs.

''(e) PROGRAMS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall award grants to establish or expand programs that enhance—

''(1) the quality of science education in elementary schools with respect to conventional and emerging energy sources and uses; and

''(2) the understanding of students of the science, economics, and environmental impacts of energy production and consumption.

''(f) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARES.—

''(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of carrying out a program under this section shall be 50 percent.

''(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the costs of carrying out a program under this section may be provided in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, fairly evaluated, including services.

''(g) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure a wide, equitable distribution of grants among States that propose to serve students from urban and rural areas; and

''(2) provide equal consideration to States without National Laboratories.

''(h) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), States, or other entities through States, that receive grants under this section shall use the grant funds to—

''(A) employ proven strategies and methods for improving student learning and teaching regarding energy;

''(B) integrate into the curriculum of schools comprehensive, science-based, energy education, including instruction and assessments that are aligned with—

''(i) the academic content and student academic achievement standards of the State (within the meaning of section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311));

''(ii) classroom management;

''(iii) professional development;

''(iv) parental involvement; and

''(v) school management; and

''(C) provide high-quality and continuous teacher and staff professional development.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Grant funds under this section may be used for activities described in paragraph (1) only if the activities are directly related to improving student academic achievement related to—

''(A) the science of energy;

''(B) the sources of energy;

''(C) the uses of energy in society; and

''(D) the environmental consequences and benefits of all energy sources and uses.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009; and

''(2) $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.''.

SEC. 2004. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to authorize research grants in the Department for early-career scientists and engineers for purposes of pursuing independent research.

(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHER.—In this section, the term ''eligible early-career researcher'' means an individual who—

(1) completed a doctorate or other terminal degree not more than 10 years before the date of application for a grant authorized under this section, except as provided in subsection (c)(3); and

(2) has demonstrated promise in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, computer science, or computational science.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not less than 65 grants per year to outstanding eligible early-career researchers to support the work of such researchers in the Department, particularly at the National Laboratories, or other federally-funded research and development centers.

(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible early-career researcher who desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may find eligible a candidate who has completed a doctorate more than 10 years prior to the date of application if the candidate was unable to conduct research for a period of time because of extenuating circumstances, including military service or family responsibilities.

(4) DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

(A) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be 5 years in duration.

(B) AMOUNT.—An eligible early career-researcher who receives a grant under this section shall receive up to $100,000 for each year of the grant period.

(5) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible early career-researcher who receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds for basic research in natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, or computer sciences at the Department, particularly the National Laboratories, or other federally-funded research and development center.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(A) $13,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(B) $19,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(C) $26,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(D) $32,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 2005. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AUTHORITY-ENERGY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term ''Advisory Board'' means the Advisory Board established under subsection (d).

(2) AUTHORITY.—The term ''Authority'' means the Advanced Research Projects Authority—Energy established under subsection (b).

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Authority appointed under subsection (c)(1).

(4) ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''energy technology'' means technology, including carbon-neutral technology, used for—

(A) fossil energy;

(B) carbon sequestration;

(C) nuclear energy;

(D) renewable energy;

(E) energy distribution; or

(F) energy efficiency technology.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Advanced Research Projects Authority-Energy to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

(c) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint a Director of the Authority.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Director shall be an individual who, by reason of professional background and experience, is especially qualified to advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to long-term, high-risk programs to overcome long-term and high-risk technological barriers to the development of energy technologies.

(3) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

(A) employ such qualified technical staff as are necessary to carry out the duties of the Authority, including providing staff for the Advisory Committee;

(B) serve as the selection official for proposals relating to energy technologies that are solicited within the Department;

(C) develop metrics to assist in developing funding criteria and for assessing the success of existing programs;

(D) terminate programs carried out under this section that are not achieving the goals of the programs; and

(E) perform such duties relating to long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies as are determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), establish, and appoint members to, an Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Secretary and the Director on actions necessary to carry out this section.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Advisory Board shall consist of individuals who, by reason of professional background and experience, are especially qualified to advise the Secretary and the Director on matters pertaining to long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

(3) TERM.—A member of the Advisory Board shall be appointed for a term of 5 years.

(4) INFORMATION.—Each fiscal year, individuals who carry out energy technology programs of the Department and staff of the Authority shall provide to the Advisory Board written proposals and oral briefings on long-term and high-risk technological barriers that are critical to overcome for the successful development of energy technologies.

(5) DUTIES.—Each fiscal year, the Advisory Board shall—

(A) recommend to the Secretary and the Director—

(i) in order of priority, proposals of energy programs of the Department that are critical to overcoming long-term and high-risk technological barriers to enable the successful development of energy technologies; and

(ii) additional programs not covered in the proposals that are critical to overcoming the barriers described in clause (i); and

(B) based on the metrics described in subsection (c)(3)(C), make recommendations to the Secretary and the Directory concerning whether programs funded under this section are achieving the goals of the programs.

(e) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall—

(1) conduct reviews during each of calendar years 2010 and 2012 to determine the success of the activities carried out under this section; and

(2) submit to Congress, the Secretary, and the Director a report describing the results of each review.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

SEC. 2006. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR BASIC RESEARCH.

Section 971(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''$5,200,000,000'' and inserting ''$4,800,000,000''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) $4,945,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

''(5) $5,265,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.''.

SEC. 2007. DISCOVERY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INNOVATION INSTITUTES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish distributed, multidisciplinary institutes (referred to in this section as ''Institutes'') centered at National Laboratories to apply fundamental science and engineering discoveries to technological innovations related to the missions of the Department and the global competitiveness of the United States.

(b) TOPICAL AREAS.—The Institutes shall support scientific and engineering research and education activities on critical emerging technologies determined by the Secretary to be essential to global competitiveness, including activities related to—

(1) sustainable energy technologies;

(2) multi-scale materials and processes;

(3) micro- and nano-engineering;

(4) computational and information engineering; and

(5) genomics and proteomics.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish partnerships between the Institutes and—

(1) institutions of higher education to—

(A) train undergraduate and graduate engineering and science students;

(B) develop innovative educational curricula; and

(C) conduct research within the topical areas described in subsection (b);

(2) private industry to develop innovative technologies within the topical areas described in subsection (b);

(3) State and local governments to promote regionally-based commercialization and entrepreneurship; and

(4) financing entities to guide successful technology commercialization.

(d) MERIT-BASED SELECTION.—The selection of Institutes under this section shall be merit-based and made through an open, competitive selection process.

(e) RESTRICTION.—Not more than 3 Institutes shall receive grants for a fiscal year.

(f) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall, not later than 3 and 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) review the performance of the Institutes under this section; and

(2) submit to Congress and the Secretary a report describing the results of the review.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities of each Institute selected under this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

SEC. 2008. PROTECTING AMERICA'S COMPETITIVE EDGE (PACE) GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—In this section, the term ''eligible student'' means a student who attends an institution of higher education that offers a doctoral degree in a field relevant to a mission area of the Department.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a graduate fellowship program for eligible students pursuing a doctoral degree in a mission area of the Department.

(c) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award fellowships to eligible students under this section through a competitive merit review process (involving written and oral interviews) that will result in a wide distribution of awards throughout the United States.

(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish selection criteria for awarding fellowships under this section that require an eligible student to—

(A) pursue a field of science or engineering of importance to the mission area of the Department;

(B) rank in the upper 10 percent of the class of the eligible student;

(C) demonstrate to the Secretary—

(i) the capacity to understand technical topics related to the fellowship that can be derived from the first principles of the technical topics;

(ii) imagination and creativity;

(iii) leadership skills in organizations or intellectual endeavors, demonstrated through awards and past experience; and

(iv) excellent verbal and communication skills to explain, defend, and demonstrate an understanding of technical subjects related to the fellowship; and

(D) be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States.

(d) AWARDS.—

(1) AMOUNT.—A fellowship awarded under this section shall—

(A) provide an annual living stipend; and

(B) cover—

(i) graduate tuition at an institution of higher education; and

(ii) incidental expenses associated with curricula and research at the institution of higher education (including books, computers and software).

(2) DURATION.—A fellowship awarded under this section shall be for a period of not greater than 5 years.

(3) PORTABILITY.—A fellowship awarded under this section shall be portable with the fellow.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary (acting through the Director of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education)—

(1) shall administer the program established under this section; and,

(2) may enter into a contract with a nonprofit entity to administer the program, including the selection and award of fellowships.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) FELLOWSHIPS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to award fellowships under this section—

(A) $9,300,000 for 200 fellowships for fiscal year 2008;

(B) $14,500,000 for 300 fellowships for fiscal year 2009 (including non-expiring fellowships for prior fiscal years);

(C) $25,000,000 for 500 fellowships for fiscal year 2010 (including non-expiring fellowships for prior fiscal years); and

(D) $35,500,000 for 700 fellowships for fiscal year 2011 (including non-expiring fellowships for prior fiscal years).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section—

(A) $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(B) $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(C) $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(D) $3,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 2009. TITLE IX COMPLIANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes actions taken by the Department of Energy to implement the recommendations in the report of the Government Accountability Office numbered 04–639.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—To comply with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), the Secretary of Energy shall annually conduct compliance reviews of at least 2 recipients of Department of Energy grants.

SEC. 2010. HIGH-RISK, HIGH-REWARD RESEARCH.

(a) DEFINITION OF HIGH-RISK, HIGH-REWARD RESEARCH.—In this section, the term ''high-risk, high reward research'' means research that—

(1) has the potential for yielding results with far-ranging implications;

(2) is too novel or spans too diverse a range of disciplines to fare well in the traditional peer review process; and

(3) is supportive of the missions of the sponsoring agency.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAMS.—

(1) ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program to encourage the conduct of high-risk, high-reward research at the Department.

(2) GEOLOGICAL GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a grant program to encourage the conduct of high-risk, high-reward research at the United States Geological Survey.

SEC. 2011. DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to promote scientific and academic excellence through collaborations between institutions of higher education and the National Laboratories.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to support the joint appointment of distinguished scientists by institutions of higher education and National Laboratories.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Successful candidates under this section shall be persons who, by reason of professional background and experience, are able to bring international recognition to the appointing institution of higher education and National Laboratory in their field of scientific endeavor.

(d) SELECTION.—A distinguished scientist appointed under this section shall be selected through an open, competitive process.

(e) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—An appointment by an institution of higher education under this section shall be filled within the tenure allotment of the institution of

higher education at a minimum rank of professor.

(2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—An appointment by a National Laboratory under this section shall be at the rank of the highest grade of distinguished scientist or technical staff of the National Laboratory.

(f) DURATION.—An appointment under this section shall be for 6 years, consisting of 2 3-year funding allotments.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under this section may be used for—

(1) the salary of the distinguished scientist and support staff;

(2) undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral appointments;

(3) research-related equipment;

(4) professional travel; and

(5) such other requirements as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of the program.

(h) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The appointment of a distinguished scientist under this section shall be reviewed at the end of the first 3-year allotment for the distinguished scientist through an open peer-review process to determine whether the appointment is meeting the purpose of this section under subsection (a).

(2) FUNDING.—Funding of the appointment of the distinguished scientist for the second 3-year allotment shall be determined based on the review conducted under paragraph (1).

(i) COST SHARING.—To be eligible for assistance under this section, an appointing institution of higher education shall pay at least 50 percent of the total costs of the appointment.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 (to support up to 30 appointments under this section);

(2) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 (to support up to 60 such appointments); and

(3) $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 (to support up to 100 such appointments).

DIVISION C—EDUCATION

SEC. 3001. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) A well-educated population is essential to retaining America's competitiveness in the global economy.

(2) The United States needs to build on and expand the impact of existing programs by taking additional, well-coordinated steps to ensure that all students are able to obtain the knowledge the students need to obtain postsecondary education and participate successfully in the workforce or the Armed Forces.

(3) The next steps must be informed by independent information on the effectiveness of current programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and by identification of best practices that can be replicated.

(4) Teacher preparation and elementary school and secondary school programs and activities must be aligned with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(5) The ever increasing knowledge and skill demands of the 21st century require that secondary school preparation and requirements be better aligned with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce, and States need better data systems to track educational achievement from prekindergarten through baccalaureate degrees.

SEC. 3002. DEFINITIONS.

(a) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—Unless otherwise specified in this division, the terms used in this division have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(b) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this division:

(1) CRITICAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE.—The term ''critical foreign language'' means a foreign language that the Secretary determines, in consultation with the heads of such Federal departments and agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, is critical to the national security and economic competitiveness of the United States.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

TITLE I—TEACHER ASSISTANCE

Subtitle A—Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow

SEC. 3111. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is—

(1) to develop and implement programs to provide integrated courses of study in mathematics, science, engineering, or critical foreign languages, and teacher education, that lead to a baccalaureate degree with concurrent teacher certification;

(2) to develop and implement 2- or 3-year part-time master's degree programs in mathematics, science, technology, or critical foreign language education for teachers in order to enhance the teachers' content knowledge and pedagogical skills; and

(3) to develop programs for professionals in mathematics, science, or critical foreign language education that lead to a master's degree in teaching that results in teacher certification.

SEC. 3112. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.—The term ''children from low-income families'' means children described in section 1124(c)(1)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)(1)(A)).

(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient'' means an institution of higher education that receives grant funds under this subtitle on behalf of a department of mathematics, engineering, science, or a critical foreign language, or on behalf of a department or school with a competency-based degree program (in mathematics, engineering, science, or a critical foreign language) that includes teacher certification, for use in carrying out activities assisted under this subtitle.

(3) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''high-need local educational agency'' means a local educational agency or educational service agency—

(A)(i) that serves not fewer than 10,000 children from low-income families;

(ii) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the agency are children from low-income families; or

(iii) with a total of less than 600 students in average daily attendance at the schools that are served by the agency and all of whose schools are designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B)(i) for which there is a high percentage of teachers providing instruction in academic subject areas or grade levels for which the teachers are not highly qualified; or

(ii) for which there is a high teacher turnover rate or a high percentage of teachers with emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licensure.

(4) HIGHLY QUALIFIED.—The term ''highly qualified'' has the meaning given such term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) and, with respect to special education teachers, in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

(5) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''partnership'' means a partnership that—

(A) shall include—

(i) an eligible recipient;

(ii)(I)(aa) a department within the eligible recipient that provides a program of study in mathematics, engineering, science, or a critical foreign language; and

(bb) a school or department within the eligible recipient that provides a teacher preparation program, or a 2-year institution of higher education that has a teacher preparation offering or a dual enrollment program with the eligible recipient; or

(II) a department or school within the eligible recipient with a competency-based degree program (in mathematics, engineering, science, or a critical foreign language) that includes teacher certification; and

(iii) not less than 1 high-need local educational agency and a public school or a consortium of public schools served by the agency; and

(B) may include a nonprofit organization that has the capacity to provide expertise or support to meet the purposes of this subtitle.

(6) TEACHING SKILLS.—The term ''teaching skills'' means the ability to—

(A) increase student achievement;

(B) effectively convey and explain academic subject matter;

(C) employ strategies that—

(i) are based on scientifically based research;

(ii) are specific to academic subject matter; and

(iii) focus on the identification of, and tailoring of academic instruction to, students' specific learning needs, particularly children with disabilities, students who are limited English proficient, and students who are gifted and talented;

(D) conduct ongoing assessment of student learning;

(E) effectively manage a classroom; and

(F) communicate and work with parents and guardians, and involve parents and guardians in their children's education.

SEC. 3113. PROGRAMS FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, OR CRITICAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES, WITH CONCURRENT TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts made available to carry out this section under section 3116(1) and not reserved under section 3115(d) for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible recipients to enable partnerships served by the eligible recipients to develop and implement programs to provide courses of study in mathematics, science, engineering, or critical foreign languages that—

(1) are integrated with teacher education; and

(2) lead to a baccalaureate degree with concurrent teacher certification.

(b) APPLICATION.—Each eligible recipient desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. Each application shall—

(1) describe the program for which assistance is sought;

(2) describe how a department of mathematics, science, engineering, or a critical foreign language participating in the partnership will ensure significant collaboration with a teacher preparation program in the development of undergraduate degrees in mathematics, science, engineering, or a critical foreign language, with concurrent teacher certification, including providing student teaching and other clinical classroom experiences or how a department or school participating in the partnership with a competency-based degree program has ensured,

in the development of a baccalaureate degree program in mathematics, science, engineering, or a critical foreign language, the provision of concurrent teacher certification, including providing student teaching and other clinical classroom experiences;

(3) describe the high-quality research, laboratory, or internship experiences, integrated with coursework, that will be provided under the program;

(4) describe how members of groups that are underrepresented in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, engineering, or critical foreign languages will be encouraged to participate in the program;

(5) describe how program participants will be encouraged to teach in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need, and what assistance in finding employment in such schools will be provided;

(6) describe the ongoing activities and services that will be provided to graduates of the program;

(7) describe how the activities of the partnership will be coordinated with any activities funded through other Federal grants, and how the partnership will continue the activities assisted under the program when the grant period ends;

(8) describe how the partnership will assess the content knowledge and teaching skills of the program participants; and

(9) provide any other information the Secretary may reasonably require.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible recipient receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to enable a partnership to develop and implement a program to provide courses of study in mathematics, science, engineering, or a critical foreign language that—

(A) are integrated with teacher education programs that promote effective teaching skills; and

(B) lead to a baccalaureate degree in mathematics, science, engineering, or a critical foreign language with concurrent teacher certification.

(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The program shall—

(A) provide high-quality research, laboratory, or internship experiences for program participants;

(B) provide student teaching or other clinical classroom experiences that—

(i) are integrated with coursework; and

(ii) lead to the participants' ability to demonstrate effective teaching skills;

(C) if implementing a program in which program participants are prepared to teach mathematics, science, technology, or engineering courses, include strategies for improving student literacy;

(D) encourage the participation of individuals who are members of groups that are underrepresented in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, engineering, or critical foreign languages;

(E) encourage participants to teach in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need, and actively assist the participants in finding employment in such schools;

(F) offer training in the use of and integration of educational technology;

(G) collect data regarding and evaluate, using measurable objectives and benchmarks, the extent to which the program succeeded in—

(i) increasing the percentage of highly qualified mathematics, science, or critical foreign language teachers, including increasing the percentage of such teachers teaching in those schools determined by the partnership to be most in need;

(ii) improving student academic achievement in mathematics, science, and where applicable, technology and engineering;

(iii) increasing the number of students in secondary schools enrolled in upper level mathematics, science, and, where available, technology and engineering courses; and

(iv) increasing the numbers of elementary school, middle school, and secondary school students enrolled in and continuing in critical foreign language courses;

(H) collect data on the employment placement of all graduates of the program, including information on how many graduates are teaching and in what kinds of schools;

(I) provide ongoing activities and services to graduates of the program who teach elementary school, middle school, or secondary school, by—

(i) keeping the graduates informed of the latest developments in their respective academic fields; and

(ii) supporting the graduates of the program who are employed in schools in the local educational agency participating in the partnership during the initial years of teaching through—

(I) induction programs;

(II) promotion of effective teaching skills; and

(III) providing opportunities for regular professional development; and

(J) develop recommendations to improve the teacher preparation program participating in the partnership.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligible recipient receiving a grant under this section shall collect and report to the Secretary annually such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including—

(1) the number of participants in the program;

(2) information on the academic majors of participating students;

(3) the race, gender, income, and disability status of program participants;

(4) the employment placement of program participants as teachers in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need;

(5) the extent to which the program succeeded in meeting the objectives and benchmarks described in subsection (c)(2)(G); and

(6) the data collected under subparagraphs (G) and (H) of subsection (c)(2).

(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—From the funds made available under section 3116(1), the Secretary may provide technical assistance to an eligible recipient developing a baccalaureate degree program with concurrent teacher certification, including technical assistance provided through a grant or contract awarded on a competitive basis to an institution of higher education or a technical assistance center.

SEC. 3114. PROGRAMS FOR MASTER'S DEGREES IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, OR CRITICAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES EDUCATION.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts made available to carry out this section under section 3116(2) and not reserved under section 3115(d) for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible recipients to enable the partnerships served by the eligible recipients to develop and implement—

(1) 2- or 3-year part-time master's degree programs in mathematics, science, technology, or critical foreign language education for teachers in order to enhance the teacher's content knowledge and teaching skills; or

(2) programs for professionals in mathematics, science, engineering, or critical foreign language that lead to a 1 year master's degree in teaching that results in teacher certification.

(b) APPLICATION.—Each eligible recipient desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. Each application shall describe—

(1) how a department of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, or a critical foreign language will ensure significant collaboration with a teacher preparation program in the development of the master's degree programs authorized under subsection (a), or how a department or school with a competency-based degree program has ensured, in the development of a master's degree program, the provision of rigorous studies in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language that enhance the teachers' content knowledge and teaching skills;

(2) the role of the local educational agency in the partnership in developing and administering the program and how feedback from the local educational agency, school, and participants will be used to improve the program;

(3) how the program will help increase the percentage of highly qualified mathematics, science, or critical foreign language teachers, including increasing the percentage of such teachers teaching in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need;

(4) how the program will—

(A) improve student academic achievement in mathematics, science, and, where applicable, technology and engineering and increase the number of students taking upper-level courses in such subjects; or

(B) increase the numbers of elementary school, middle school, and secondary school students enrolled and continuing in critical foreign language courses;

(5) how the program will prepare participants to become more effective mathematics, science, or critical foreign language teachers;

(6) how the program will prepare participants to assume leadership roles in their schools;

(7) how teachers (or mathematics, science, or critical language professionals) who are members of groups that are underrepresented in the teaching of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, or critical foreign languages and teachers from schools determined by the partnership to be most in need will be encouraged to apply for and participate in the program;

(8) the ongoing activities and services that will be provided to graduates of the program;

(9) how the partnership will continue the activities assisted under the grant when the grant period ends;

(10) how the partnership will assess, during the program, the content knowledge and teaching skills of the program participants; and

(11) methods to ensure applicants to the master's degree program for professionals in mathematics, science, or critical foreign language demonstrate advanced knowledge in the relevant subject.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible recipient receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to develop and implement a 2- or 3-year part-time master's degree program in mathematics, science, or critical foreign language education for teachers in order to enhance the teachers' content knowledge and teaching skills, or programs for professionals in mathematics, science, or critical foreign language that lead to a 1-year master's degree in teaching that results in teacher certification. The program shall—

(1) promote effective teaching skills so that program participants become more effective mathematics, science, or critical foreign language teachers;

(2) prepare teachers to assume leadership roles in their schools by participating in activities such as teacher mentoring, development of curricula that integrate state of the

art applications of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering into the classroom, working with school administrators in establishing in-service professional development of teachers, and assisting in evaluating data and assessments to improve student academic achievement;

(3) use high-quality research, laboratory, or internship experiences for program participants that are integrated with coursework;

(4) provide student teaching or clinical classroom experience;

(5) if implementing a program in which participants are prepared to teach mathematics or science courses, provide strategies for improving student literacy;

(6) align the content knowledge in the master's degree program with challenging student academic achievement standards and challenging academic content standards established by the State in which the program is conducted;

(7) encourage the participation of—

(A) individuals who are members of groups that are underrepresented in the teaching of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, or critical foreign languages;

(B) members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning to civilian life; and

(C) teachers teaching in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need;

(8) offer tuition assistance, based on need, as appropriate;

(9) create opportunities for enhanced and ongoing professional development for teachers that improves the mathematics and science content knowledge and teaching skills of such teachers; and

(10) evaluate and report on the impact of the program, in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Each eligible recipient receiving a grant under this section shall evaluate, using measurable objectives and benchmarks, and provide an annual report to the Secretary regarding, the extent to which the program assisted under this section succeeded in the following:

(1) Increasing the number and percentage of mathematics, science, engineering, technology, or critical foreign language teachers who have a master's degree and meet 1 or more of the following requirements:

(A) Are teaching in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need, and taught in such schools prior to participation in the program.

(B) Are teaching in schools determined by the partnership to be most in need, and did not teach in such schools prior to participation in the program.

(C) Are members of a group underrepresented in the teaching of mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language.

(2) Bringing professionals in mathematics, science, engineering, or critical foreign language into the field of teaching.

(3) Retaining teachers who participate in the program.

SEC. 3115. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) DURATION OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award each grant under this subtitle for a period of not more than 5 years.

(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each eligible recipient that receives a grant under this subtitle shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the grant (which may be provided in cash or in kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant.

(c) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this subtitle shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal or State funds.

(d) EVALUATION.—From amounts made available for any fiscal year under section 3116, the Secretary shall reserve such sums as may be necessary—

(1) to provide for the conduct of an annual independent evaluation, by grant or by contract, of the activities assisted under this subtitle, which shall include an assessment of the impact of the activities on student academic achievement; and

(2) to prepare and submit an annual report on the results of the evaluation described in paragraph (1) to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

SEC. 3116. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $210,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years, of which—

(1) 57.1 percent shall be available to carry out section 3113 for fiscal year 2008 and each succeeding fiscal year; and

(2) 42.9 percent shall be available to carry out section 3114 for fiscal year 2008 and each succeeding fiscal year.

Subtitle B—Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs

SEC. 3121. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this subtitle—

(1) to raise academic achievement through Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs by increasing, by 70,000, over a 4-year period beginning in 2008, the number of teachers serving high-need schools who are qualified to teach Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages;

(2) to increase, to 700,000 per year, the number of students attending high-need schools who—

(A) take and score a 3, 4, or 5 on an Advanced Placement examination in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language administered by the College Board; or

(B) achieve a passing score on an examination administered by the International Baccalaureate Organization in such a subject;

(3) to increase the availability of, and enrollment in, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages, and pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such subjects, in high-need schools; and

(4) to support statewide efforts to increase the availability of, and enrollment in, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages, and pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such subjects, in high-need schools.

SEC. 3122. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADVANCED PLACEMENT OR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSE.—The term ''Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course'' means a course of college-level instruction provided to middle or secondary school students, terminating in an examination administered by the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization, or another such examination approved by the Secretary, or another highly rigorous, evidence-based, postsecondary preparatory program terminating in an examination administered by a nationally recognized educational association.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a State educational agency;

(B) a local educational agency; or

(C) a partnership consisting of—

(i) a national, regional, or statewide nonprofit organization, with expertise and experience in providing Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate services; and

(ii) a State educational agency or local educational agency.

(3) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ''low-income student'' has the meaning given the term ''low-income individual'' in section 1707(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537(3)).

(4) HIGH CONCENTRATION OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS.—The term ''high concentration of low-income students'' has the meaning given the term in section 1707(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537(2)).

(5) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''high-need local educational agency'' means a local educational agency or educational service agency described in 3112(3)(A).

(6) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ''high-need school'' means a middle school or secondary school—

(A) with a pervasive need for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages, or for additional Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in such a subject; and

(B)(i) with a high concentration of low-income students; or

(ii) designated with a school locale code of 6, 7 or 8, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3123. ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (l), the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (g).

(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants under this section for a period of not more than 5 years.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the activities carried out under this section with the activities carried out under section 1705 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6535).

(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

(1) are part of a statewide strategy for increasing the availability of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages, and pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such subjects, in high-need schools; and

(2) make Advanced Placement math, science, and critical foreign language courses available to students who are prepared for such work in earlier grades than traditionally made available.

(e) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall—

(1) ensure an equitable geographic distribution of grants under this section among the States; and

(2) promote an increase in participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate mathematics, science, and critical foreign language courses and examinations in all States.

(f) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—The application shall, at a minimum, include a description of—

(A) the goals and objectives for the project, including—

(i) increasing the number of teachers serving high-need schools who are qualified to teach Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages;

(ii) increasing the number of qualified teachers serving high-need schools who are teaching Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages to students in the high-need schools;

(iii) increasing the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages that are available to students attending high-need schools; and

(iv) increasing the number of students attending a high-need school, particularly low-income students, who enroll in and pass—

(I) Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages; and

(II) pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such a subject (where provided in accordance with subparagraph (B));

(B) how the eligible entity will ensure that students have access to courses, including pre-Advanced Placement and pre-International Baccalaureate courses, that will prepare the students to enroll and succeed in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages;

(C) how the eligible entity will provide professional development for teachers assisted under this section;

(D) how the eligible entity will ensure that teachers serving high-need schools are qualified to teach Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages;

(E) how the eligible entity will provide for the involvement of business and community organizations and other entities, including institutions of higher education, in the activities to be assisted; and

(F) how the eligible entity will use funds received under this section, including how the eligible entity will evaluate the success of its project.

(g) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out activities designed to increase—

(A) the number of qualified teachers serving high-need schools who are teaching Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages; and

(B) the number of students attending high-need schools who enroll in, and pass, the examinations for such Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses.

(2) PERMISSIVE ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in paragraph (1) may include—

(A) teacher professional development, in order to expand the pool of teachers in the participating State, local educational agency, or high-need school who are qualified to teach Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages;

(B) pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate course development and professional development;

(C) coordination and articulation between grade levels to prepare students to enroll and succeed in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages;

(D) purchase of instructional materials;

(E) activities to increase the availability of, and participation in, online Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages;

(F) reimbursing low-income students attending high-need schools for part or all of the cost of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate examination fees;

(G) carrying out subsection (j), relating to collecting and reporting data;

(H) in the case of a State educational agency that receives a grant under this section, awarding subgrants to local educational agencies to enable the local educational agencies to carry out authorized activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (G); and

(I) providing salary increments or bonuses to teachers serving high-need schools who—

(i) become qualified to teach, and teach, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language; or

(ii) increase the number of low-income students, who take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate examinations in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language with the goal of successfully passing such examinations.

(h) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall provide, toward the cost of the activities assisted under the grant, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 200 percent of the amount of the grant, except that an eligible entity that is a high-need local educational agency shall provide an amount equal to not more than 100 percent of the amount of the grant.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement described in paragraph (1) for any fiscal year for an eligible entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 3122(2), if the Secretary determines that applying the matching requirement to such eligible entity would result in serious hardship or an inability to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (g).

(i) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other Federal and non-Federal funds available to carry out the activities described in subsection (g).

(j) COLLECTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) REPORT.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall collect and report to the Secretary annually such data on the results of the grant as the Secretary may reasonably require, including data regarding—

(A) the number of students enrolling in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language, and pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such a subject, by the grade the student is enrolled in, and the distribution of grades those students receive;

(B) the number of students taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate examinations in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language, and the distribution of scores on those examinations by the grade the student is enrolled in at the time of the examination;

(C) the number of teachers receiving training in teaching Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language who will be teaching such courses in the next school year;

(D) the number of teachers becoming qualified to teach Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language; and

(E) the number of qualified teachers who are teaching Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, or critical foreign languages to students in a high-need school.

(2) REPORTING OF DATA.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall report data required under paragraph (1)—

(A) disaggregated by subject area;

(B) in the case of student data, disaggregated in the same manner as information is disaggregated under section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(1)(C)(i)); and

(C) to the extent feasible, in a manner that allows comparison of conditions before, during, and after the project.

(k) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—From the amount made available for any fiscal year under subsection (l), the Secretary shall reserve such sums as may be necessary—

(1) to conduct an annual independent evaluation, by grant or by contract, of the program carried out under this section, which shall include an assessment of the impact of the program on student academic achievement; and

(2) to prepare and submit an annual report on the results of the evaluation described in paragraph (1) to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle C—Promising Practices in Mathematics, Science, Technology, and Engineering Teaching

SEC. 3131. PROMISING PRACTICES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to strengthen the skills of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering teachers by identifying promising practices in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering in elementary and secondary education.

(b) NATIONAL PANEL ON PROMISING PRACTICES IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING.—The Secretary is authorized to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to convene, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a national panel to identify existing promising practices in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering in kindergarten through grade 12.

(c) COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL PANEL.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a panel to identify existing promising practices in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering in elementary and secondary education with demonstrated evidence of increasing student academic achievement.

(2) SELECTION.—The National Academy of Sciences shall ensure that the panel established under paragraph (1) broadly represents scientists, practitioners, teachers, principals, and representatives from entities with expertise in education, mathematics, and science. The National Academy of Sciences shall ensure that the panel includes the following:

(A) A majority representation of teachers and principals directly involved in teaching mathematics, science, technology, or engineering in kindergarten through grade 12.

(B) Representation of teachers and principals from all demographic areas, including urban, suburban, and rural schools.

(C) Representation of teachers from public and private schools.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.—The members of the panel established under paragraph (1) shall be individuals who have substantial knowledge or experience relating to—

(A) mathematics, science, technology, or engineering education programs; or

(B) mathematics, science, technology, or engineering curricula content development.

(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL PANEL.—The panel shall—

(1) identify promising practices in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering in elementary and secondary education;

(2) identify techniques proven to help teachers increase their skills and expertise in improving student achievement in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering; and

(3) identify areas of need for promising practices in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering.

(e) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate information collected pursuant to this section to the public, State educational agencies, and local educational agencies, and shall publish appropriate and relevant information on the promising practices on the website of the Department in an easy to understand format.

(f) MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING ''PROMISING PRACTICES''.—

(1) RELIABILITY AND MEASUREMENT.—The promising practices in the teaching of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering in elementary and secondary education collected under this section shall be—

(A) reliable, valid, and grounded in scientific theory and research;

(B) reviewed regularly to assess effectiveness; and

(C) reviewed in the context of State academic assessments and student academic achievement standards.

(2) STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS.—In identifying promising practices under this section, the panel established under subsection (c) shall take into account the needs of students with diverse learning needs, particularly for students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008.

TITLE II—MATHEMATICS

SEC. 3201. MATH NOW FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to enable all students to reach or exceed grade-level academic achievement standards and to prepare the students to enroll in and pass algebra courses by—

(1) improving instruction in mathematics for students in kindergarten through grade 9 through the implementation of mathematics programs and the support of comprehensive mathematics initiatives that are research-based and reflect a demonstrated record of effectiveness; and

(2) providing targeted help to low-income students who are struggling with mathematics and whose achievement is significantly below grade level.

(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—In this section, the term ''eligible local educational agency'' means a high-need local educational agency (as defined in section 3112(3)) serving 1 or more schools—

(1) with significant numbers or percentages of students whose mathematics skills are below grade level;

(2) that are not making adequate yearly progress in mathematics under section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)); or

(3) in which students are receiving instruction in mathematics from teachers who do not have mathematical content knowledge or expertise in the teaching of mathematics.

(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (k) for any fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, for not more than 5 years, to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to award grants to eligible local educational agencies to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to applications for projects that will implement statewide strategies for improving mathematics instruction and raising the mathematics achievement of students, particularly students in grades 4 through 8.

(d) STATE USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under this section for a fiscal year—

(A) shall expend not more than a total of 10 percent of the grant funds to carry out the activities described in paragraphs (2) or (3) for the fiscal year; and

(B) shall use not less than 90 percent of the grant funds to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local educational agencies to enable the eligible local educational agencies to carry out the activities described in subsection (e) for the fiscal year.

(2) MANDATORY USES OF FUNDS.—A State educational agency shall use the grant funds made available under paragraph (1)(A) to carry out each of the following activities:

(A) PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION.—Planning and administration, including—

(i) evaluating applications from eligible local educational agencies using peer review teams described in subsection (f)(1)(D);

(ii) administering the distribution of grants to eligible local educational agencies; and

(iii) assessing and evaluating, on a regular basis, eligible local educational agency activities assisted under this section, with respect to whether the activities have been effective in increasing the number of children—

(I) making progress toward meeting grade-level mathematics achievement; and

(II) meeting or exceeding grade-level mathematics achievement.

(B) REPORTING.—Annually providing the Secretary with a report on the implementation of this section as described in subsection (i).

(3) PERMISSIVE USE OF FUNDS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency may use the grant funds made available under paragraph (1)(A) for 1 or more of the following technical assistance activities that assist an eligible local educational agency, upon request by the eligible local educational agency, in accomplishing the tasks required to design and implement a project under this section, including assistance in—

(i) implementing mathematics programs or comprehensive mathematics initiatives that are research-based and reflect a demonstrated record of effectiveness;

(ii) evaluating and selecting diagnostic and classroom based instructional mathematics assessments; and

(iii) identifying eligible professional development providers to conduct the professional development activities described in subsection (e)(1)(B).

(B) GUIDANCE.—The technical assistance described in subparagraph (A) shall be guided by researchers with expertise in the pedagogy of mathematics, mathematicians, and mathematics educators from high-risk, high-achievement schools and eligible local educational agencies.

(e) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) MANDATORY USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible local educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out each of the following activities:

(A) To implement mathematics programs or comprehensive mathematics initiatives—

(i) for students in the grades of a participating school as identified in the application submitted under subsection (f)(2)(A); and

(ii) that are research-based and reflect a demonstrated record of effectiveness.

(B) To provide professional development and instructional leadership activities for teachers and, if appropriate, for administrators and other school staff, on the implementation of comprehensive mathematics initiatives designed—

(i) to improve the achievement of students performing significantly below grade level;

(ii) to improve the mathematical content knowledge of the teachers, administrators, and other school staff;

(iii) to increase the use of effective instructional practices; and

(iv) to monitor student progress.

(C) To conduct continuous progress monitoring, which may include the adoption and use of assessments that—

(i) measure student progress and identify areas in which students need help in learning mathematics; and

(ii) reflect mathematics content that is consistent with State academic achievement standards in mathematics described in section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)).

(2) PERMISSIVE USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible local educational agency may use grant funds under this section to—

(A) adopt and use mathematics instructional materials and assessments;

(B) implement classroom-based assessments, including diagnostic or formative assessments;

(C) provide remedial coursework and interventions for students, which may be provided before or after school;

(D) provide small groups with individualized instruction in mathematics;

(E) conduct activities designed to improve the content knowledge and expertise of teachers, such as the use of a mathematics coach, enrichment activities, and interdisciplinary methods of mathematics instruction; and

(F) collect and report performance data.

(f) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. Each application shall include—

(A) an assurance that the core mathematics instructional program, supplemental instructional materials, and intervention programs used by the eligible local educational agencies for the project, are research-based and reflect a demonstrated record of effectiveness and are aligned with State academic achievement standards;

(B) an assurance that eligible local educational agencies will meet the requirements described in paragraph (2);

(C) an assurance that local applications will be evaluated using a peer review process;

(D) a description of the qualifications of the peer review teams, which shall consist of—

(i) researchers with expertise in the pedagogy of mathematics;

(ii) mathematicians; and

(iii) mathematics educators serving high-risk, high-achievement schools and eligible local educational agencies; and

(E) an assurance that the State will establish a process to safeguard against conflicts of interest, consistent with subsection (g)(2), for individuals providing technical assistance on behalf of the State educational agency or participating in the State peer review process under this title.

(2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Each eligible local educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time and in such manner as the State educational agency may require. Each application shall include—

(A) an assurance that the eligible local educational agency will provide assistance to 1 or more schools that are—

(i) served by the eligible local educational agency; and

(ii) described in section 3201(b);

(B) a description of the grades kindergarten through grade 9, and of the schools, that will be served;

(C) information, on an aggregate basis, on each school to be served by the project, including such demographic, socioeconomic, and mathematics achievement data as the State educational agency may request;

(D) a description of the core mathematics instructional program, supplemental instructional materials, and intervention programs or strategies that will be used for the project, including an assurance that the programs or strategies are research-based and reflect a demonstrated record of effectiveness and are aligned with State academic achievement standards;

(E) a description of the activities that will be carried out under the grant, including a description of the professional development that will be provided to teachers, and, if appropriate, administrators and other school staff, and a description of how the activities will support achievement of the purpose of this section;

(F) an assurance that the eligible local educational agency will report to the State educational agency all data on student academic achievement that is necessary for the State educational agency's report under subsection (i);

(G) a description of the eligible entity's plans for evaluating the impact of professional development and leadership activities in mathematics on the content knowledge and expertise of teachers, administrators, or other school staff; and

(H) any other information the State educational agency may reasonably require.

(g) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing this section, the Secretary shall not—

(A) endorse, approve, or sanction any mathematics curriculum designed for use in any school; or

(B) engage in oversight, technical assistance, or activities that will require the adoption of a specific mathematics program or instructional materials by a State, local educational agency, or school.

(2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Any Federal employee, contractor, or subcontractor involved in the administration, implementation, or provision of oversight or technical assistance duties or activities under this section shall—

(A) disclose to the Secretary any financial ties to publishers, entities, private individuals, or organizations that will benefit from funds provided under this section; and

(B) be prohibited from maintaining significant financial interests in areas directly related to duties or activities under this section, unless granted a waiver by the Secretary.

(3) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on any of the special allowances or waivers granted under paragraph (2)(B).

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize or permit the Department of Education, or a Department of Education contractor, to mandate, direct, control, or suggest the selection of a mathematics curriculum, supplemental instructional materials, or program of instruction by a State, local educational agency, or school.

(h) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—A State educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the grant, in cash or in kind, to carry out the activities supported by the grant, of which not more than 20 percent of such 50 percent may be provided by local educational agencies within the State.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all of or a portion of the matching requirement described in paragraph (1) for any fiscal year, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the application of the matching requirement will result in serious hardship for the State educational agency; or

(B) providing a waiver best serves the purpose of the program assisted under this section.

(i) PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) INFORMATION.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall collect and report to the Secretary annually such information on the results of the grant as the Secretary may reasonably require, including information on—

(A) mathematics achievement data that show the progress of students participating in projects under this section (including, to the extent practicable, comparable data from students not participating in such projects), based primarily on the results of State, school district wide, or classroom-based, assessments, including—

(i) specific identification of those schools and eligible local educational agencies that report the largest gains in mathematics achievement; and

(ii) evidence on whether the State educational agency and eligible local educational agencies within the State have—

(I) significantly increased the number of students achieving at grade level or above in mathematics;

(II) significantly increased the percentages of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II)) who are achieving at grade level or above in mathematics;

(III) significantly increased the number of students making significant progress toward meeting grade-level mathematics achievement standards; and

(IV) successfully implemented this section;

(B) the percentage of students in the schools served by the eligible local educational agency who enroll in algebra courses and the percentage of such students who pass algebra courses; and

(C) the progress made in increasing the quality and accessibility of professional development and leadership activities in mathematics, especially activities resulting in greater content knowledge and expertise of teachers, administrators, and other school staff, except that the Secretary shall not require such information until after the third year of a grant awarded under this section.

(2) REPORTING AND DISAGGREGATION.—The information required under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) reported in a manner that allows for a comparison of aggregated score differentials of student academic achievement before (to the extent feasible) and after implementation of the project assisted under this section; and

(B) disaggregated in the same manner as information is disaggregated under section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(1)(C)(i)).

(3) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The data in the report shall be reported in a manner that—

(A) protects the privacy of individuals; and

(B) complies with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(j) EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) EVALUATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual independent evaluation, by grant or by contract, of the program assisted under this section, which shall include an assessment of the impact of the program on student academic achievement and teacher performance, and may use funds available to carry out this section to conduct the evaluation.

(B) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually submit, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives, a report on the results of the evaluation.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may use funds made available under paragraph (3) to provide technical assistance to prospective applicants and to eligible local educational agencies receiving a grant under this section.

(3) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 2.5 percent of funds appropriated under subsection (k) for a fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $146,700,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 3202. SUMMER TERM EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to create opportunities for summer learning by providing students with access to summer learning in mathematics, technology, and problem-solving to ensure that students do not experience learning losses over the summer and to remedy, reinforce, and accelerate the learning of mathematics and problem-solving.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.—The term ''educational service agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an entity that—

(A) desires to participate in a summer learning grant program under this section by providing summer learning opportunities described in subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii) to eligible students; and

(B) is—

(i) a high-need local educational agency; or

(ii) a consortium consisting of a high-need local educational agency and 1 or more of the following entities:

(I) Another local educational agency;

(II) A community-based youth development organization with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in helping students learn;

(III) An institution of higher education;

(IV) An educational service agency; or

(V) A for-profit educational provider, nonprofit organization, science center, museum, or summer enrichment camp, that has been approved by the State educational agency to provide the summer learning opportunity described in subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii).

(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ''eligible student'' means a student who—

(A) is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

(B) is served by a local educational agency identified by the State educational agency in the application described in subsection (c)(2).

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(6) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term high-need local educational agency means a local educational agency (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965)—

(A) that serves not less than 10,000 children from low-income families;

(B) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the agency are children from low-income families; or

(C) with a total of not less than 600 students in average daily attendance at the schools that are served by the agency, and all of whose schools are designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8 as determined by the Secretary of Education.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(8) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

(9) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''State educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(c) DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—From the funds appropriated under subsection (f) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall carry out a demonstration grant program in which the Secretary awards grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to pay the Federal share of summer learning grants for eligible students.

(B) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall award not more than 5 grants under this section.

(2) APPLICATION.—A State educational agency that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Such application shall identify the areas in the State where the summer learning grant program will be offered and the local educational agencies that serve such areas.

(3) AWARD BASIS.—

(A) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to a State educational agency that agrees, to the extent possible, to enter into agreements with eligible entities that are consortia described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii) and that proposes to target services to children in grades K–8.

(B) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration an equitable geographic distribution of the grants.

(d) SUMMER LEARNING GRANTS.—

(1) USE OF GRANTS FOR SUMMER LEARNING GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under subsection (c) for a fiscal year shall use the grant funds to provide summer learning grants for the fiscal year to eligible students in the State who desire to attend a summer learning opportunity offered by an eligible entity that enters into an agreement with the State educational agency under paragraph (4)(A).

(B) AMOUNT; FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARES.—

(i) AMOUNT.—The amount of a summer learning grant provided under this section shall be—

(I) for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011, $1,600; and

(II) for fiscal year 2012, $1,800.

(ii) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of each summer learning grant shall be not more than 50 percent of the amount of the summer learning grant determined under clause (i).

(iii) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of each summer learning grant shall be not less than 50 percent of the amount of the summer learning grant determined under clause (i), and shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

(2) DESIGNATION OF SUMMER SCHOLARS.—Eligible students who receive summer learning grants under this section shall be known as ''summer scholars''.

(3) SELECTION OF SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.—

(A) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A State educational agency that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall disseminate information about summer learning opportunities and summer learning grants to the families of eligible students in the State.

(B) APPLICATION.—The parents of an eligible student who are interested in having their child participate in a summer learning opportunity and receive a summer learning grant shall submit an application to the State educational agency that includes a ranked list of preferred summer learning opportunities.

(C) PROCESS.—A State educational agency that receives an application under subparagraph (B) shall—

(i) process such application;

(ii) determine whether the eligible student shall receive a summer learning grant;

(iii) coordinate the assignment of eligible students receiving summer learning grants with summer learning opportunities; and

(iv) if demand for a summer learning opportunity exceeds capacity, the State educational agency shall prioritize applications to low-achieving eligible students.

(D) FLEXIBILITY.—A State educational agency may assign a summer scholar to a summer learning opportunity program that is offered in an area served by a local educational agency that is not the local educational agency serving the area where such scholar resides.

(E) REQUIREMENT OF ACCEPTANCE.—An eligible entity shall accept, enroll, and provide the summer learning opportunity of such entity to, any summer scholar assigned to such summer learning opportunity by a State educational agency pursuant to this subsection.

(4) AGREEMENT WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency shall enter into an agreement with one or more eligible entities offering a summer learning opportunity, under which—

(i) the State educational agency shall agree to make payments to the eligible entity, in accordance with subparagraph (B), for a summer scholar; and

(ii) the eligible entity shall agree to provide the summer scholar with a summer learning opportunity that—

(I) provides a total of not less than the equivalent of 30 full days of instruction (or not less than the equivalent of 25 full days of instruction, if the equivalent of an additional 5 days is devoted to field trips or other enrichment opportunities) to the summer scholar;

(II) employs small-group, research-based educational programs, materials, curricula, and practices;

(III) provides a curriculum that—

(aa) emphasizes mathematics, technology, engineering, and problem-solving through experiential learning opportunities;

(bb) is primarily designed to increase the numeracy and problem-solving skills of the summer scholar; and

(cc) is aligned with State academic content standards and goals of the local educational agency serving the summer scholar;

(IV) measures student progress to determine the gains made by summer scholars in the summer learning opportunity, and disaggregates the results of such progress for summer scholars by race and ethnicity, economic status, limited English proficiency status, and disability status, in order to determine the opportunity's impact on each subgroup of summer scholars;

(V) collects daily attendance data on each summer scholar;

(VI) provides professional development opportunities for teachers to improve their practice in teaching numeracy, and in integrating problem-solving techniques into the curriculum; and

(VII) meets all applicable Federal, State, and local civil rights laws.

(B) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a State educational agency shall make a payment to an eligible entity for a summer scholar in the amount determined under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—In the case in which a summer scholar does not attend the full summer learning opportunity, the State educational agency shall reduce the amount provided to the eligible entity pursuant to clause (i) by a percentage that is equal to the percentage of the summer learning opportunity not attended by such scholar.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational agency or eligible entity receiving funding under this section may use not more than 5 percent of such funding for administrative costs associated with carrying out this section.

(e) EVALUATIONS; REPORT; WEBSITE.—

(1) EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT.—For each year that an eligible entity enters into an agreement under subsection (d)(4), the eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the activities and outcomes of each summer learning opportunity that enrolled a summer scholar, including—

(A) information on the design of the summer learning opportunity;

(B) the alignment of the summer learning opportunity with State standards; and

(C) data from assessments of student mathematics and problem-solving skills for the summer scholars and on the attendance of

the scholars, disaggregated by the subgroups described in subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii)(IV).

(2) REPORT.—For each year funds are appropriated under subsection (f) for this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the HELP Committee of the Senate and the Education and Labor Committee of the House on the summer learning grant programs, including the effectiveness of the summer learning opportunities in improving student achievement and learning.

(3) SUMMER LEARNING GRANTS WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall make accessible, on the Department of Education website, information for parents and school personnel on successful programs and curricula, and best practices, for summer learning opportunities.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012.

SEC. 3203. MATH SKILLS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

(a) The purposes of this section are—

(1) to provide assistance to State educational agencies and local educational agencies in implementing effective research-based mathematics programs for students in secondary schools, including students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency;

(2) to improve instruction in mathematics for students in secondary school through the implementation of mathematics programs and the support of comprehensive mathematics initiatives that are based on the best available evidence of effectiveness;

(3) to provide targeted help to low-income students who are struggling with mathematics and whose achievement is significantly below grade level; and

(4) to provide in-service training for mathematics coaches who can assist secondary school teachers to utilize research-based mathematics instruction to develop and improve students' mathematical abilities and knowledge, and assist teachers in assessing and improving student academic achievement.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''eligible local educational agency'' means a local educational agency that is eligible to receive funds, and that is receiving funds, under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

(2) MATHEMATICS COACH.—The term ''mathematics coach'' means a certified or licensed teacher, with a demonstrated effectiveness in teaching mathematics to students with specialized needs in mathematics and improving student academic achievement in mathematics, a command of mathematical content knowledge, and the ability to work with classroom teachers to improve the teachers' instructional techniques to support mathematics improvement, who works on site at a school—

(A) to train teachers to better assess student learning in mathematics;

(B) to train teachers to assess students' mathematics skills and identify students who need remediation; and

(C) to provide or assess remedial mathematics instruction, including for—

(i) students in after-school and summer school programs;

(ii) students requiring additional instruction;

(iii) students with disabilities; and

(iv) students with limited English proficiency.

(3) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ''secondary school'' means a school that provides secondary education, as determined under State law.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as be necessary for fiscal year 2008 and each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

(d) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated under subsection (c) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall establish a program, in accordance with the requirements of this section, that will provide grants on a competitive basis to State educational agencies to award grants and subgrants to eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of establishing mathematics programs to improve the overall mathematics performance of secondary school students in the State.

(2) LENGTH OF GRANT.—A grant to a State educational agency under this section shall be awarded for a period of 4 years.

(e) RESERVATION OF FUNDS BY THE SECRETARY.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (c) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may reserve—

(1) not more than 3 percent of such amounts to fund national activities in support of the programs assisted under this section, such as research and dissemination of best practices, except that the Secretary may not use the reserved funds to award grants directly to local educational agencies; and

(2) not more than ½ of 1 percent of such amounts for the Bureau of Indian Education of the Department of the Interior to carry out the services and activities described in subsection (l)(3) for Indian children.

(f) GRANT FORMULAS.—

(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (c) and not reserved under subsection (e), the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to provide subgrants to eligible local educational agencies to establish mathematics programs for the purpose of improving overall mathematics performance among students in secondary school in the State.

(2) MINIMUM GRANT.—The Secretary shall ensure that the minimum grant made to any state educational agency under this section shall be not less than $500,000.

(g) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant under this section, a State educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each such application shall meet the following conditions:

(A) A State educational agency shall not include the application for assistance under this section in a consolidated application submitted under section 9302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7842).

(B) The State educational agency's application shall include assurances that such application and any technical assistance provided by the State will be guided by a peer review team, which shall consist of—

(i) researchers with expertise in the pedagogy of mathematics;

(ii) mathematicians; and

(iii) mathematics educators serving high-risk, high-achievement schools and eligible local educational agencies.

(C) The State educational agency will participate, if requested, in any evaluation of the State educational agency's program under this section.

(D) The State educational agency's application shall include a program plan that contains a description of the following:

(i) How the State educational agency will assist eligible local educational agencies in implementing subgrants, including providing ongoing professional development for mathematics coaches, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators.

(ii) How the State educational agency will help eligible local educational agencies identify high-quality screening, diagnostic, and classroom-based instructional mathematics assessments.

(iii) How the State educational agency will help eligible local educational agencies identify high-quality research-based mathematics materials and programs.

(iv) How the State educational agency will help eligible local educational agencies identify appropriate and effective materials, programs, and assessments for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

(v) How the State educational agency will ensure that professional development funded under this section—

(I) is based on mathematics research;

(II) will effectively improve instructional practices for mathematics for secondary school students;

(III) will improve student academic achievement in mathematics; and

(IV) is coordinated with professional development activities funded through other programs, including section 2113 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6613).

(vi) How funded activities will help teachers and other instructional staff to implement research-based components of mathematics instruction and improve student academic achievement.

(vii) The subgrant process the State educational agency will use to ensure that eligible local educational agencies receiving subgrants implement programs and practices based on mathematics research.

(viii) How the State educational agency will build on and promote coordination among mathematics programs in the State to increase overall effectiveness in improving mathematics instruction and student academic achievement, including for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

(ix) How the State educational agency will regularly assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the eligible local educational agency activities funded under this section.

(h) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall—

(1) establish a peer review team comprised of researchers with expertise in the pedagogy of mathematics, mathematicians, and mathematics educators from high-risk, high-achievement schools, to provide guidance to eligible local educational agencies in selecting or developing and implementing appropriate, research-based mathematics programs for secondary school students;

(2) use 80 percent of the grant funds received under this section for a fiscal year to fund high-quality applications for subgrants to eligible local educational agencies having applications approved under subsection (l); and

(3) use 20 percent of the grant funds received under this section—

(A) to carry out State-level activities described in the application submitted under subsection (g);

(B) to provide—

(i) technical assistance to eligible local educational agencies; and

(ii) high-quality professional development to teachers and mathematics coaches in the State;

(C) to oversee and evaluate subgrant services and activities undertaken by the eligible local educational agencies as described in subsection (l)(3); and

(D) for administrative costs, of which not more than 5 percent of the grant funds may be used for planning, administration, and reporting.

(i) NOTICE TO ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall provide notice to all eligible local educational agencies in the State about the availability of subgrants under this section.

(j) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing this section, the Secretary shall not—

(A) endorse, approve, or sanction any mathematics curriculum designed for use in any school; or

(B) engage in oversight, technical assistance, or activities that will require the adoption of a specific mathematics program or instructional materials by a State, local educational agency, or school.

(2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Any federal employee, contractor, or subcontractor involved in the administration, implementation, or provision of oversight or technical assistance duties or activities under this section shall—

(A) disclose to the Secretary any financial ties to publishers, entities, private individuals, or organizations that will benefit from funds provided under this section; and

(B) be prohibited from maintaining significant financial interests in areas directly related to duties or activities under this section, unless granted a waiver by the Secretary.

(3) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, on each of the waivers granted under paragraph (2)(B).

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or permit the Secretary, Department of Education, or a Department of Education contractor, to mandate, direct, control, or suggest the selection of a mathematics curriculum, supplemental instructional materials, or program of instruction by a State, local educational agency, or school.

(k) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to supplement, not supplant, State funding for activities authorized under this section or for other educational activities.

(l) SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

(1) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible local educational agency desiring a subgrant under this subsection shall submit an application to the State educational agency in the form and according to the schedule established by the State educational agency.

(B) CONTENTS.—In addition to any information required by the State educational agency, each application under paragraph (1) shall demonstrate how the eligible local educational agency will carry out the following required activities:

(i) Development or selection and implementation of research-based mathematics assessments.

(ii) Development or selection and implementation of research-based mathematics programs, including programs for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

(iii) Selection of instructional materials based on mathematics research.

(iv) High-quality professional development for mathematics coaches and teachers based on mathematics research.

(v) Evaluation and assessment strategies.

(vi) Reporting.

(vii) Providing access to research-based mathematics materials.

(C) CONSORTIA.—Consistent with State law, an eligible local educational agency may apply to the State educational agency for a subgrant as a member of a consortium of local educational agencies if each member of the consortium is an eligible local educational agency.

(2) AWARD BASIS.—

(A) PRIORITY.—A State educational agency awarding subgrants under this subsection shall give priority to eligible local educational agencies that—

(i) are among the local educational agencies in the State with the lowest graduation rates, as described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(vi)); and

(ii) have the highest number or percentage of students who are counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)).

(B) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Subgrants under this subsection shall be of sufficient size and scope to enable eligible local educational agencies to fully implement activities assisted under this subsection.

(3) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—Each eligible local educational agency receiving a subgrant under this subsection shall use the subgrant funds to carry out, at the secondary school level, the following services and activities:

(A) Hiring mathematics coaches and providing professional development for mathematics coaches—

(i) at a level to provide effective coaching to classroom teachers;

(ii) to work with classroom teachers to better assess student academic achievement in mathematics;

(iii) to work with classroom teachers to identify students with mathematics problems and, where appropriate, refer students to available programs for remediation and additional services;

(iv) to work with classroom teachers to diagnose and remediate mathematics difficulties of the lowest-performing students, so that those teachers can provide intensive, research-based instruction, including during after-school and summer sessions, geared toward ensuring that those students can access and be successful in rigorous academic coursework; and

(v) to assess and organize student data on mathematics and communicate that data to school administrators to inform school reform efforts.

(B) Reviewing, analyzing, developing, and, where possible, adapting curricula to make sure mathematics skills are taught within other core academic subjects.

(C) Providing mathematics professional development for all relevant teachers in secondary school, as necessary, that addresses both remedial and higher level mathematics skills for students in the applicable curriculum.

(D) Providing professional development for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals serving secondary schools to help the teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals improve student academic achievement in mathematics.

(E) Procuring and implementing programs and instructional materials based on mathematics research, including software and other education technology related to mathematics instruction with demonstrated effectiveness in improving mathematics instruction and student academic achievement.

(F) Building on and promoting coordination among mathematics programs in the eligible local educational agency to increase overall effectiveness in—

(i) improving mathematics instruction; and

(ii) increasing student academic achievement, including for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

(G) Evaluating the effectiveness of the instructional strategies, teacher professional development programs, and other interventions that are implemented under the subgrant; and

(H) Measuring improvement in student academic achievement, including through progress monitoring or other assessments.

(4) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Each eligible local educational agency receiving a subgrant under this subsection shall use the subgrant funds to supplement, not supplant, the eligible local educational agency's funding for activities authorized under this section or for other educational activities.

(5) NEW SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—Subgrant funds provided under this subsection may be used only to provide services and activities authorized under this section that were not provided on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) EVALUATIONS.—Each eligible local educational agency receiving a grant under this subsection shall participate, as requested by the State educational agency or the Secretary, in reviews and evaluations of the programs of the eligible local educational agency and the effectiveness of such programs, and shall provide such reports as are requested by the State educational agency and the Secretary.

(m) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—A State educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the grant, in cash or in-kind, to carry out the activities supported by the grant, of which not more than 20 percent of such 50 percent may be provided by local educational agencies within the State.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or a portion of the matching requirements described in paragraph (1) for any fiscal year, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the application of the matching requirement will result in serious hardship for the State educational agency; or

(B) providing a waiver best serves the purpose of the program assisted under this section.

(n) PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) INFORMATION.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall collect and report to the Secretary annually such information on the results of the grant as the Secretary may reasonably require, including information on—

(A) mathematics achievement data that show the progress of students participating in projects under this section (including, to the extent practicable, comparable data from students not participating in such projects), based primarily on the results of State, school districtwide, or classroom-based monitoring reports or assessments, including—

(i) specific identification of those schools and eligible local educational agencies that report the largest gains in mathematics achievement; and

(ii) evidence on whether the State educational agency and eligible local educational agencies within the State have—

(I) significantly increased the number of students achieving at the proficient or advanced level on the State student academic achievement standards in mathematics under section 1111(b)(1)(D)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)(D)(ii));

(II) significantly increased the percentages of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II)) who are achieving proficiency or advanced levels on such State academic content standards in mathematics;

(III) significantly increased the number of students making significant progress toward meeting such State academic content and achievement standards in mathematics; and

(IV) successfully implemented this section;

(B) the percentage of students in the schools served by the eligible local educational agency who enroll in advanced mathematics courses in grades 9 through 12, including the percentage of such students who pass such courses; and

(C) the progress made in increasing the quality and accessibility of professional development and leadership activities in mathematics, especially activities resulting in greater content knowledge and expertise of teachers, administrators, and other school staff, except that the Secretary shall not require such information until after the third year of a grant awarded under this section.

(2) REPORTING AND DISAGGREGATION.—The information required under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) reported in a manner that allows for a comparison of aggregated score differentials of student academic achievement before (to the extent feasible) and after implementation of the project assisted under this section; and

(B) disaggregated in the same manner as information is disaggregated under section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(1)(C)(i)).

TITLE III—FOREIGN LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

SEC. 3301. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States faces a shortage of skilled professionals with higher levels of proficiency in foreign languages and area knowledge critical to the Nation's security.

(2) Given the Nation's economic competitiveness interests, it is crucial that our Nation expand the number of Americans who are able to function effectively in the environments in which critical foreign languages are spoken.

(3) Students' ability to become proficient in foreign languages can be addressed by starting language learning at a younger age and expanding opportunities for continuous foreign language education from elementary school through postsecondary education.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to significantly increase—

(1) the opportunities to study critical foreign languages and the context in which the critical foreign languages are spoken; and

(2) the number of American students who achieve the highest level of proficiency in critical foreign languages.

SEC. 3302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient'' means an institution of higher education that receives grant funds under this title on behalf of a partnership for use in carrying out the activities assisted under this title.

(2) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''partnership'' means a partnership that—

(A) shall include—

(i) an institution of higher education; and

(ii) 1 or more local educational agencies; and

(B) may include 1 or more entities that support the purposes of this title.

(3) SUPERIOR LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY.—The term ''superior level of proficiency'' means level 3, the professional working level, as measured by the Federal Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) or by other generally recognized measures of superior standards.

SEC. 3303. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible recipients to enable partnerships served by the eligible recipients to establish articulated programs of study in critical foreign languages that will enable students to advance successfully from elementary school through postsecondary education and achieve higher levels of proficiency in a critical foreign language.

(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than 5 years. A grant may be renewed for not more than 2 additional 5-year periods, if the Secretary determines that the partnership's program is effective and the renewal will best serve the purposes of this title.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible recipient desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application shall—

(A) identify each local educational agency partner, including contact information and letters of commitment, and describe the responsibilities of each member of the partnership, including—

(i) how each of the partners will be involved in planning, developing, and implementing—

(I) program curriculum and materials; and

(II) teacher professional development;

(ii) what resources each of the partners will provide; and

(iii) how the partners will contribute to ensuring the continuity of student progress from elementary school through the postsecondary level;

(B) describe how an articulated curriculum for students will be developed and implemented, which may include the use and integration of technology into such curriculum;

(C) identify target proficiency levels for students at critical benchmarks (such as grades 4, 8, and 12), and describe how progress toward those proficiency levels will be assessed at the benchmarks, and how the program will use the results of the assessments to ensure continuous progress toward achieving a superior level of proficiency at the postsecondary level;

(D) describe how the partnership will—

(i) ensure that students from a program assisted under this title who are beginning postsecondary education will be assessed and enabled to progress to a superior level of proficiency;

(ii) address the needs of students already at, or near, the superior level of proficiency, which may include diagnostic assessments for placement purposes, customized and individualized language learning opportunities, and experimental and interdisciplinary language learning; and

(iii) identify and describe how the partnership will work with institutions of higher education outside the partnership to provide participating students with multiple options for postsecondary education consistent with the purposes of this title;

(E) describe how the partnership will support and continue the program after the grant has expired, including how the partnership will seek support from other sources, such as State and local governments, foundations, and the private sector; and

(F) describe what assessments will be used or, if assessments not available, how assessments will be developed.

(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this title—

(1) shall be used to develop and implement programs at the elementary school level through postsecondary education, consistent with the purpose of this title, including—

(A) the development of curriculum and instructional materials; and

(B) recruitment of students; and

(2) may be used for—

(A) teacher recruitment (including recruitment from other professions and recruitment of native-language speakers in the community) and professional development directly related to the purposes of this title at the elementary school through secondary school levels;

(B) development of appropriate assessments;

(C) opportunities for maximum language exposure for students in the program, such as the creation of immersion environments (such as language houses, language tables, immersion classrooms, and weekend and summer experiences) and special tutoring and academic support;

(D) dual language immersion programs;

(E) scholarships and study-abroad opportunities, related to the program, for postsecondary students and newly recruited teachers who have advanced levels of proficiency in a critical foreign language, except that not more than 20 percent of the grant funds provided to an eligible recipient under this section for a fiscal year may be used to carry out this subparagraph;

(F) activities to encourage community involvement to assist in meeting the purposes of this title;

(G) summer institutes for students and teachers;

(H) bridge programs that allow dual enrollment for secondary school students in institutions of higher education;

(I) programs that expand the understanding and knowledge of historic, geographic, and contextual factors within countries with populations who speak critical foreign languages, if such programs are carried out in conjunction with language instruction;

(J) research on, and evaluation of, the teaching of critical foreign languages;

(K) data collection and analysis regarding the results of—

(i) various student recruitment strategies;

(ii) program design; and

(iii) curricular approaches;

(L) the impact of the strategies, program design, and curricular approaches described in subparagraph (K) on increasing—

(i) the number of students studying critical foreign languages; and

(ii) the proficiency of the students in the critical foreign languages; and

(M) distance learning projects for critical foreign language learning.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient that receives a grant under this title shall provide, toward the cost of carrying out the activities supported by the grant, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to—

(A) 20 percent of the amount of the grant payment for the first fiscal year for which a grant payment is made;

(B) 30 percent of the amount of the grant payment for the second such fiscal year;

(C) 40 percent of the amount of the grant payment for the third such fiscal year; and

(D) 50 percent of the amount of the grant payment for each of the fourth and fifth such fiscal years.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in-kind.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement of paragraph (1), for any fiscal year, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the application of the matching requirement will result in serious hardship for the partnership; or

(B) the waiver will best serve the purposes of this title.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this title shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other Federal and non-Federal funds available to carry out the activities described in subsection (c).

(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract to establish a technical assistance center to provide technical assistance to partnerships developing critical foreign language programs assisted under this section. The center shall—

(1) assist the partnerships in the development of critical foreign language instructional materials and assessments; and

(2) disseminate promising foreign language instructional practices.

(g) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent of the total amount appropriated for this title for any fiscal year to annually evaluate the programs under this title.

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and annually submit, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives, a report on the results of any program evaluation conducted under this subsection.

SEC. 3304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For the purpose of carrying out this title, there are authorized to be appropriated $22,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

TITLE IV—ALIGNMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 3401. ALIGNMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WITH THE DEMANDS OF 21ST CENTURY POSTSECONDARY ENDEAVORS AND SUPPORT FOR P–16 EDUCATION DATA SYSTEMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section—

(1) to promote more accountability with respect to preparation for higher education, the 21st century workforce, and the Armed Forces, by aligning—

(A) student knowledge, student skills, State academic content standards and assessments, and curricula, in elementary and secondary education, especially with respect to mathematics, science, reading, and, where applicable, engineering and technology; with

(B) the demands of higher education, the 21st century workforce, and the Armed Forces;

(2) to support the establishment or improvement of statewide P–16 education data systems that—

(A) assist States in improving the rigor and quality of State academic content standards and assessments;

(B) ensure students are prepared to succeed in—

(i) academic credit-bearing coursework in higher education without the need for remediation;

(ii) the 21st century workforce; or

(iii) the Armed Forces; and

(3) enable States to have valid and reliable information to inform education policy and practice.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(2) P–16 EDUCATION.—The term ''P–16 education'' means the educational system from preschool through the conferring of a baccalaureate degree.

(3) STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''statewide partnership'' means a partnership that—

(A) shall include—

(i) the Governor of the State or the designee of the Governor;

(ii) the heads of the State systems for public higher education, or, if such a position does not exist, not less than 1 representative of a public degree-granting institution of higher education;

(iii) a representative of the agencies in the State that administer Federal or State-funded early childhood education programs;

(iv) not less than 1 representative of a public community college;

(v) not less than 1 representative of a technical school;

(vi) not less than 1 representative of a public secondary school;

(vii) the chief State school officer;

(viii) the chief executive officer of the State higher education coordinating board;

(ix) not less than 1 public elementary school teacher employed in the State;

(x) not less than 1 early childhood educator in the State;

(xi) not less than 1 public secondary school teacher employed in the State;

(xii) not less than 1 representative of the business community in the State; and

(xiii) not less than 1 member of the Armed Forces; and

(B) may include other individuals or representatives of other organizations, such as a school administrator, a faculty member at an institution of higher education, a member of a civic or community organization, a representative from a private institution of higher education, a dean or similar representative of a school of education at an institution of higher education or a similar teacher certification or licensure program, or the State official responsible for economic development.

(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to States to enable each such State to work with a statewide partnership—

(1) to promote better alignment of content knowledge requirements for secondary school graduation with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce, or the Armed Forces; or

(2) to establish or improve a statewide P–16 education data system.

(d) PERIOD OF GRANTS; NON-RENEWABILITY.—

(1) GRANT PERIOD.—The Secretary shall award a grant under this section for a period of not more than 3 years.

(2) NON-RENEWABILITY.—The Secretary shall not award a State more than 1 grant under this section.

(e) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) GRANTS FOR P–16 ALIGNMENT.—Each State receiving a grant under subsection (c)(1)—

(A) shall use the grant funds for—

(i) identifying and describing the content knowledge and skills students who enter institutions of higher education, the workforce, and the Armed Forces need to have in order to succeed without any remediation based on detailed requirements obtained from institutions of higher education, employers, and the Armed Forces;

(ii) identifying and making changes that need to be made to a State's secondary school graduation requirements, academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and assessments preceding graduation from secondary school in order to align the requirements, standards, and assessments with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in academic credit-bearing coursework in postsecondary education, in the 21st century workforce, and in the Armed Forces without the need for remediation;

(iii) convening stakeholders within the State and creating a forum for identifying and deliberating on education issues that—

(I) involve preschool through grade 12 education, postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce, and the Armed Forces; and

(II) transcend any single system of education's ability to address; and

(iv) implementing activities designed to ensure the enrollment of all elementary school and secondary school students in rigorous coursework, which may include—

(I) specifying the courses and performance levels necessary for acceptance into institutions of higher education; and

(II) developing or providing guidance to local educational agencies within the State on the adoption of curricula and assessments aligned with State academic content standards, which assessments may be used as measures of student academic achievement in secondary school as well as for entrance or placement at institutions of higher education, including through collaboration with institutions of higher education in, or State educational agencies serving, other States; and

(B) may use the grant funds for—

(i) developing and making available specific opportunities for extensive professional development for teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, and school administrators, including collection and dissemination of effective teaching practices to improve instruction and instructional support mechanisms;

(ii) identifying changes in State academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and assessments for students in grades preceding secondary school in order to ensure such standards and assessments are appropriately aligned and adequately reflect the content needed to prepare students to enter secondary school;

(iii) developing a plan to provide remediation and additional learning opportunities for students who are performing below grade level to ensure that all students will have the opportunity to meet secondary school graduation requirements;

(iv) identifying and addressing teacher certification needs; or

(v) incorporating 21st century learning skills into the State plan, which skills shall include critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, global awareness, and business and financial literacy.

(2) GRANTS FOR STATEWIDE P–16 EDUCATION DATA SYSTEMS.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—Each State that receives a grant under subsection (c)(2) shall establish a statewide P–16 education longitudinal data system that—

(i) provides each student, upon enrollment in a public elementary school or secondary school in the State, with a unique identifier, such as a bar code, that—

(I) does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system; and

(II) is retained throughout the student's enrollment in P–16 education in the State; and

(ii) meets the requirements of subparagraphs (B) through (E).

(B) IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING SYSTEM.—Each State that receives a grant under subsection (c)(2) for the improvement of a statewide P–16 education data system may employ, coordinate, or revise an existing statewide data system to establish a statewide longitudinal P–16 education data system that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), if the statewide longitudinal P–16 education data system produces valid and reliable data.

(C) PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO DATA.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives a grant under subsection (c)(2) shall implement measures to—

(I) limit the State's use of information in the statewide P–16 education data system to the purposes and functions for use of such information set forth in Federal or State law regarding education and allow access to the information in the statewide data system only to those State employees, and only on such terms, as may be necessary to fulfill those purposes and functions;

(II) prohibit the disclosure of information in the statewide P–16 education data system to any other person, agency, institution, or entity, except to the extent necessary to assist the State in fulfilling the purposes and functions for use of such information set forth in Federal or State law regarding education, and only if such party has signed a data use agreement that—

(aa) prohibits the party from further disclosing the information;

(bb) prohibits the party from using the information for any purpose other than the purpose specified in the agreement, which purpose must relate to assisting the State in carrying out the purposes and functions for use of such information set forth in Federal or State law regarding education; and

(cc) requires the party to destroy the information when the purpose for which the disclosure was made is accomplished;

(III) keep an accurate accounting of the date, nature, and purpose of each disclosure of information in the statewide P–16 education data system, and the name and address of the person, agency, institution, or entity to whom the disclosure is made, which accounting shall be made available on request to parents of any student whose information has been disclosed;

(IV) maintain adequate security measures to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the data system;

(V) ensure that the statewide P–16 education data system meets any further requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g);

(VI) where rights are provided to parents under this clause, provide those rights to the student instead of the parent if the student has reached the age of 18 or is enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution; and

(VII) ensure adequate enforcement of the requirements of this clause.

(ii) USE OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS.—

(I) GOVERNMENTAL USE OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS.—It shall be unlawful for any Federal, State, or local governmental agency to use the unique identifiers employed in the statewide P–16 education data systems for any purpose other than as authorized by Federal or State law regarding education, or to deny any individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose the individual's unique identifier.

(II) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the use by governmental and non-governmental entities of the unique identifiers employed in statewide P–16 education data systems, including, where necessary, regulations requiring States desiring grants for statewide P–16 education data systems under this section to implement specified measures, with the goal of safeguarding individual privacy to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the uses of the information authorized in this Act or other Federal or State law regarding education.

(D) REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF A STATEWIDE P–16 EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM.—The State shall ensure that the statewide P–16 education data system includes the following elements:

(i) PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12 EDUCATION AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—With respect to preschool through grade 12 education and postsecondary education—

(I) a unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system;

(II) student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information;

(III) student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P–16 education programs;

(IV) the capacity to communicate with higher education data systems; and

(V) a State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability.

(ii) PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12 EDUCATION.—With respect to preschool through grade 12 education—

(I) yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b));

(II) information on students not tested by grade and subject;

(III) a teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students;

(IV) student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned; and

(V) student-level college readiness test scores.

(iii) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—With respect to postsecondary education, data that provide—

(I) information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework; and

(II) other information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education.

(E) FUNCTIONS OF THE STATEWIDE P–16 EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM.—In implementing the statewide P–16 education data system, the State shall—

(i) identify factors that correlate to students' ability to successfully engage in and complete postsecondary-level general education coursework without the need for prior developmental coursework;

(ii) identify factors to increase the percentage of low-income and minority students who are academically prepared to enter and successfully complete postsecondary-level general education coursework; and

(iii) use the data in the system to otherwise inform education policy and practice in order to better align State academic content standards, and curricula, with the demands of postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce, and the Armed Forces.

(f) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under this section shall specify whether the State application is for the conduct P–16 education alignment activities, or the establishment or improvement of a statewide P–16 education data system. The application shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A description of the activities and programs to be carried out with the grant funds and a comprehensive plan for carrying out the activities.

(B) A description of how the concerns and interests of the larger education community, including parents, students, teachers, teacher educators, principals, and preschool administrators will be represented in carrying out the authorized activities described in subsection (e).

(C) In the case of a State applying for funding for P–16 education alignment, a description of how the State will provide assistance to local educational agencies in implementing rigorous State academic content standards, substantive curricula, remediation, and acceleration opportunities for students, as well as other changes determined necessary by the State.

(D) In the case of a State applying for funding to establish or improve a statewide P–16 education data system—

(i) a description of the privacy protection and enforcement measures that the State has implemented or will implement pursuant to subparagraph (C), and assurances that these measures will be in place prior to the establishment or improvement of the statewide P–16 education data system; and

(ii) an assurance that the State will continue to fund the statewide P–16 education data system after the end of the grant period.

(g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds available to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (e).

(h) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each State that receives a grant under this section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 100 percent of the amount of the grant, in cash or in kind, to carry out the activities supported by the grant.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require States to provide raw data to the Secretary.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009.

TITLE V—MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP BONUS GRANTS.

SEC. 3501. MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP BONUS GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (d), the Secretary of Education shall award a grant—

(1) for each of the school years 2007–2008 through 2010–2011, to each of the 3 elementary schools and each of the 3 secondary schools each of which has a high concentration of low income students as defined in section 1707(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537(3)), in each State whose students demonstrate the most improvement in mathematics, as measured by the improvement in the students' average score on the State's assessments in mathematics for the school year for which the grant is awarded, as compared to the school year preceding the school year for which the grant is awarded; and

(2) for each of the school years 2008–2009 through 2010–2011, to each of the 3 elementary schools and each of the 3 secondary schools each of which has a high concentration of low income students as defined in section 1707(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6537(3)), in each State whose students demonstrate the most improvement in science, as measured by the improvement in the students' average score on the State's assessments in science for the school year for which the grant is awarded, as compared to the school year preceding the school year for which the grant is awarded.

(b) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of each grant awarded under this section shall be $50,000.

SEC. 3502. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums for fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

DIVISION D—NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

SEC. 4001. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation—

(1) $6,729,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) $7,738,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(3) $8,899,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(4) $10,234,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) PLAN FOR INCREASED RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the National Science Board, shall submit a comprehensive, multiyear plan that describes how the funds authorized in subsection (a) would be used, if appropriated, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives.

(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall—

(A) develop the plan with a focus on strengthening the Nation's lead in physical science and technology, increasing overall workforce skills in physical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at all levels, and strengthening innovation by expanding the focus of competitiveness and innovation policy at the regional and local level; and

(B) emphasize spending increased research funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) in areas of investment for Federal research and technology programs identified under section 1101(c) of this Act.

SEC. 4002. STRENGTHENING OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE THROUGH EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FUNDS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure the continued involvement of experts at the National Science Foundation in improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary school levels by providing annual funding increases for the education and human resources programs of the National Science Foundation that are proportional to the funding increases provided to the Foundation overall.

(b) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FUNDS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated for the education and human resources programs of the National Science Foundation, for fiscal year 2008, $1,050,000,000, and, for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2011, an amount equal to $1,050,000,000 increased for each such fiscal year by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the appropriation for the National Science Foundation for such fiscal year above the amount appropriated to the National Science Foundation for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 4003. GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS.

(a) GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall expand the Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation so that an additional 1,250 fellowships are awarded to citizens or nationals of the United States or eligible lawful permanent residents under the Program during that period.

(2) EXTENSION OF FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—The Director is authorized to award fellowships under the Graduate Research Fellowship Program for a period of up to 5 years.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated, to provide additional fellowships under the Graduate Research Fellowship Program during each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011, the following:

(A) $24,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(B) $36,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

(C) $48,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

(D) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) INTEGRATIVE GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall expand the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program of the National Science Foundation so that an additional 1,250 individuals who are citizens or nationals of the United States or eligible lawful permanent residents are awarded grants under the program during that period.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated, to provide grants to additional individuals under the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program during each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011, the following:

(A) $22,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(B) $33,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

(C) $44,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

(D) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(c) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—In this section, the term ''eligible lawful permanent resident'' means a lawful permanent resident of the United States who declares an intent—

(1) to apply for United States citizenship; or

(2) to reside in the United States for not less than 5 years after the completion of a graduate fellowship or traineeship awarded under this section.

SEC. 4004. PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS.

(a) CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish a clearinghouse, in collaboration with 4-year institutions of higher education (including applicable graduate schools and academic departments), and industries and Federal agencies that employ science-trained personnel, to share program elements used in successful professional science master's degree programs and other advanced degree programs related to science, mathematics, technology, and engineering.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make the clearinghouse of program elements developed under paragraph (1) available to institutions of higher education that are developing professional science master's degree programs.

(b) PROGRAMS.—

(1) PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—The Director shall award grants to 4-year institutions of higher education to facilitate the institutions' creation or improvement of professional science master's degree programs.

(2) APPLICATION.—A 4-year institution of higher education desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may require. The application shall include—

(A) a description of the professional science master's degree program that the institution of higher education will implement;

(B) the amount of funding from non-Federal sources, including from private industries, that the institution of higher education shall use to support the professional science master's degree program; and

(C) an assurance that the institution of higher education shall encourage students in the professional science master's degree program to apply for all forms of Federal assistance available to such students, including applicable graduate fellowships and student financial assistance under titles IV and VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq., 1133 et seq.).

(3) PREFERENCES.—The Director shall give preference in making awards to 4-year institutions of higher education seeking Federal funding to create or improve professional science master's degree programs, to those applicants—

(A) located in States with low percentages of citizens with graduate or professional degrees, as determined by the Bureau of the Census, that demonstrate success in meeting the unique needs of the corporate, non-profit, and government communities in the State, as evidenced by providing internships for professional science master's degree students or similar partnership arrangements; or

(B) that secure more than ⅔ of the funding for such professional science master's degree programs from sources other than the Federal Government.

(4) NUMBER OF GRANTS; TIME PERIOD OF GRANTS.—

(A) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Director shall award grants under paragraph (1) to a maximum of 200 4-year institutions of higher education.

(B) TIME PERIOD OF GRANTS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for one 3-year term. Grants may be renewed only once for a maximum of 2 additional years.

(5) EVALUATION AND REPORTS.—

(A) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS.—Prior to the start of the grant program, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with 4-year institutions of higher education (including applicable graduate schools and academic departments), and industries and Federal agencies that employ science-trained personnel, shall develop performance benchmarks to evaluate the pilot programs assisted by grants under this section.

(B) EVALUATION.—For each year of the grant period, the Director, in consultation with 4-year institutions of higher education (including applicable graduate schools and academic departments), and industries and Federal agencies that employ science-trained personnel, shall complete an evaluation of each program assisted by grants under this section. Any program that fails to satisfy the performance benchmarks developed under subparagraph (A) shall not be eligible for further funding.

(C) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of an evaluation described in subparagraph (B), the Director shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(i) the results of the evaluation described in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the pilot programs, as the Director determines to be appropriate.

(c) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) $18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

(3) $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

SEC. 4005. INCREASED SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION THROUGH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the science, mathematics, engineering, and technology talent expansion program under section 8(7) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–368, 116 Stat. 3042)—

(1) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(3) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(4) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) PROMOTING OUTREACH AND HIGH QUALITY.—Section 8(7)(C) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–368, 116 Stat. 3042) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) through (vi) as subclauses (I) through (VI), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''include those that promote high quality—'' and inserting ''include programs that—

''(i) promote high-quality—'';

(3) in clause (i) (as inserted by paragraph (2))—

(A) in subclause (III) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking ''for students;'' and inserting ''for students, especially underrepresented minority and female mathematics, science, engineering, and technology students;'';

(B) in subclause (V) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) in subclause (VI) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking ''students.'' and inserting ''students; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(VII) outreach programs that provide middle and secondary school students and their science, technology, and math teachers opportunities to increase the students' and teachers' exposure to engineering and technology;''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) finance summer internships for mathematics, science, engineering, and technology undergraduate students;

''(iii) facilitate the hiring of additional mathematics, science, engineering, and technology faculty; and

''(iv) serve as bridges to enable underrepresented minority and female secondary school students to obtain extra mathematics, science, engineering, and technology training prior to entering an institution of higher education.''.

SEC. 4006. MEETING CRITICAL NATIONAL SCIENCE NEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other criteria, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall include consideration of the degree to which awards and research activities that otherwise qualify for support by the National Science Foundation may assist in meeting critical national needs in innovation, competitiveness, the physical and natural sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(b) PRIORITY TREATMENT.—The Director shall give priority in the selection of awards and the allocation of National Science Foundation resources to proposed research activities, and grants funded under the National Science Foundation's Research and Related Activities Account, that can be expected to make contributions in physical or natural science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, or that enhance competitiveness or innovation in the United States.

(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to inhibit the grant selection process for funding other areas of research deemed by the National Science Foundation to be consistent with its mandate nor to change the core mission of the National Science Foundation.

SEC. 4007. REAFFIRMATION OF THE MERIT-REVIEW PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

Nothing in this division or division A, or the amendments made by this division or division A, shall be interpreted to require or recommend that the National Science Foundation—

(1) alter or modify its merit-review system or peer-review process; or

(2) exclude the awarding of any proposal by means of the merit-review or peer-review process.

SEC. 4008. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH.

Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research authorized under section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g), for fiscal year 2008, $125,000,000, and, for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011, an amount equal to $125,000,000 increased for each such year by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the appropriation for the National Science Foundation for such fiscal year above the total amount appropriated to the National Science Foundation for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 4009. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION.

(a) MENTORING PROGRAM.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish a program to recruit and provide mentors for women who are interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by pairing such women who are in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics programs of study in secondary school, community college, undergraduate or graduate school with mentors who are working in industry.

(b) ADDITIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM.—The Director shall also establish a program to provide grants to community colleges to provide additional learning and other appropriate training to allow women to enter higher-paying technical jobs in fields related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An institution of higher education, including a community college, desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may require.

(d) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—The Director shall establish metrics to evaluate the success of the programs established under subsections (a) and (b) annually and report the findings and conclusions of the evaluations annually to Congress.

SEC. 4010. CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE.

In order to continue and expand efforts to ensure that research institutions throughout the Nation can fully participate in research programs of the National Science Foundation and collaborate with colleagues throughout the nation, the Director of the National Science Foundation, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, shall develop and publish a plan that describes the current status of broadband access for scientific research purposes in States located in EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions and outlines actions which can be taken to ensure that such connections are available to enable participation in those National Science Foundation programs which rely heavily on high-speed networking and collaborations across institutions and regions.

SEC. 4011. FEDERAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.

(a) ADVANCED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—

(1) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish a program of basic research in advanced information and communications technologies focused on enhancing or facilitating the availability and affordability of advanced communications services to all people of the United States. In developing and carrying out the program, the Director shall consult with the Board established under paragraph (2).

(2) FEDERAL ADVANCED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH BOARD.—There is established within the National Science Foundation a Federal Advanced Information and Communications Technology Research Board (referred to in this subsection as ''the Board'') which shall advise the Director of the National Science Foundation in carrying out the program authorized under paragraph (1). The Board shall be composed of individuals with expertise in information and communications technologies, including representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Defense, and representatives from industry and educational institutions.

(3) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Board, shall award grants for basic research into advanced information and communications technologies that will contribute to enhancing or facilitating the availability and affordability of advanced communications services to all people of the United States. Areas of research to be supported through the grants include—

(A) affordable broadband access, including wireless technologies;

(B) network security and reliability;

(C) communications interoperability;

(D) networking protocols and architectures, including resilience to outages or attacks;

(E) trusted software;

(F) privacy;

(G) nanoelectronics for communications applications;

(H) low-power communications electronics;

(I) implementation of equitable access to national advanced fiber optic research and educational networks in noncontiguous States; and

(J) such other related areas as the Director, in consultation with the Board, finds appropriate.

(4) CENTERS.—The Director shall award multiyear grants, subject to the availability of appropriations, to institutions of higher

education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), nonprofit research institutions affiliated with institutions of higher education, or consortia thereof to establish multidisciplinary Centers for Communications Research. The purpose of the Centers shall be to generate innovative approaches to problems in communications and information technology research, including the research areas described in paragraph (3). Institutions of higher education, nonprofit research institutions affiliated with institutions of higher education, or consortia receiving such grants may partner with 1 or more government laboratories or for-profit entities, or other institutions of higher education or nonprofit research institutions.

(5) APPLICATIONS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Board, shall establish criteria for the award of grants under paragraphs (3) and (4). Such grants shall be awarded under the programs on a merit-reviewed competitive basis. The Director shall give priority to grants that offer the potential for revolutionary rather than evolutionary breakthroughs.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this subsection—

(A) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(C) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(D) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall continue to support research and support standards development in advanced information and communications technologies focused on enhancing or facilitating the availability and affordability of advanced communications services to all people of the United States, in order to implement the Institute's responsibilities under section 2(c)(12) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(12)). The Director shall support intramural research and cooperative research with institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) and industry.

SEC. 4012. ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**SCHOLARSHIP**'' and inserting ''**TEACHER**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''(or consortia of such institutions)'' and inserting '', consortia of such institutions, or partnerships'';

(ii) by striking ''to provide scholarships, stipends, and programming designed'';

(iii) by inserting ''and to provide scholarships, stipends, or fellowships to individuals participating in the program'' after ''science teachers''; and

(iv) by striking ''Scholarship'' and inserting ''Teacher'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''or consortia'' and inserting ''consortia, or partnerships'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''encourage top college juniors and seniors majoring in'' and inserting ''recruit and prepare undergraduate students to pursue degrees in''; and

(bb) by striking ''to become'' and inserting ''and become qualified as'';

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''programs to help scholarship recipients'' and inserting ''academic courses and clinical teaching experiences designed to prepare students participating in the program'';

(bb) by striking ''programs that will result in'' and inserting ''such preparation as is necessary to meet requirements for''; and

(cc) by striking ''licensing; and'' and inserting ''licensing;'';

(III) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking ''scholarship recipients'' and inserting ''students participating in the program'';

(bb) by striking ''enable the recipients'' and inserting ''enable the students''; and

(cc) by striking ''; or'' and inserting ''; and''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) providing summer internships for freshman and sophomore students participating in the program;'';

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''encourage'' and inserting ''recruit and prepare''; and

(bb) by inserting ''qualified as'' after ''to become'';

(II) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) offering academic courses and clinical teaching experiences designed to prepare stipend recipients to teach in elementary schools and secondary schools, including such preparation as is necessary to meet requirements for teacher certification or licensing; and''; and

(III) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) to develop and implement a program to recruit and prepare mathematics, science, or engineering professionals to become NSF Teaching Fellows, and to recruit existing teachers to become NSF Master Teaching Fellows, through—

''(i) administering fellowships in accordance with subsection (e);

''(ii) offering academic courses and clinical teaching experiences that are designed to prepare students participating in the program to teach in secondary schools and that, in the case of NSF Teaching Fellows, result in a master's degree in teaching and teacher certification or licensing; and

''(iii) offering programs to participants to assist in the fulfillment of the participants' responsibilities under this section, including mentoring, training, mentoring training, and induction and professional development programs.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible for an award under this section, an institution of higher education, a consortium of such institutions, or a partnership shall ensure that specific faculty members and staff from the mathematics, science, or engineering department of the institution (or a participating institution of the consortium or partnership) and specific education faculty members of the institution (or such participating institution) are designated to carry out the development and implementation of the program. An institution of higher education and consortium may also include teachers to participate in developing the pedagogical content of the program and to supervise students participating in the program in the students' field teaching experiences. No institution of higher education, consortium, or partnership shall be eligible for an award unless faculty from the mathematics, science, or engineering department of the institution (or such participating institution) are active participants in the program.

''(5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An institution of higher education, consortium of institutions of higher education, or partnership receiving a grant under this section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the grant (which may be provided in cash or in-kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant.

''(6) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal or State funds available for the type of activities supported by the grant.'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''or consortium'' and inserting ''consortium, or partnership'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) a description of the program that the applicant intends to operate, including—

''(i) the number of scholarships and summer internships or the size and number of stipends or fellowships the applicant intends to award;

''(ii) the type of activities proposed for the recruitment of students to the program; and

''(iii) the selection process that will be used in awarding the scholarships, stipends, or fellowships;'';

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''scholarship or stipend''; and

(II) by striking ''; and'' and inserting '', which may include a description of any existing programs at the applicant's institution that are targeted to the education of mathematics and science teachers and the number of teachers graduated annually from such programs;''; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) a description of the academic courses and clinical teaching experiences required under subparagraph (A)(ii), (B)(ii), or (C)(ii) of subsection (a)(3), as applicable, including—

''(i)(I) a description of the undergraduate program under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii) that will enable a student to graduate in 4 years with a major in mathematics, science, or engineering and to obtain teacher certification or licensing; or

''(II) a description of the master's degree programs offered under subsection (a)(3)(C)(ii);

''(ii) a description of clinical teaching experiences proposed; and

''(iii) evidence of agreements between the applicant and the schools or school districts that are identified as the locations at which clinical teaching experiences will occur;

''(D) a description of the programs required under subparagraph (A)(iii), (B)(iii), or (C)(iii) of subsection (a)(3), as applicable, including activities to assist new teachers in fulfilling their service requirements under this section; and

''(E) an identification of the applicant's mathematics, science, or engineering faculty and its education faculty who will carry out the development and implementation of the program as required under subsection (a)(4).''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the extent to which the applicant's mathematics, science, or engineering faculty and its education faculty have worked or will work collaboratively to design new or

revised curricula that recognize the specialized pedagogy required to teach mathematics and science effectively in elementary schools and secondary schools;''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by clause (i)), by striking ''or stipend'' and inserting '', stipend, or fellowship'';

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''$7,500'' and inserting ''$10,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''of scholarship support'' and inserting ''of scholarship support, unless the Director establishes a policy by which part-time students may receive additional years of support''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''with a maximum service requirement of 4 years'' after ''scholarship was received'';

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Stipends under this section shall be available only to—

''(A) teachers enrolled in a master's degree program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; and

''(B) mathematics, science, or engineering professionals who, while receiving the stipend, are enrolled in a program to receive certification or licensing to teach.'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', except that if an individual is enrolled in a part-time program, such stipend shall be prorated according to the length of the program'' after ''stipend support''; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''for each year a stipend was received'';

(6) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h) and subsection (i) as subsections (f) through (i) and subsection (l), respectively;

(7) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the fellowships under this subsection is to promote and recognize high-level achievement in advanced mathematics and science teaching.

''(2) PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive a grant under this section to carry out this subsection, the recipient of such grant shall be a partnership and the only local educational agencies that shall be members of the partnership shall be local educational agencies that agree not to reduce the base salary normally paid to an individual solely because such individual receives a salary supplement under this subsection.

''(3) GENERAL CRITERIA.—A partnership receiving a grant to carry out a fellowship program under this subsection shall award such fellowships only to—

''(A) mathematics, science, or engineering professionals who enroll in 1-year master's degree programs in teaching that result in teacher certification or licensing and who shall be referred to as 'NSF Teaching Fellows'; and

''(B) mathematics and science teachers who possess a master's degree in their field and who shall be referred to as 'NSF Master Teaching Fellows'.

''(4) SELECTION.—Individuals shall be selected to receive fellowships under this section primarily on the basis of—

''(A) professional achievement;

''(B) academic merit;

''(C) demonstrated advanced content knowledge; and

''(D) in the case of NSF Master Teaching Fellows, demonstrated success in improving student academic achievement in mathematics, science, technology, or engineering.

''(5) USE OF FUNDS.—Each partnership receiving a grant under this section to award fellowships under this subsection shall—

''(A) provide a stipend to each NSF Teaching Fellow for the duration of the Fellow's enrollment in the master's degree program, to be used to offset the cost of tuition, fees, and living expenses; and

''(B) provide salary supplements to each NSF Teaching Fellow and NSF Master Teaching Fellow during the period of the Fellow's service obligation under paragraph (4).

''(6) SERVICE OBLIGATION.—If an individual is awarded a fellowship under this subsection, that individual shall be required to serve in a high-need local educational agency for—

''(A) in the case of a NSF Teaching Fellow, 4 years; and

''(B) in the case of a NSF Master Teaching Fellow, 5 years.

''(7) DUTIES.—A recipient of a fellowship under this section, during the service obligation required under paragraph (6) and in addition to regular classroom activities, shall take on a leadership role within the school or local educational agency in which the recipient is employed, as defined by the partnership according to the recipient's expertise, including serving as a mentor or master teacher, developing curricula, and assisting in the development and implementation of professional development activities.'';

(8) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by paragraph (6))—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) accepting—

''(A) the terms of the scholarship pursuant to subsection (c), the stipend pursuant to subsection (d), or the fellowship pursuant to subsection (e); and

''(B) the terms regarding the failure to complete a service obligation required for the scholarship, stipend, or fellowship pursuant to subsection (h);''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''scholarship'' and inserting ''scholarship, stipend, or fellowship''; and

(ii) by striking ''subsection (g)'' and inserting ''subsection (h)'';

(9) in subsection (g)(1) (as redesignated by paragraph (6))—

(A) by striking ''(or consortium thereof)'' and inserting '', consortium, or partnership''; and

(B) by striking ''scholarship and stipend'' and inserting ''scholarship, stipend, and fellowship'';

(10) in subsection (h) (as redesignated by paragraph (6))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', stipend, or fellowship'' after ''scholarship''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''baccalaureate degree''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE.—

''(A) LESS THAN 1 YEAR OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in paragraph (1) occurs before the completion of 1 year of a service obligation under this section, the sum of the total amount of awards received by the individual under this section shall be treated as a loan payable to the Federal Government, consistent with the provisions of part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and shall be subject to repayment in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Secretary of Education in regulations promulgated to carry out this paragraph.

''(B) 1 YEAR OR MORE OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (1) occurs after the completion of 1 year of a service obligation under this section, an amount equal to ½ of the sum of the total amount of awards received by the individual under this section shall be treated as a loan payable to the Federal Government, consistent with the provisions of part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and shall be subject to repayment in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Secretary of Education in regulations promulgated to carry out this paragraph.'';

(11) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (6))—

(A) by striking ''or consortia'' and inserting '', consortia, or partnerships'';

(B) by striking ''scholarship recipients and stipend recipients'' and inserting ''scholarship, stipend, and fellowship recipients''; and

(C) by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(12) by inserting after subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)) the following:

''(j) SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP GIFT FUND.—In accordance with section 11(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, the Director is authorized to accept donations from the private sector to supplement, but not supplant, scholarships, stipends, internships, or fellowships associated with the programs under this section.

''(k) ASSESSMENT OF TEACHER RETENTION.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the America COMPETES Act, the Director shall transmit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the program carried out under this section regarding the retention of participants in the teaching profession beyond the service obligation required under this section.'';

(13) in subsection (l) (as redesignated by paragraph (6))—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (5), (7), (9), and (10), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(1) the term 'advanced content knowledge' means demonstrated mathematics or science content knowledge as measured by a rigorous, valid assessment tool that has been approved by the Director;'';

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(3) the term 'fellowship' means an award under subsection (e);

''(4) the term 'high-need local educational agency' means a local educational agency or educational service agency (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965)—

''(A)(i) that serves not less than 10,000 children from low-income families;

''(ii) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the agency are children from low-income families; or

''(iii) with a total of less than 600 students in average daily attendance at the schools that are served by the agency, and all of whose schools are designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the Secretary of Education; and

''(B)(i) for which there is a higher percentage of teachers providing instruction in academic subject areas or grade levels for which the teachers are not highly qualified; or

''(ii) for which there is a high teacher turnover rate or a high percentage of teachers with emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licensure;'';

(D) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by inserting ''engineering,'' after ''mathematics, science,'';

(E) by inserting after paragraph (5) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(6) the term 'mathematics and science teaching' means mathematics, science, engineering, or technology teaching at the elementary or secondary school level;'';

(F) in paragraph (7) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) by inserting ''or had a career'' after ''is working''; and

(G) by inserting after paragraph (7) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(8) the term 'partnership' means a partnership that shall include—

''(A) an institution of higher education or a consortium of such institutions;

''(B) a department within an institution of higher education participating in the partnership that provides an advanced program of study in mathematics and science;

''(C)(i) a school or department within an institution of higher education participating in the partnership that provides a master teacher's preparation program; or

''(ii) a 2-year institution of higher education that has a teacher preparation offering or a dual enrollment program with an institution of higher education participating in the partnership;

''(D) not less than 1 high-need local educational agency and a public school or a consortium of public schools served by the agency; and

''(E) 1 or more nonprofit organizations that have the capacity to provide expertise or support to meet the purposes of this section;''; and

(14) by adding at the end the following:

''(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001 of the America COMPETES Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director for the Robert Noyce Teacher Program under this section—

''(A) $117,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which at least $18,000,000 shall be used for capacity building activities described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subsection (a)(3)(A), clauses (ii) and (iii) of subsection (a)(3)(B), and clauses (ii) and (iii) of subsection (a)(3)(C);

''(B) $130,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which at least $21,000,000 shall be used for such capacity building activities;

''(C) $148,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which at least $24,000,000 shall be used for such capacity building activities; and

''(D) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which at least $27,000,000 shall be used for such capacity building activities.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—For any fiscal year for which the funding allocated for activities under this section is less than $105,000,000, the amount of funding available for capacity building activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) shall not exceed 15 percent of the allocated funds.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 4.—Section 4 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n note) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''In this Act:'' and inserting ''Except as otherwise provided, in this Act:''.

(2) SECTION 8.—Section 8(6) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–368) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SCHOLARSHIP'' and inserting ''TEACHER''; and

(B) by striking ''Scholarship'' and inserting ''Teacher''.

SEC. 4013. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although the mathematics and science education partnership program at the National Science Foundation and the mathematics and science partnership program at the Department of Education practically share the same name, the 2 programs are intended to be complementary, not duplicative;

(2) the National Science Foundation partnership programs are innovative, model reform initiatives that move promising ideas in education from research into practice to improve teacher quality, develop challenging curricula, and increase student achievement in mathematics and science, and Congress intends that the National Science Foundation peer-reviewed partnership programs found to be effective should be put into wider practice by dissemination through the Department of Education partnership programs; and

(3) the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary of Education should have ongoing collaboration to ensure that the 2 components of this priority effort for mathematics and science education continue to work in concert for the benefit of States and local practitioners nationwide.

SEC. 4014. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TEACHER INSTITUTES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Within the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 4001, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the teacher institutes for the 21st century under paragraphs (3) and (7) of section 9(a) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (as amended by subsection (b)) (42 U.S.C. 1862n(a))—

(1) $84,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) $94,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(3) $106,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

(4) $140,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) TEACHER INSTITUTES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.—Section 9(a) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''summer or'' and inserting ''teacher institutes for the 21st century, as described in paragraph (7),'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) TEACHER INSTITUTES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Teacher institutes for the 21st century carried out in accordance with paragraph (3)(B) shall—

''(i) be carried out in conjunction with a school served by the local educational agency in the partnership;

''(ii) be science, technology, engineering, and mathematics focused institutes that provide professional development to elementary school and secondary school teachers;

''(iii) serve teachers who are considered highly qualified (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965), teach high-need subjects, and teach in high-need schools (as described in section 1114(a)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965);

''(iv) focus on the theme and structure developed by the Director under subparagraph (C);

''(v) be content-based and build on school year curricula that are experiment-oriented, content-based, and grounded in current research;

''(vi) ensure that the pedagogy component is designed around specific strategies that are relevant to teaching the subject and content on which teachers are being trained, which may include training teachers in the essential components of reading instruction for adolescents in order to improve student reading skills within the subject areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

''(vii) be a multiyear program that is conducted for a period of not less than 2 weeks per year;

''(viii) provide for direct interaction between participants in and faculty of the teacher institute;

''(ix) have a component that includes the use of the Internet;

''(x) provide for followup training in the classroom during the academic year for a period of not less than 3 days, which may or may not be consecutive, for participants in the teacher institute, except that for teachers in rural local educational agencies, the followup training may be provided through the Internet;

''(xi) provide teachers participating in the teacher institute with travel expense reimbursement and classroom materials related to the teacher institute, and may include providing stipends as necessary; and

''(xii) establish a mechanism to provide supplemental support during the academic year for teacher institute participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained at the teacher institute.

''(B) OPTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP.—In addition to the partnership requirement under paragraph (2), an institution of higher education or eligible nonprofit organization (or consortium) desiring a grant for a teacher institute for the 21st century may also partner with a teacher organization, museum, or educational partnership organization.

''(C) THEME AND STRUCTURE.—Each year, not later than 180 days before the application deadline for a grant under this section, the Director shall, in consultation with a broad group of relevant education organizations, develop a theme and structure for the teacher institutes of the 21st century supported under paragraph (3)(B).''.

SEC. 4015. PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCESS TO LABORATORY SCIENCE.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 8(8) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–368) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by moving the flush language at the end 2 ems to the right;

(3) in the flush language at the end, by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''subparagraph'';

(4) by striking ''INITIATIVE.—A program of'' and inserting ''INITIATIVE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A program of''; and

(5) by inserting at the end the following:

''(B) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with subparagraph (A)(v), the Director shall establish a pilot program designated as 'Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science' to award grants to partnerships to pay the Federal share of the costs of improving laboratories and providing instrumentation as part of a comprehensive program to enhance the quality of mathematics, science, engineering, and technology instruction at the secondary school level. Grants under this subparagraph may be used for—

''(I) purchase, rental, or leasing of equipment, instrumentation, and other scientific educational materials;

''(II) acquire appropriate nanotechnology equipment and software designed for teaching students about nanotechnology in the classroom;

''(III) professional development and training for teachers aligned with activities supported under section 2123 of the ESEA of 1965;

''(IV) development of instructional programs designed to integrate the laboratory experience with classroom instruction and to be consistent with State mathematics and science, and to the extent applicable, technology and engineering, academic achievement standards;

''(V) training in laboratory safety for relevant school personnel;

''(VI) design and implementation of hands-on laboratory experiences to encourage the interest of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology and help prepare such individuals to pursue postsecondary studies in these fields; and

''(VII) assessment of the activities funded under this subparagraph.

''(ii) PARTNERSHIP.—Grants awarded under clause (i) shall be to a partnership that—

''(I) includes an institution of higher education or a community college;

''(II) includes a high-need local educational agency;

''(III) includes a business or eligible nonprofit organization; and

''(IV) may include a State educational agency, other public agency, National Laboratory, or community-based organization.

''(iii) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using amounts from a grant under clause (i) shall not exceed 30 percent.''.

(b) REPORT.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall evaluate the effectiveness of activities carried out under the pilot projects funded by the grant program established pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b) in improving student performance in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology and recommend whether such activities should continue. A report documenting the results of that evaluation shall be submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall identify best practices and materials for the classroom developed and demonstrated by grant awardees.

(c) SUNSET.—The provisions of this section shall cease to have force or effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2012.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section such sums for fiscal year 2008 and each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

DIVISION E—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 5001. COLLECTION OF DATA RELATING TO TRADE IN SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a program within the Bureau of Economic Analysis to collect and study data relating to export and import of services. As part of the program, the Secretary shall annually—

(1) provide data collection and analysis relating to export and import of services;

(2) collect and analyze data for service imports and exports in not less than 40 service industry categories, on a state-by-state basis;

(3) include data collection and analysis of the employment effects of exports and imports on the service industry; and

(4) integrate ongoing and planned data collection and analysis initiatives in research and development and innovation.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce such sums for each of the fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, to carry out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 5002. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH AND CAPITAL MARKETS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the United States has the most fair, most transparent, and most efficient capital markets in the world, in part due to its strong securities statutory and regulatory scheme;

(2) it is of paramount importance for the continued growth of our Nation's economy, that our capital markets retain their leading position in the world;

(3) small businesses are vital participants in United States capital markets, and play a critical role in future economic growth and high-wage job creation;

(4) section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, has greatly enhanced the quality of corporate governance and financial reporting for public companies and increased investor confidence;

(5) the Securities and Exchange Commission (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'') and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (in this section referred to as the ''PCAOB'') have both determined that the current auditing standard implementing section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has imposed unnecessary and unintended cost burdens on small and mid-sized public companies;

(6) the Commission and PCAOB are now near completion of a 2-year process intended to revise the standard in order to provide more efficient and effective regulation; and

(7) the chairman of the Commission recently has said, with respect to section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, ''We don't need to change the law, we need to change the way the law is implemented. It is the implementation of the law that has caused the excessive burden, not the law itself. That's an important distinction. I don't believe these important investor protections, which are even now only a few years old, should be opened up for amendment, or that they need to be.''.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Commission and the PCAOB should complete promulgation of the final rules implementing section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7262).

SEC. 5003. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, GRANTS, AND PROGRAMS.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) examines each annual and interim report required to be submitted to Congress under this Act (including any amendment made by this Act);

(2) assesses or evaluates assessments of the effectiveness of the new or expended activities, grants, and programs carried out under this Act (including any amendment made by this Act); and

(3) includes any recommendations as the Comptroller General determines are appropriate to improve the effectiveness of such activities, grants, and programs.

SEC. 5004. PROHIBITION AGAINST FUNDING ANTI-COMPETITIVENESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Law; no federal funds shall be provided to any organization or entity that advocates against tax competition or United States tax competitiveness.

Provided, however, that advocating for effective tax information exchange, advocating for effective transfer pricing, and advocating for income tax treaties is not considered to be advocating against tax competition of United States tax competitiveness.

SEC. 5005. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON FREE ONLINE COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct and complete a feasibility study on creating a national, free online college degree program that would be available to all individuals described under section 484(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(5)) who wish to pursue a degree in a field of strategic importance to the United States and where expertise is in demand, such as mathematics, sciences, and foreign languages. The study shall look at the need for a free college degree program as well as the feasibility of—

(1) developing online course content;

(2) developing sufficiently rigorous tests to determine mastery of a field of study; and

(3) sustaining the program through private funding.

(b) STUDY.—The study described in subsection (a) shall also include a review of existing online education programs to determine the extent to which these programs offer a rigorous curriculum in areas like mathematics and science and the National Academy of Sciences shall make recommendations for how online degree programs can be assessed and accredited.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $500,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 5006. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING DEEMED EXPORTS.

It is the sense of Senate that—

(1) United States government policies related to deemed exports should safeguard United States national security and protect fundamental research.

(2) The Department of Commerce has established the Deemed Export Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for improving current controls on deemed exports.

(3) The Administration and Congress should consider the recommendations of the Deemed Export Advisory Committee in its development and implementation of export control policies.

SEC. 5007. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CAPITAL MARKETS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) United States capital markets are losing their competitive edge in the face of intensifying global competition, posing a risk to economic growth, a problem that is well-documented in initial public offerings (IPO), over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, securitization, and traditional lending;

(2) according to the Senator Charles E. Schumer and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg report, entitled ''Sustaining New York's and the US's Global Financial Services Leadership'', ''In looking at several of the critical contested investment banking and sales and trading markets—initial public offerings (IPOs), over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, and debt—it is clear that the declining position of the US goes beyond this natural market evolution to more controllable, intrinsic issues of US competitiveness. As market effectiveness, liquidity and safety become more prevalent in the world's financial markets, the competitive arena for financial

services is shifting toward a new set of factors—like availability of skilled people and a balanced and effective legal and regulatory environment—where the US is moving in the wrong direction.'';

(3) further, the report referred to in paragraph (2) stated that—

(A) ''The IPO market also offers the most dramatic illustration of the change in capital-raising needs around the world, and US exchanges are rapidly losing ground to foreign rivals. When looking at all IPOs that took place globally in 2006, the share of IPO volume attracted by US exchanges is barely one-third of that captured in 2001. By contrast, the global share of IPO volume captured by European exchanges has expanded by more than 30 percent over the same period, while non-Japan Asian markets have doubled their equivalent market share since 2001. When one considers mega-IPOs—those over $1 billion—US exchanges attracted 57 percent of such transactions in 2001, compared with just 16 percent during the first ten months of 2006.''; and

(B) ''London already enjoys clear leadership in the fast-growing and innovative over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market. This is significant because of the trading flow that surrounds derivatives markets and because of the innovation these markets drive, both of which are key competitive factors for financial centers. Dealers and investors increasingly see derivatives and cash markets as interchangeable and are therefore combining trading operations for both products. Indeed, the derivatives markets can be more liquid than the underlying cash markets. Therefore, as London takes the global lead in derivatives, America's competitiveness in both cash and derivatives flow trading is at risk, as is its position as a center for financial innovation.'';

(4) on March 13, 2007, the Department of the Treasury convened a conference on United States capital markets competitiveness, where—

(A) key policymakers, consumer advocates, members of the international community, business representatives, and academic experts, each with different perspectives, discussed ways to keep United States capital markets the strongest and most innovative in the world; and

(B) conference delegates examined the impact of the United States regulatory structure and philosophy, the legal and corporate governance environment, and the auditing profession and financial reporting on United States capital markets competitiveness;

(5) the foundation of any competitive capital market is investor confidence, and since1930, the United States has required some of the most extensive financial disclosures, supported by one of the most robust enforcement regimes in the world;

(6) a balanced regulatory system is essential to protecting investors and the efficient functioning of capital markets; and

(7) too much regulation stifles entrepreneurship, competition, and innovation, and too little regulation creates excessive risk to industry, investors, and the overall system.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Congress, the President, regulators, industry leaders, and other stakeholders should take the necessary steps to reclaim the preeminent position of the United States in the global financial services marketplace;

(2) the Federal and State financial regulatory agencies should, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate activities on significant policy matters, so as not to impose regulations that may have adverse unintended consequences on innovativeness with respect to financial products, instruments, and services, or that impose regulatory costs that are disproportionate to their benefits, and, at the same time, ensure that the regulatory framework overseeing the United States capital markets continues to promote and protect the interests of investors in those markets; and

(3) given the complexity of the financial services marketplace today, Congress should exercise vigorous oversight over Federal regulatory and statutory requirements affecting the financial services industry and consumers, with the goal of eliminating excessive regulation and problematic implementation of existing laws and regulations, while ensuring that necessary investor protections are not compromised.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 86 through 102 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

John Roberts Hackman, of Virginia, to be United States Marshall for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years.

Robert Gideon Howard, Jr., of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Travis D. Balch, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen L. Jones, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Thomas J. Masiello, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named office for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William C. Kirkland, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gregory E. Couch, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Jeffrey L. Fowler, 0000

IN THE ARMY

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

Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Mari K. Eder, 0000
Brigadier General William H. Gerety, 0000
Brigadier General Paul F. Hamm, 0000
Brigadier General George R. Harris, 0000
Brigadier General Steven J. Hashem, 0000
Brigadier General Adolph McQueen, Jr., 0000
Brigadier General David A. Morris, 0000
Brigadier General Maynard J. Sanders, 0000
Brigadier General Gregory A. Schumacher,
Brigadier General Michael J. Schweiger, 0000
Brigadier General Richard J. Sherlock, Jr., 0000
Brigadier General Dean G. Sienko, 0000

To be brigadier general

Colonel Marcia M. Anderson, 0000
Colonel Douglas P. Anson, 0000
Colonel William G. Beard, 0000
Colonel William M. Buckler, 0000
Colonel Alfred B. Carlton, 0000
Colonel Robert G. Catalanotti, 0000
Colonel Michele G. Compton, 0000
Colonel John C. Hanley, 0000
Colonel Katherine P. Kasun, 0000
Colonel Robert W. Kenyon, 0000
Colonel Karen E. Ledoux, 0000
Colonel Peter S. Lennon, 0000
Colonel Charles D. Martin, 0000
Colonel Gary A. Medvigy, 0000
Colonel Samuel T. Nichols, Jr., 0000
Colonel James D. Owens, Jr., 0000
Colonel Jeffrey E. Phillips, 0000
Colonel Leslie A. Purser, 0000
Colonel David W. Puster, 0000
Colonel Daniel I. Schultz, 0000
Colonel Michael R. Smith, 0000
Colonel Jeffrey W. Talley, 0000
Colonel Megan P. Tatu, 0000
Colonel Nickolas P. Tooliatos, 0000
Colonel James T. Walton, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. George J. Trautman, III, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Harold D. Starling, II, 0000

IN THE ARMY

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. William G. Webster, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark J. MacCarley, 0000

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., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel J. Nelan, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Michael A. Giorgione, 0000

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN369 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning THOMAS M. ANGELO, and ending DANIEL S. ZULLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2007.

PN400 AIR FORCE nominations (84) beginning Thomas I. Anderson, and ending MUSSARET A. ZUBERI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 2007.

PN406 AIR FORCE nomination of David J. Carrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN407 AIR FORCE nomination of James G. Wolf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN408 AIR FORCE nomination of Craig L. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN409 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning BRIAN L. EVANS, and ending DUNCAN D. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN410 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning ROBERT W. BEADLE, and ending BRENT S. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN437 AIR FORCE nomination of Noana Issargrill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

IN THE ARMY

PN389 ARMY nomination of Melissa W. Jones, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN390 ARMY nomination of Barbara J. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN391 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JAMES F. BECK, and ending KEVIN S. MCKIERNAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN392 ARMY nominations (9) beginning DANIEL L. HURST, and ending GEORGE T. TALBOT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN438 ARMY nominations (2) beginning FRANKLIN M. CRANE, and ending GARY T. KIRCHOFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN439 ARMY nominations (11) beginning MARK W. CRUMPTON, and ending D060629, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN440 ARMY nominations (7) beginning THOMAS BROOKS, and ending DEBORAH C. WARREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN441 ARMY nominations (7) beginning DAMON T. ARNOLD, and ending GIJSBERTUS F. VANSTAVEREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 20017.

PN442 ARMY nomination of D060461, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN443 ARMY nomination of Bernadine F. Peletzfox, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN444 ARMY nomination of D060470, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN445 ARMY nomination of Josef Rivero, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN446 ARMY nomination of Stephen J. Velez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN451 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KIRK O. AUSTIN, and ending LEE W. SMITHSON, which were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 16, 2007.

PN452 ARMY nominations (4) beginning CRAIG E. BENNETT, and ending DARLENE M. SHEALY, which were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 16, 2007.

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN386 COAST GUARD nominations (3) beginning KIRSTEN R. MARTIN, and ending RICHARD V. TIMME, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN423 COAST GUARD nominations (3) beginning BROOKE E. GRANT, and ending MARIA A. RUTTIG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2007.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN260 MARINE CORPS nomination of Charles E. Parham Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 15, 2007.

PN393–1 MARINE CORPS nominations (359) beginning EDUARDO A. ABISELLAN, and ending JOSEPH J. ZARBA JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN394 MARINE CORPS nominations (665) beginning AARON D. ABDULLAH, and ending SCOTT W. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN447 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason K. Fettig, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN448 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michael J. Colburn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

IN THE NAVY

PN269 NAVY nomination of Brian D. Petersen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 15, 2007.

PN411 NAVY nomination of Stanley R. Richardson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN449 NAVY nominations (60) beginning BENJAMIN AMDUR, and ending DAVID M. ZIELINSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on March 26, 2007, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 174.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 174) honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to support during National Small Business Week a bipartisan Senate resolution honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners throughout the United States. I am privileged to work every day with ranking member, Senator SNOWE and other members of my committee on behalf of small businesses and I am gratified to introduce this legislation with them here today.

Twenty-six million small businesses are currently operating in the United States. They represent 99.7 percent of all employers and account for two-thirds of all new jobs created each year. In addition, they contribute over 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product. Small businesses are the Nation's innovators, producing 13 to 14 more patents per employee than large businesses, and they account for 97 percent of all exporters.

It is clear that small businesses are a powerful force in the economic vitality that makes America strong, and small businesses would not have this success

were it not for government programs which support them. The Small Business Administration was created to support and protect small business concerns, and they have worked hard to do so. Millions of entrepreneurs have received loans or business counseling, allowing them to start or expand small businesses. Staples, Intel, Nike, and America Online are just a few of the most well-known businesses who received assistance through at least one of the SBA's programs.

Craig A. Bovaird from Princeton, MA, who I met this week when he was honored in Washington as the Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, is president of the Built-Rite Tool and Die, Inc. based in Lancaster which specializes in developing and manufacturing thermoplastics for the aerospace, medical, defense and high-tech industries. He is a pillar of his community—proud father of three daughters, involved in his town's finance committee, renovating the public library, and a leader of his church. He had an idea and he had the technical expertise and knowledge about the industry. Craig is passionate about his business. As Craig said, ''I enjoy watching an idea go from mind to paper through construction to a finished masterpiece.''

But it was John Rainey, a counselor at Clark University's Small Business Development Center in Worcester, who guided Craig through the development of a solid business plan. Craig's business is a success today—against the odds—because his manufacturing business grew and prospered at a time when other plastics companies were on the decline. This is thanks to Craig's hard work, and also thanks to a key SBA program that got him the business counseling he needed.

However, despite these national and local successes, there are a number of issues which continue to be a problem for small businesses, and, in order to encourage continuing economic growth, it is important that Congress take steps to address them. Unfortunately, this administration has repeatedly reduced efforts to support small businesses. A report from the House Small Business Committee notes that the fiscal year 2008 budget would cut or terminate funding for 90 of the 110 Federal programs that were designed to support entrepreneurship. In addition, since 2001, the administration has cut the SBA budget by more than 30 percent. When disaster loan funding is included, the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request is a cut of 45 percent since taking office. The SBA needs adequate funding in order to meet the needs of small businesses.

The administration has also repeatedly called for the reduction or elimination of important loan programs, such as the Microloan program. The Microloan program is a small, efficient, cost-effective program, which provides very small loans and counseling to small businesses. Supporters in Congress and advocacy groups are requesting very little to fund this program—$3.2 million for the Microloan program and $20 million for technical assistance. That is minuscule when compared with U.S. funding for small businesses in other countries. In 2005, the United States spent more than $200 million on microloan programs in other countries. In 2006, the United States spent more than $54 million on microloans in Iraq, according to U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad. And, in the President's fiscal year 2007 emergency funding request for the war in Iraq, the administration as requested about $160 million in microcredit initiatives.

The management assistance programs, such as the Small Business Development Centers, the Women's Business Centers, and the SCORE program, have also suffered under continuing flat or reduced funding. For instance, when taking account into inflation, SBDCs have experienced a 19 percent cut since 2001, despite the fact that this program returns $2.82 dollars to the Federal Government for every Federal dollar spent. Counseling hours and the number of clients counseled began declining in 2003 and 2004 and have continued to do so. Adequate funding for these programs is essential to prevent further loss of assistance to small businesses.

I also continue to be concerned about the Federal Government's inability to meet the procurement goals set forth in law. The Federal Government has simply done an abysmal job of ensuring that small businesses get their fair share of Federal contracts. For instance, the Department of Defense's 0.5 percent procurement with service-disabled veteran owned firms is significantly below the 3 percent stated goal and is unacceptable. These shortcomings are harming small businesses, and I will continue to push to make sure small businesses get a fair chance at selling to the Federal Government.

Nearly 2 years after Hurricane Katrina, small business owners and homeowners are struggling just to keep their doors open. Many of them were turned down or simply gave up on the SBA when they needed government assistance the most. The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship recently reported a bill that would comprehensively reform the disaster loan program, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation. This critical legislation will help all small businesses who are faced with a catastrophe through no fault of their own.

Patrick Turley, president of Turley Publications, Inc., in Palmer, MA, is the face of why we need an efficient disaster loan program that is a handup, not a handout. Patrick was also honored this week in Washington with the Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery. When his business faced massive flooding in October 2005, which caused $993,000 in property losses, Patrick rallied his employees and still printed two university newspapers on time. With the help of an SBA disaster loan, Patrick was able to resume running his plant at full capacity just 5 months after the storms.

Patrick's perseverance, leadership and courage in the wake of a disaster are commendable. By keeping his plant running, he kept people working and showed the people of Palmer that they too could overcome adversity.

I am proud of the many hardworking Americans like Craig and Patrick and the millions of others who face the risk and uncertainties inherent in opening and running a small business each day, and I applaud the achievements of the owners and their employees. Their hard work and dedication contribute tremendously to the economic well-being of this great Nation and deserve to be supported by the Federal Government.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 174) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 174

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than ⅔ of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all exporters and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as ''National Small Business Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small business concerns and their employees, whose hard work and commitment to excellence have made them a key part of the Nation's economic vitality;

(3) recognizes the work of the Small Business Administration and its resource partners in providing assistance to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

(4) strongly urges the President to take steps to ensure that—

(A) the applicable procurement goals for small business concerns, including the goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, are reached by all Federal agencies;

(B) guaranteed loans, including microloans and microloan technical assistance, for start-up and growing small business concerns and venture capital are made available to all qualified small business concerns;

(C) the management assistance programs delivered by resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with the Federal resources necessary to do their jobs; and

(D) reforms to the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration are implemented as quickly as possible; and

(5) urges that, as was the case in the President's budget for fiscal year 2008, the Small Business Administration continue to be designated as a major agency in the President's budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration have an active role as a member of the President's Cabinet.

RECOGNIZING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 175.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) recognizing the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 175) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent country;

Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State;

Whereas Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with an opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas Israel has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including—

(1) the freedom of speech;

(2) the freedom of religion;

(3) the freedom of association;

(4) the freedom of the press; and

(5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

(1) regularly holding free and fair elections;

(2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

(3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 24, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both countries to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and

(5) extends the best wishes of the Senate to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 493

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 493 has been received from the House and is at the desk and due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2:45 p.m. on Monday, April 30; that on Monday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 4:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 4:15, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 120, S. 1082, the FDA authorization bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I just indicated in the consent approved, we will begin consideration of the FDA bill on Monday. In view of the consent being granted, I announce to both sides of the aisle that there will be no rollcall votes on Monday. We will vote Tuesday prior to the conference recess. So there will be votes Tuesday morning, and everybody should plan accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007, AT 2:45 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2007, at 2:45 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 26, 2007:

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JAMES K. GLASSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, VICE KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON.

JAMES K. GLASSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2007, VICE KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON, TERM EXPIRED.

JAMES K. GLASSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2010. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES R. KEITH, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.

STEPHEN A. SECHE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

NANCY J. POWELL, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEPAL.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL D. DEVINE, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN G. CASTELLAW, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD C. ZILMER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH F. WEBER, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT PROFESSOR OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 4333(B):

To be colonel

TIMOTHY E. TRAINOR, 0000

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, April 26, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN ROBERTS HACKMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT GIDEON HOWARD, JR., OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL TRAVIS D. BALCH, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN L. JONES, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS J. MASIELLO, 0000

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. THADDEUS J. MARTIN, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM C. KIRKLAND, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. GREGORY E. COUCH, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JEFFREY L. FOWLER, 0000

IN THE ARMY

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

LT. GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL MARI K. EDER, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM H. GERETY, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL F. HAMM, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE R. HARRIS, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN J. HASHEM, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL ADOLPH MCQUEEN, JR., 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID A. MORRIS, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL MAYNARD J. SANDERS, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGORY A. SCHUMACHER, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL J. SCHWEIGER, 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD J. SHERLOCK, JR., 0000
BRIGADIER GENERAL DEAN G. SIENKO, 0000

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MARCIA M. ANDERSON, 0000
COLONEL DOUGLAS P. ANSON, 0000
COLONEL WILLIAM G. BEARD, 0000
COLONEL WILLIAM M. BUCKLER, 0000
COLONEL ALFRED B. CARLTON, 0000
COLONEL ROBERT G. CATALANOTTI, 0000
COLONEL MICHELE G. COMPTON, 0000
COLONEL JOHN C. HANLEY, 0000
COLONEL KATHERINE P. KASUN, 0000
COLONEL ROBERT W. KENYON, 0000
COLONEL KAREN E. LEDOUX, 0000
COLONEL PETER S. LENNON, 0000
COLONEL CHARLES D. MARTIN, 0000
COLONEL GARY A. MEDVIGY, 0000
COLONEL SAMUEL T. NICHOLS, JR., 0000
COLONEL JAMES D. OWENS, JR., 0000
COLONEL JEFFREY E. PHILLIPS, 0000
COLONEL LESLIE A. PURSER, 0000
COLONEL DAVID W. PUSTER, 0000
COLONEL DANIEL I. SCHULTZ, 0000
COLONEL MICHAEL R. SMITH, 0000
COLONEL JEFFREY W. TALLEY, 0000
COLONEL MEGAN P. TATU, 0000
COLONEL NICKOLAS P. TOOLIATOS, 0000
COLONEL JAMES T. WALTON, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. GEORGE J. TRAUTMAN III, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. HAROLD D. STARLING II, 0000

IN THE ARMY

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. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK J. MACCARLEY, 0000

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., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL J. NELAN, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MICHAEL A. GIORGIONE, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS M. ANGELO AND ENDING WITH DANIEL S. ZULLI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 19, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS I. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MUSSARET A. ZUBERI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 26, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID J. CARRELL, 0000, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JAMES G. WOLF, 0000, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CRAIG L. ALLEN, 9804, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN L. EVANS AND ENDING WITH DUNCAN D. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 29, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT W. BEADLE AND ENDING WITH BRENT S. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 29, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF NOANA ISSARGRILL, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF MELISSA W. JONES, 0000, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BARBARA J. KING, 0000, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES F. BECK AND ENDING WITH KEVIN S. MCKIERNAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL L. HURST AND ENDING WITH GEORGE T. TALBOT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANKLIN M. CRANE AND ENDING WITH GARY T. KIRCHOFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK W. CRUMPTON AND ENDING WITH D060629, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS BROOKS AND ENDING WITH DEBORAH C. WARREN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAMON T. ARNOLD AND ENDING WITH GIJSBERTUS F. VANSTAVEREN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D060461, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BERNADINE F. PELETZFOX, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D060470, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEF RIVERO, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN J. VELEZ, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIRK O. AUSTIN AND ENDING WITH LEE W. SMITHSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 16, 2007.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CRAIG E. BENNETT AND ENDING WITH DARLENE M. SHEALY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 16, 2007.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIRSTEN R. MARTIN AND ENDING WITH RICHARD V. TIMME, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BROOKE E. GRANT AND ENDING WITH MARIA A. RUTTIG, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2007.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHARLES E. PARHAM, JR., 0000, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDUARDO A. ABISELLAN AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH J. ZARBA, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AARON D. ABDULLAH AND ENDING WITH SCOTT W. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JASON K. FETTIG, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. COLBURN, 0000, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN D. PETERSEN, 0000, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STANLEY R. RICHARDSON, 0000, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN AMDUR AND ENDING WITH DAVID M. ZIELINSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 11, 2007.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE ARMY RESERVE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge the beginning of a year-long centennial celebration for the United States Army Reserve and to pay homage to all Army Reserve soldiers who, in the past 100 years, have answered the call to defend our Nation and to protect the freedoms and liberties we cherish.

The legacy of volunteer "Warrior Citizens" is rooted in colonial America with the soldiers of the revolutionary militia who fought for our freedom. At the birth of our Nation, President George Washington relied on the militia to build up his Continental forces for major campaigns. Later, Washington and Alexander Hamilton proposed a contingency force to support the Army that would be centrally controlled by the Federal Government.

On April 23, 1908, Congress established the Medical Reserve Corps to provide a reservoir of trained officers in time of war. The Secretary of War could order these officers to active duty during time of emergency. Four years later, a provision of the Army Appropriations Act of 1912 created the regular Army Reserve, a Federal Reserve force outside the Medical Reserve Corps. This new component of the United States Army, the first Federal Reserve force was expanded into a Federal operational force in 1916 and again in 1920.

Army Reserve soldiers have trained and served with excellence—through World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the cold war, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and in support of the global war on terror during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Today, this reserve force has grown from its beginning strength of approximately 360 medical professionals in 1908—to a community based, Federal operational force with an end-strength of 205,000 Warrior Citizens providing complementary capabilities for joint expeditionary and domestic operations in support of the United States Army.

As we begin this year-long celebration of the Army Reserve's 100th anniversary, the men and women who serve with the Army Reserve continue to play a vital role in our county's homeland security and our national security affairs abroad.

Since 1990, Army Reserve soldiers have been deployed to support every American military operation, as well as peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. In 1997, when the Red River crested 26 feet above flood stage, and more than 60,000 residents of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota, had to be evacuated, Army Reserve water purification units responded with purified water for flood victims. Army Reserve soldiers answered the call for recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana and other gulf coast States in 2005, by providing vehicles to supply fuel, Chinook helicopters for lift operations and cargo trailers for hauling debris.

Army Reserve units and individual soldiers immediately responded to the attacks of September 11 and carried out a host of missions to support rescue and recovery operations and to secure Federal facilities nationwide.

The Army Reserve has mobilized more than 166,000 troops in support of the global war on terror. These brave men and women are providing key support for combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and 18 other nations.

The centennial observance began on April 23, and it began appropriately with a reenlistment ceremony on the west front steps of the United States Capitol for 38 Army Reserve Soldiers from across the country.

Beginning with this inspiring ceremony, Army Reservists in thousands of communities throughout our Nation will join their neighbors in celebrating the contributions of this exceptional Federal force, an American institution.

Let us express our appreciation to the United States Army Reserve and the Warrior Citizens who serve with dedication and distinction as they begin their year-long centennial celebration.

COMMENDING SARAH H. DREW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Sarah H. Drew for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Sarah is a student at Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Sarah. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Flower Mound High School for their outstanding commitment to Sarah's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1905, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1906, ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENT SAFE HARBOR ADJUSTMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Bill, and commend Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that District of Columbia residents have full representation in Congress.

Eighty-two percent of Americans believe that the District should have voting rights in the House. It is time to end the 206 years of "taxation without representation" for District of Columbia residents.

H.R. 1905 will provide District of Columbia residents a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. It will also grant a vote to the next State in line to get a congressional seat, which, according to the 2000 Census, is Utah. As a result, this bill will permanently expand the size of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437. This bipartisan legislation also includes a "non-severability clause" providing that if a court determines that one section of this bill is invalid, then all other sections will be unenforceable.

Ensuring that all citizens, including District of Columbia residents, have representation in the House is not only fair and just, but also critical to maintaining a strong democracy, in which all citizens' voices are heard. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. MINNIE MOORE-JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the actions of Minnie Moore-Johnson. Minnie has spent her life in the service of others and has dedicated herself to those who are in need of her help as the Founder and CEO of Concerned Parents, Inc. Over the course of her distinguished career of over 40 years, Minnie Moore-Johnson has received hundreds of awards recognizing her life achievements and therefore, I ask the United States Congress to do the same for this great woman.

Ms. Minnie Moore-Johnson has truly been a guardian over those in need within the city

and surrounding areas. No matter what the need or want, it seems that Ms. Moore-Johnson is willing to do whatever necessary to help those around her. Her Thanksgiving Dinners for seniors became legendary in 1968 and in 1988 was recognized by the Smithsonian Institute for serving over 25,000 seniors. She has welcomed her home to anyone looking to benefit from her wisdom and generosity which she gladly gives to all.

For 10 years, the Pennsylvania Prison Society used the services of her organization, Concerned Parents, Inc., to provide community service opportunities to the Prison Society's clients. This prompted Minnie to return to school to better understand the criminal justice system and the struggles of the people she was helping. Once at Temple, she became a Life Skills Educator and eventually a Job Developer at the Pennsylvania Prison Society to help find employment and other benefits for ex-offenders. Her knowledge and ingenuity has truly benefited all in the Philadelphia community. Her work on the Pennsylvania Prison Society's Re-Entry Service Project created the only certified Job Development course at Temple University offering training in a variety of ex-offender programs. In addition to this program, Minnie provides services to troubled youth ages 15–24 through the Philadelphia Safe and Sound Youth Violence Reduction. All of this accomplishment has amounted to a life well spent in the service of others and gives people a true role model to look up to.

Minnie believes her journey has come full circle, in that it has afforded her the experience of expanding her knowledge to better understand the criminal justice system and those re-entering the work force and has given her the skills she needs to return to her first love, that of servicing the people of the SouthWest Philadelphia community—as Executive Director/CEO of Concerned Parents, Inc. I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Minnie Moore-Johnson in her lifetime of achievement in the service of others.

COMMENDING PATRICIA M. ANDERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Patricia M. Anderson for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Patricia is a student at Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Patricia. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Liberty Christian for their outstanding commitment to Patricia's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING BIRMINGHAM NEWS REPORTER BRETT BLACKLEDGE FOR WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Brett Blackledge, a Birmingham News reporter, for receiving the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American journalism.

A native of Baton Rouge, Brett earned a journalism degree from Louisiana State University in 1986. Brett's prestigious career began in New Orleans with the Associated Press. From there, he went to work for the AP bureaus in Jackson, MS, and Tulsa, OK. He also wrote for the The Journal Newspapers and Education Daily.

In 1993, Brett moved to Mobile, AL, and for the next 5 years, he was a reporter at the Press-Register, where he covered local schools, government, and politics. Since 1998, he has been a general assignment and special projects reporter with the Birmingham News. Brett's 14-month series into Alabama's 2-year college system won him the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

Madam Speaker, Brett Blackledge's career has already been filled with much achievement, and I rise today to honor yet another of these achievements—the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. May he continue to inform and inspire the people of Alabama. I know his colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO TRIAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Triad Middle School in St. Jacob, Illinois, upon being selected as one of the Illinois Horizon Schools: Schools to Watch by the Association of Middle-Level School.

For recognition in the Horizon Schools program, schools must meet or exceed 37 different criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Triad Middle School had to complete both an application process and host on-site visits.

This award speaks to the dedication of the students and teachers at Triad Middle School. As a former teacher, I know how hard each educator works to help the students in their classroom succeed. This is a testament to not only the teachers' work, but also the students desire to learn and succeed.

I am pleased to congratulate Triad Middle School on this outstanding accomplishment. I extend my best wishes for continued success to the students and faculty at Triad Middle School.

COMMENDING NATHAN S. ABELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Nathan S. Abell for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Nathan is a student at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Nathan. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Marcus High School for their outstanding commitment to Nathan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, and I commend Chairman FRANK for his work on this critical issue.

While American families struggle to meet their basic needs, such as access to affordable housing, health care, and education, the CEOs of top companies earn more than 430 times the pay of an average worker. The disparity between CEO compensation and minimum wage earnings is even more severe. The average CEO earns more before lunch than a minimum wage worker earns in a year. This inequality needs to be addressed. The Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act is an important step toward fairness because it empowers shareholders and holds public corporations accountable for their compensation practices.

H.R. 1257 requires that public companies give shareholders the opportunity to have a nonbinding advisory vote on the company's executive compensation. It also gives shareholders an additional nonbinding vote if the company awards the CEO a new, undisclosed personal exit package, also known as a ''golden parachute'' package, during negotiations to buy or sell a company. This bill does not in

any way cap executive salaries nor does it diminish the board's legal authority. It simply provides shareholders with a mechanism to voice their support or opposition to an executive compensation package.

This legislation is supported by the International Corporate Governance Network, the Council of Institutional Investors, labor unions, and shareholder organizations. Further, this approach to corporate governance is not new, and it has been shown that it works. The nonbinding advisory vote has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom and more recently in Australia. It was also adopted voluntarily by the insurance company, Aflac, and 52 other companies have similar proposals pending.

Mr. Chairman, American families cannot afford to continue subsidizing excessive CEO compensation packages. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREL HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS IN HONOR OF THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the young women of Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad and their coach Liz Dunham. The young ladies of this squad have accomplished so much not just over the squad school year but over the proceeding years. These accomplished young women have done more for the community of Uniontown, Pennsylvania than they may realize.

While not only cheering at 98 games over the past year, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands have accomplished so much more. These young ladies have participated and volunteered their time in numerous community activities. They have raised funds and awareness for organizations and charities that include the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Bosom Buddies. The cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have also collected for food banks and helped with the benefit dance for Interfaith Caregivers of Fayette, Inc.

Along with their community involvement, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have participated and won many titles and the respect of many within the sport. Including, back to back Bituminous Coal Show ''Varsity Over All High Point'' titles, along with JV winning their division, and the 2007 WPXI ''Cheer of the Year'' Contest. The involvement and dedication of these young women could end today and I still would not have enough time to stress the accomplishments of this squad both past and present.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending the athletes of the Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Their presence has been felt not only throughout the school but throughout the community as well. Best wishes to all of these young ladies in their future endeavors and may the memories this illustrious year last them a lifetime.

COMMENDING KRISTOFER K. BJERGA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kristofer K. Bjerga for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kristofer is a student at Keller High School in Keller, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Kristofer. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Keller High School for their outstanding commitment to Kristofer's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING MONROEVILLE, ALABAMA NATIVE CYNTHIA TUCKER FOR WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Cynthia Tucker, a beloved native of Monroeville, Alabama, for receiving the highest honor in American journalism, the Pulitzer Prize.

Raised in Monroeville, where her father was a school principal, Cynthia went to Auburn University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in journalism. She joined the Atlanta Journal-Constitution staff in 1976 and also worked a short while at The Philadelphia Inquirer. As a reporter, she covered local government, national politics, crime and education, in addition to filing dispatches from Africa, Central America, and Cuba.

Over 30 years have passed since Cynthia first joined the Journal-Constitution. She has risen to editorial page editor, and her syndicated column now appears in more than 70 newspapers throughout the United States.

The third time proved to be the charm for Cynthia, who was also a Pulitzer finalist in 2004 and 2006. This year the journalism department at the University of Alabama, my alma mater, also recognized her long, distinguished writing career by awarding her the 2007 Clarence Cason Writing Award. Last year, Cynthia was named the National Association of Black Journalists' Journalist of the Year. In 2000, the American Society of Newspaper Editors honored her with the Distinguished Writing Award for commentary, and she has won the Cox Newspaper award for column writing four times.

Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote, and Mark Childress firmly established Monroeville as the ''Literary Capital of Alabama.'' Cynthia Tucker's name is now very much a part of this prestigious list.

Madam Speaker, Cynthia Tucker has been an inspiration to countless young women—and men—from Alabama and across the country for her distinguished career. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KENNETH MICHAEL KAYS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Kenneth Michael Kays. Mr. Kays, a native of Fairfield, Illinois was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. A monument in his memory is being dedicated on May 5, 2007 in Fairfield, Illinois.

Mr. Kays, a Private First Class in the United States Army, was cited for his heroic action in Thua Thien province, Republic of Vietnam, on May 7, 1970. His rank at that time was Private and he was serving as a medical airman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division near the Fire Support Base Maureen.

When enemy forces assaulted Company D's night defensive position, Private Kays began assisting his fallen and injured comrades. In assisting his fellow soldiers, he became a target and enemy fire and explosive charges severed the lower portion of his left leg. Private Kays applied a tourniquet to his leg and continued to search the perimeter and help his fellow soldiers who were injured. Private Kays did not allow himself to be treated until his fellow soldiers had been treated for their own wounds. He was cited with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Private First Class Kays as the monument is dedicated in his honor. May God bless his memory and may He continue to bless America.

COMMENDING GABRIEL J. DIAZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Gabriel J. Diaz for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Gabriel is a student at Ryan High School in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded

scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Gabriel. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Ryan High School for their outstanding commitment to Gabriel's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARSHA A. ROWE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Senior Master Sergeant Marsha A. Rowe, who retired March 9, 2007 from the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse, New York after having served over 31 years of dedicated service in the United States Armed Forces. Her last duty position was Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Plans, Scheduling, and Documentation in the 174th Fighter Wing Maintenance Operations Flight.

A native of Central New York, Sergeant Rowe's long and distinguished career in the United States Armed Forces began in January of 1976 when she enlisted in the New York Air National Guard. As a recent graduate of Indiana University, Sergeant Rowe was recruited for officer training but chose to join the enlisted ranks so she could work on the aircraft. All maintenance fields were combat positions and at that time not open to females, but Sergeant Rowe persisted and a waiver from National Guard Bureau allowed her to become a member of the 174th Maintenance Squadron Armament Section, working on gun and release systems and loading weapons on the A–37B Fighter Aircraft. Sergeant Rowe was named to the Load Standardization Crew, responsible for training all load crews, and earned the Maintenance Person of the Quarter Award. Soon after, Sergeant Rowe became the first female Recruiter in the 174th Fighter Wing. After her recruiting tour, Sergeant Rowe held numerous positions in the 174th Fighter Wing including Missile Shop Chief, Avionics Technician, Precision Measurement Equipment Lab Chief, Engine Manager, and Production Controller. In addition to the A–37B Dragonfly, she has worked on the A–10 Thunderbolt and the F–16 Falcon. Sergeant Rowe served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, where she maintained the Electronics Counter Measure system on the F–16 Aircraft. Upon her return, she was chosen to carry the NY State Flag in both the Washington, DC and New York City Victory Celebration Parades.

In addition to her full-time position, Sergeant Rowe has served as the Program Manager for the Base Security Augmentee Program for the past 13 years. She was a member of the Base Honor/Color Guard from 1976–1998, a member of the Base Pistol Team, served on the Board of Directors for the All Services Club, and was instrumental in organizing the trip to Washington, DC for the dedication of the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. An animal advocate, Sergeant Rowe is involved in several organizations, and will be dedicating her retirement years to their causes.

Sergeant Rowe's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters; and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Her military unit awards include the Air Force OutStanding Unit Award with Combat 'V' device and four oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. She also holds the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with nine oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars; and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Other service awards include the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, Mobilization "M" device, and Numeral 2; the USAF NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Her Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait. She is also the recipient of the N.Y. State Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Rowe is a very special person. She willingly served her Nation in time of war, and in time of peace, exuding integrity, loyalty and pride. For her unrelenting service to her country, Sergeant Rowe can retire knowing she has earned such a status. I wish her well in retirement and thank her for her years of hard work and dedication.

AWARDING OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen on March 29, 2007.

The Tuskegee Airmen were welcomed into the Capitol Rotunda to an excited and proud crowd of more than 700 people including family members, friends, press organizations, members of Congress, Colin Powell, and President Bush. As they came in walking and some being escorted in wheelchairs, I could clearly see the happiness on their faces. This was a day they had been anxiously waiting and living for. Finally, they received the honor and recognition that was so long over due. I was overwhelmed with joy and excited to see those in attendance.

Never in the history of Congress has such a large group been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal and I'm extremely proud to have been a part of this historical ceremony. I was overwhelmed with joy to see the excitement of the Tuskegee Airmen and their guests. The Rotunda was absolutely filled to capacity. This clearly demonstrates the value and appreciation people have for the contribution and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Their outstanding service during World War II was legendary. They fought the enemy abroad and racism at home. Despite being discriminated against, they rose to the challenge and broke down racial barriers in the United States Armed Forces. I'm forever grateful for their courage, bravery, and leadership.

I extend special thanks to Senator LEVIN for his leadership. I also extend thanks to you, Speaker PELOSI, Colin Powell, the United States Mint, and the Smithsonian Institution. My heart was warmed by the salute to the Tuskegee Airmen by President Bush. The entire ceremony was a memorable event and I will never forget it.

COMMENDING VATSALA GOYAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Vatsala Goyal for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Vatsala is a student at Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Vatsala. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Dunbar High School for their outstanding commitment to Vatsala's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

SUBPRIME LENDING

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. As the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I consider helping ensure equal access to homeownership for all Americans a high priority of mine.

Therefore, I've grown increasingly concerned over the past several years about the disproportionate amount of higher priced subprime lending that is concentrated in the minority population and in minority neighborhoods. According to the 2005 HMDA data, 52% of African Americans and 40% Latino are in high-cost, subprime loans as compared to 19% of white families. I wonder whether some or most of these families could have qualified for a better, more affordable loan but were instead steered into a subprime loan by a lender or broker eager to make a profit.

To be fair, not all brokers and lenders are bad and even subprime lending has value for some borrowers. The House Financial Services Committee has held two hearings this year on the issue of predatory lending and we are currently assessing legislative solutions.

The research shows that while hybrid adjustable rate mortgages and other subprime loans may be appropriate for some families, they are not suitable for others. We're concerned that the lending abuse in the market has become a very serious problem.

The subprime market has seen significantly higher levels of foreclosure and default than the prime market, and the rates of foreclosure and default are rising. For Hispanics, almost 20 percent who received high-interest, subprime loans are likely to go into foreclosure. Specifically, 73,000 out of 375,000 subprime loans made to Hispanics in 2005 are likely to foreclose. And the Center for Responsible Lending predicts subprime mortgages originated from 1998 through third quarter of 2006 will wipe out $164 billion in homeownership wealth for 2.2 million American families.

In my district in California, the Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire reports that the foreclosure rate is now 3 times higher than it was just 1 year ago. Now 1 of every 315 homes in the Inland Empire is currently in default and has started the foreclosure process.

By no means am I advocating that we get rid of subprime lending. Subprime lending has empowered a number of borrowers to get into their first home, including roughly 85% of Latino families. So we can't let perfection be the enemy of the good.

But we need better safeguards to protect subprime borrowers so they are not taken advantage of and receive loans they can afford, even after the teaser rates go up. We also need to put an end to abusive practices and overly relaxed lending standards. Lenders and brokers must price borrowers into homes according to the final, fully indexed rate and fully amortized repayment schedule; not just the teaser rate. And they need to explain the terms of these loans in plain English so that borrowers understand how much they are paying each month even after the rates adjust. Lenders should also explain the risks involved with payment shock and prepayment penalties. It's time we put unscrupulous lenders who are steering minority families into unsuitable loans out of business.

Over the past 10 years, minority homeownership rates have improved, and in some cases for Hispanics, the homeownership has grown at a rate three times higher than that of other nonHispanic groups. The growth of the supbrime lending has contributed greatly to this achievement.

But no one gains when people are thrown out of their homes. The housing market falls and entire neighborhoods are affected. This in turn impacts local economies and will ultimately impact our national housing market.

We all know that homeownership is the key to the American dream and the means to household wealth and savings. Let's work to protect these hard-working families who are facing foreclosures and keep them in their homes.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. No one can accuse me of shying away from a fight to defend America's rights, including the right to regulate foreign trash that poses legitimate health or safety risks for our citizens. Yet there are right ways to address trade issues and wrong ways. This bill represents the wrong way. The bottom line is that this bill allows States to ban or restrict trash imports in violation of our Congressional prerogatives, Federalist system, and international commitments.

Yesterday, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office sent a letter to the Speaker and Republican Leadership expressing concerns that this bill would enable States to openly violate our international trade obligations—trade rules that we depend on to defend our companies and workers from unfair foreign practices. I would ask that this letter be included in the RECORD.

At a time when this Congress has called again and again for nations such as China to adhere to trade rules and for these rules to be vigorously enforced, how can we reasonably expect our trading partners to comply with trade obligations with which we do not comply ourselves?

Moreover, this bill is targeted at Canada, our largest trading partner, whose imports of American products impact virtually every corner of our country. Violations of our trade obligations to Canada would allow Canada to choose which products and industries to target for retaliation—exposing virtually every Congressman and Congresswoman here to damaging sanctions against their districts.

This bill would send us back to the Articles of Confederation, under which States setting their own trade policies almost tore our Nation apart. Now, more than 200 years later, we would be abdicating our Congressional responsibility and setting a very dangerous precedent.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Rural Broadband Improvement Act. This bill would refocus the Rural Utility Service (RUS) Broadband Loan Program to bring high speed internet access to rural Americans.

Access to broadband service is critical to the quality of life in rural America. It has the potential to be an unprecedented catalyst for economic growth and improvements in education and health care. However, I am concerned that instead of benefiting the rural Americans who need it, RUS is too often being used to subsidize Internet access to suburban and affluent communities that already have multiple high speed internet providers.

According to a USDA Office of Inspector General September 2005 Audit Report on the Rural Utility Service Broadband Grant and Loan Program, ''RUS has not exclusively served those rural communities most requiring federal assistance to obtain access to broadband technologies. Because RUS's definition of 'rural area' is too broad to distinguish usefully between suburban and rural communities, the agency has issued over $103.4 million in grants and loans (nearly 12 percent of $895 million in total program funds) to communities near metropolitian areas.'' The audit report also found that RUS needs stronger controls to prioritize communities without broadband access.

I have introduced the ''Rural Broadband Improvement Act'' to refocus and improve this important program. My legislation would make three simple reforms:

1. It would ensure that RUS loans and guarantees go to truly rural communities;

2. In rural communities that already have some high speed internet service, my bill would ensure that Federal dollars benefit those residents who have no broadband;

3. It would ensure that projects that were intended to be built with federal dollars, but were not built within three years of being granted the loan, are paid back to the U.S. Treasury.

The Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture issued a report criticizing this program. In the President's Budget, the Administration recognized that the program needs to be retargeted to rural Americans who need it. But after five years since this program's inception, precious dollars that could be used to bring high speed internet access to rural homes and schoolhouses across America continue to be misspent.

Now it is time for Congress to act. Please join me to help enable rural Americans to enjoy the same high speed access to the internet that urban and suburban America enjoys.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor, I rise today in support of H.R. 518, The international Solid Waste Importation and Management Act, or what is commonly referred to as the Canadian Trash bill.

Last Congress, identical legislation (H.R. 2491) was unanimously approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee and the full U.S. House of Representatives.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked with Mr. DINGELL and other members to address the Canadian trash problem. After 14 years of work, I look forward to resolving this issue.

Over 400 trucks a day cross the border from Canada, bringing tons of trash into Michigan

and other states. The unregulated flow of trash from Canada into Michigan and other states creates significant environment and public health concerns.

Even more alarming; a January 2006 audit conducted by the Department of Homeland Security has shown that these trucks are often found containing medical waste, illegal drugs, and illegal currency.

This report raises significant border security and national safety concerns that must be addressed.

This legislation would give residents of Michigan and other states the power to limit the trash from outside the United States they are currently forced to accept.

I look forward to continuing to work with supporters on both sides of the aisle to move this legislation to the President's desk.

Given the environmental, public health, border security, and national safety concerns, it is especially important that we act immediately to control the flow of trash from Canada.

I'd like to thank Chairman DINGELL for his leadership on this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to support this long overdue legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH PETERS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Keith Peters, who is retiring from his position as president and CEO of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce. Keith has dedicated himself to bettering the Ypsilanti community for over 40 years.

Keith Peters was born in Grabill, Indiana, in 1941 and moved to Michigan for college in 1960. In 1964, he graduated from Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing and married Betty Jackson, his wife of 43 years. Keith honorably served the citizens of Ypsilanti from 1963 to 1983 as senior minister at First Christian Church in Ypsilanti.

After 20 years at First Christian, Keith changed directions and held a variety of positions within Ypsilanti's business community. In 1983, he served as production controller at Barfield Manufacturing in Ypsilanti. In 1989, Keith became sales manager at WAAM Radio in Ann Arbor.

Keith began his career at the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995 as membership director and small business advisor. After just 2 short years of hard work, a strong record of success, and proven dedication to the Ypsilanti business community, Keith became president and CEO of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce. Keith's leadership at the Ypsilanti Chamber has yielded great results, such as the doubling of both its membership and budget, as well as the creation of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber Education Foundation in 2000.

Keith has also given of himself to the broader Ypsilanti community, serving on such boards as the Workforce Development Board; the Washtenaw Development Council Board; the Board of Elders of the Memorial Church of Christ; the Advisory Board of the Eastern Michigan University College of Education; the Michigan Chamber of Commerce Executives Board, to name a few.

Keith Peters has done tremendous work for his community. I am sure that his wife Betty, his two children, and his eight grandchildren are all very proud of him. Keith has provided spiritual, economic and educational wisdom and much of his time to the Ypsilanti area and I am proud to call him a friend: I wish him an adventurous and healthful retirement and am certain he will have great success in all of his future endeavors, both personal and professional.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF ERNEST GALLO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as we mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the State of California and our Nation as a whole. Armed with nothing more than a $5,900 investment and a winemaking pamphlet from the public library, Ernest Gallo—along with his brother, Julio—created one of the world's largest wineries out of a small family-owned business, employed thousands of hard-working Americans over the years, and revolutionized the way the wine industry operates in the United States.

And while his role as co-founder of the Gallo Winery may be his claim to fame, Ernest Gallo was also a generous philanthropist who willingly answered the call when his community needed him most. Ernest created an endowment at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, CA. He established the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco. And those are just two examples of his strong support for educational and health-related endeavors the world over.

Ernest Gallo was the personification of the American Dream—a self-made man who transformed his personal business successes into tangible public benefits that enhanced the lives of countless Americans. And I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ernest Gallo as we mourn his loss.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 362, the ''10,000 Teachers, Ten Million Minds'' Science and Math Scholarship Act, and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

For the past century or more, the United States has been the undisputed leader of the global economy. The reasons for this success are many and diverse, but they are united by the principle of innovation that has guided our economy for decades. The United States is the birthplace of aviation and the automobile. We have led the information technology revolution and created the internet. The names of American pioneers are as familiar to us as those of our greatest Presidents: Henry Ford, Robert Oppenheimer, Bill Gates.

But today, the supremacy of the United States in international innovation is at risk. In 2005, the National Academies convened a panel, known as the Augustine Commission, made up of some of the most distinguished national leaders in academia, industry and government. Their report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, was startling. It expressed serious concern that ''the scientific and technological building blocks critical to our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength.'' In order to prevent this erosion and maintain the United States' place at the forefront of the global economy, the Commission proposed several concrete actions.

The ''10,000 Teacher, Ten Million Minds'' Science and Math Scholarship Act is the direct result of the Augustine Commission's first recommendation. In 2000, more than 85 percent of students in grades 5–9 were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the physical sciences. In 1999, 68 percent of U.S. 8th grade students received instruction from a mathematics teacher who did not hold a degree or certification in mathematics. This legislation will create thousands of new math and science teachers, each with expertise in their specific area of teaching, and will create centers for improvement of undergraduate education in science and mathematics.

The ''Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act'' derives from the Augustine Commission's second recommendation. This legislation will improve innovation efforts at the National Science Foundation. It will especially focus on outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers. These are the researchers who are most likely to break existing paradigms and realize that singular achievement that will keep the United States at the cutting edge of global innovation.

These bills are only the first step. In the weeks and months to come, the House will consider several bills that will encourage technological progress and innovation. I commend Speaker PELOSI for her initiative and commitment to the innovation agenda, and I urge passage of these bills.

RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP BY COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE DALLES-WASCO COUNTY COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw your and my fellow colleagues' attention to a tremendous and especially unique educational effort underway at

Columbia Gorge Community College in Wasco and Hood River counties, Oregon and to single out the highly effective leadership of The Dalles-Wasco County Community Outreach Team.

This gorgeous area of Oregon benefits from some of the most dedicated and determined local leaders in the country. The Dalles-Wasco County Community Outreach Team provides an outstanding model of local government cooperation and their efforts, in conjunction with Columbia Gorge Community College, have had a very positive impact on the Columbia River Gorge economy. The Community Outreach Team's members band together at all levels of city and county leadership and work in synchronized fashion to both tout the benefits provided in their region and echo with one clear voice the ways government at all levels can better work together and deliver favorable results to local residents and employers and the large number of visitors who flock to this picturesque area.

The rural nursing program at Columbia Gorge Community College is hailed as a state and national model of instruction delivery in a rural region and has added to the College's clout as a premier center of learning and training in the West. Another feather in the cap of Columbia Gorge Community College is their renewable energy training program. The Pacific Northwest is witnessing unprecedented, rapid growth of renewable energy and Columbia Gorge Community College, in cooperation with its renewable energy industry and workforce partners, has initiated and deployed the first renewable energy program on the West Coast that offers wind energy technician training. As the co-chair of the bipartisan House Renewable Energy Caucus, I'm very proud of the College's national leadership on this front.

The renewable energy program at Columbia Gorge Community College will be sustained through the same highly successful industry partnership model as developed by the College's nursing program. The development of renewable energy contributes to our Nation's security by lessening reliance on imported fossil fuels, and its development substantially reduces the impact of fossil fuels on the important issue of climate change. Workforce training is an essential element of renewable energy expansion, and Columbia Gorge Community College is blazing trails on this exciting new front.

My colleagues, I ask you to join me in commending Columbia Gorge Community College and its industry and workforce partners for establishing the first program on the West Coast for renewable energy that offers wind energy technician training. They're providing outstanding results, and it's my honor to represent in the United States House of Representatives such dedicated local leaders.

HONORING NED BAUDAT FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE P.E. MARION SCIENCE/MATH SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Ned Baudat for his contributions to the P.E. Marion Science/Math Scholarship that is offered to students at Aldine High School in our district. With Mr. Baudat's support, students from Aldine High School have the opportunity to further their collegiate studies in math and science. I know P.E. Marion and his excellent teaching ability, and it is an additional honor to have this scholarship in his name.

Our Nation is currently facing criticism relating to a decreased interest of American students in the study of math and science. For this reason, we are unable to keep up with the international community whose students often excel in their math and science studies. By encouraging advance study in these subjects, American students are able to better compete with students from all over the world, and we have persons like Ned Baudat to thank for this.

Mr. Baudat graduated at the top of his class from Aldine High School and went on to Rice University. During his career in the oil industry, he developed a patent regarding an improved method to convert liquid natural gas back into its original gaseous state. A portion of the proceeds from Mr. Baudat's patent were used to develop this scholarship.

I am very proud of his outstanding accomplishments as well as his continued support of the P.E. Marion Science/Math Scholarship. For his service to my constituents as well as the country, I offer Mr. Baudat my most sincere congratulations in his well deserved recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 24, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM FROM MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCES AND WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (WPI)

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the FIRST Robotics team from the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Sciences at WPI for their recent championship victory at the FIRST Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The team earned an invitation to this competition after months of demonstrated excellence in competitive play, sportsmanship, and development of partnerships among schools, businesses, and communities.

The diligent efforts of these students over the course of 6 weeks enabled them to channel their energy and creativity into the construction of robots while adhering to competition guidelines and design specifications. This final effort was the culmination of months of competitive innovation among over 1,300 teams from across the United States and six other countries. The team was recognized earlier this year with the prestigious Regional Chairman's Award at the FIRST BAE Systems/Granite State Regional in Manchester, New Hampshire, making it the first team in the competition's history to win the award for the second consecutive year. The team has also been recognized with the Tournament Champion's Award and the Motorola Quality Award at the Silicon Valley Regional Robotics Tournament in San Jose, California.

FIRST is a not-for-profit whose acronym means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," that was founded by Dean Kamen, a WPI alumnus. The organization provides programs to motivate youth to pursue opportunities in math, science, technology, and engineering, while also building practical life skills.

The FIRST Robotics Team from Massachusetts Academy of Math and Sciences at WPI works diligently in the pursuit of knowledge and innovation as they apply it to technology. The team's accomplishments this year illustrate their tremendous hard work, determination, and creativity. These achievements make them role models to their fellow youth and assets to the community at large. I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team on their extraordinary achievement.

TRIBUTE TO 2007 INDUCTEES TO THE MEDFORD SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 10 talented men and women being inducted into the Medford Sports Hall of Fame on April 28, 2007, at the Skyline Plaza in Medford, OR. The Medford Sports Hall of Fame was established to ensure that local athletes, coaches, and contributors would be rightfully recognized for their significant support of athletics in southern Oregon both on and off the field. Today, I would like to share some of the stories that depict the inductees' illustrious athletic achievements.

Larry Binney has spent over 40 years coaching and teaching students the fundamentals of softball, the importance of good sportsmanship, and the values of teamwork. In his last 20 seasons as the head coach of the North Medford Black Tornado, he produced 16 conference championships and 4 State championships. In 1998, he was named the "National High School Coach of the Year." Mr. Binney concluded his distinguished coaching career at Southern Oregon University in 2006.

Dick Entinger's appreciation for sports began at an early age and his enthusiasm for promoting athletics continued as he moved to the community of Medford in 1976. As a two-time president of the Medford Linebackers, Mr. Entinger played a key role in raising money to support numerous community athletic programs and projects. Perhaps two of his most recognizable contributions include his role in raising $700,000 to install FeildTurf and a new track at the Spiegelberg Stadium and another $800,000 to open the stadium to local soccer,

band, and Pop Warner football teams. Today, many are able to participate in sports and utilize the fields, tracks, and stadiums that stand as a result of Mr. Entinger's hard work and commitment to the sporting community.

BG Gould has served as the team statistician for Medford area high school baseball, basketball, football, and softball teams since 1967. The 1970 Medford High School graduate spent 13 years as an official scorer for the Oakland A's minor league team, the Southern Oregon Timberjacks. BG also worked as an umpire in the Rogue Valley for over 35 years. Today, he continues to put his statistical and historical knowledge to work as the sports information director for School District 549–C in Medford.

Whitney Grant, a Klamath Falls native, started 4 years as a point guard on the University of Portland women's basketball team. By the time her collegiate career with the Pilots ended, Whitney ranked second in three-point baskets, seventh in assists, and twelfth in points scored on the team's all-time leaders list. Whitney was also a tremendous all-seasons athlete at South Medford High School, where she excelled in track, soccer, and volleyball. Whitney is currently working in Portland, OR, for Adidas.

Angie Jacobs, a Medford native and a graduate of Medford Senior High School, led Medford to their first State softball championship in 1984 as an all-state catcher. On scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley, she helped lead the softball team to a third-place finish in the 1986 NCAA tournament. As a senior, Angie was selected to the All Pac-10 team, a remarkable feat considering 6 months prior she had her right thumb reattached following an accident. Jacobs is a two-time Amateur Softball Association All-American and currently is finishing her first season as the head softball coach at the University of Utah.

Dr. Robert McIntyre is well known in Medford for his contributions to the medical community, where he has practiced medicine for 28 years. Others in the region know him for his flashing speed, State titles, and the track scholarship that led him to Stanford University. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McIntyre was the State titleholder in the 440-yard dash with a time of 49.2 seconds. At Stanford, he ran a leg on Stanford's world record breaking 4 100 yard relay team, and his 1965 AAU All-American Team still holds the all-time Stanford relay record. Dr. McIntyre rounded out his athletic career participating in decathlons and twice finished as a national runner-up in his age group.

Dennis J. Murphy is one of the most successful coaches in South Medford High School history. He spent 19 years coaching the South Medford High School boys' basketball team, where he compiled 11 conference championships, four semifinal appearances, one state runner-up finish, and a state title. He has over 500 career victories since he started coaching in 1975. Dennis' ability to teach and coach spans further than just the hardwood. Prior to his time at South Medford High School, Dennis coached at St. Mary's as the offensive and defensive line coach where he guided St. Mary's to three state championships, and also won a title on the baseball diamond as the head coach in 1982.

Kevin Towers, a 1979 Medford High School graduate, became the Executive Vice President/General Manager of the San Diego Padres in 1995. His 27-year professional baseball career began when Towers was selected in the first round of the 1982 draft by the San Diego Padres. He pitched for the Padres' minor league teams until arm operations forced him to retire. Upon retirement, Kevin moved to the front office where he is the longest-tenured general manager in Padres history. Under his guidance, the Padres won the National League West titles in 1996, 1998, 2005, and 2006, and won the National League pennant in 1998.

Dr. Steven J. Wisely spent 18 years as the superintendent of the Medford School District. He also represented the region as the school district's athletic director from 1990 to 2003. Whether he was working with the local YMCA to ensure elementary sports were available to students or assisting in the development of soccer fields at North Medford High School, Dr. Wisely played a significant role in providing athletic opportunities for all youth in the community.

Robert "Bob" Wolcott, a North Medford High School graduate, made the jump from high school to pro baseball in 1992. Selected by the Seattle Mariners in the second round, he spent three years in the minors before advancing to the big leagues in 1995. Bob may be most notable for his winning decision in Game 1 of the 1995 American League Championship Series, where he led his Mariners to a 3–2 victory over the Cleveland Indians. He finished the 1995 season with a victory over Roger Clemens and twice as many victories as losses. He currently works as a contract engineer for Intel.

These highlights are just a few of the remarkable accomplishments made by these ten outstanding athletes and sports enthusiasts. However, they help illustrate the impact each has contributed to the community and the younger athletes that will follow in their footsteps.

My colleagues, please join me in congratulating the newest inductees into the Medford Sports Hall of Fame.

HONORING INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS MARILYN PINSKY AND KATHRYN RUSCITTO

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Marilyn Pinsky and Kathryn Ruscitto, recipients of the 2007 Interfaith Leadership Award from Interfaith Works, for their devotion to religion, distinction in career, and dedication to community.

Marilyn L. Pinsky served in Onondaga County government for 35 years, retiring in 2006 from the position of Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth. She is a graduate of Syracuse University, earning her Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School. She has been a prominent member of multiple community organizations, including the Community Foundation of Central New York, the Success by Six Policy Council, and the United Way. Her work in the community has benefited many and has distinguished her as a leader and an example for all of us.

Kathryn H. Ruscitto has served as Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Organization Development at St. Joseph's Hospital since 2001. She earned her Bachelor's in Political Science and Education at LeMoyne College, and her Masters in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She has been involved with many community organizations and activities, including serving as a trustee for the Health Care Foundation of Western and Central New York, serving on the LeMoyne College Board of Regents, and as an Advisory Board member for Key Bank. Through her efforts on behalf of others, Mrs. Ruscitto has become a notable member of our community.

I am proud to use this opportunity to publicly recognize Mrs. Pinsky and Mrs. Ruscitto for their outstanding dedication and service, and for earning this much deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIAN HUVAR

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, 2007 marks Valerian Huvar's 52nd year of service as the county clerk for Victoria, Texas, making him the longest serving county clerk in Texas history. I am pleased to join the residents of Victoria in extending my thanks and congratulations to Mr. Huvar.

Mr. Huvar, the son of Fred and Stella Huvar, was born in El Campo, Texas on October 19, 1919. Mr. Huvar has resided in Victoria since he was 4 months old. A 1937 graduate of St. Joseph High School, Mr. Huvar worked for the local Goodyear Tire Store until December 30, 1941, when he entered the military. Mr. Huvar spent 5 years in the Army Air Corps Ordnance Department, earning the rank of Master Sergeant.

After his discharge from active duty, Mr. Huvar returned to the local Goodyear Tire Store, this time as the store's manager. Soon thereafter he went to work at the local Montgomery Ward where he set up their business office. In 1950, he went to work as a teller in the First Victoria National Bank.

In 1954, Mr. Huvar successfully ran for Victoria County Clerk. He was officially sworn in on January 1, 1955, and has held the position ever since.

Mr. Huvar married Luella Edwards of Blanco, Texas, on May 4, 1947. She passed away on January 7, 1984. Valerian and Luella have four children—Charlotte, Carolyn, Dennis, and Michael, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for over 5 decades the people of Victoria County have benefited from Mr. Valerian Huvar's dedication and professionalism. I am pleased to join my constituents and friends in Victoria in paying tribute to the accomplishments of this remarkable Texan.

HONORING DR. CHARLES DARLAND

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Charles Darland,

an exemplary individual and friend from my Congressional District, on the occasion of his 20 year anniversary as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, KY.

Raised in West Palm Beach, FL, Dr. Darland first came to Kentucky in the mid 1970s to complete a Masters Degree of Divinity at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He later earned a Doctorate in Philosophy from the same institution. Dr. Darland's Christian mission first brought him to Grace Baptist Church in Independence, KY. In 1987, he was called to the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Dr. Darland's wife, Suzanne, continues to play an important role in his ministry, sharing his passion for the Lord and dedication to his congregation. The couple has also been blessed with three fine sons: Jesse, Daniel, and Joel.

It is my great privilege to honor Dr. Charles Darland today before the entire House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING THE GUAM WOMEN'S CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Guam Women's Club (GWC) on the occasion of its 55th anniversary. The GWC was founded during a time of transition for Guam. In 1952, just 7 years after the end of World War II and 8 years after Guam's liberation, the people of Guam were emerging from the ravages of war and occupation. The women who founded the GWC that year were determined to contribute to the reconstruction of Guam and the promotion of the Chamorro culture. The GWC, since 1952, has established a successful record of helping to improve the health, welfare and education of the people of Guam.

Guam was attacked and occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army on December 7, 1941. The occupation lasted for 3 years and devastated our island. The battle to liberate Guam from Imperial Japanese Army occupation was a fierce but successful one. After the war, Guam was free again but the task of rebuilding was formidable. The vibrancy of our island's community today is a direct result of the commitment and hard work on the part of individuals and organizations dedicated to the reconstruction of Guam following the war. The GWC played an integral and commendable role in that effort.

In 1954, the GWC launched the effort to establish the Guam Museum of Culture, Art and History. The Guam Museum has thrived over the years, contributing greatly to the growth of understanding of Guam's history and appreciation of our island's diverse culture. I am confident that the GWC members who helped begin the Guam Museum some many years ago would share in our pride in that fact that, today, the Guam Museum is preparing for undergo a multi-million dollar construction and expansion project.

The GWC also has always made supporting education a high priority. Since its inception, the GWC has awarded high school, college, and university scholarships to deserving students. The GWC has also honored the teaching profession with annual ''Teacher Appreciation'' social events.

GWC members further have long been hospital volunteers and actively contribute their time, effort and money to support other local service organizations, such as the Alee Shelter, Erica's House, Child Care Co-op, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, St. Dominic's Nursing Facility and Rainbows for all Children, as well as national organizations, such as Crime Stoppers, the Salvation Army and the Guam chapters of the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society. The GWC also remains a loyal supporter and contributor to the Sugar Plum Tree, which provides holiday presents to needy children and senior citizens, and to the Air Force's annual Christmas Drop tradition, collecting, soliciting and preparing practical items, candy and toys to distribute by parachute to the sparsely populated outlying islands in Micronesia. Additionally, the Guam Women's Club is a long-time benefactor of the Guam Symphony Society and contributor to KGTF, Guam's public television station, and KPRG, the local public radio station.

Moreover, the commitment of the GWC to island beautification has resulted in the development of Government House's grounds and the establishment of Padre Palomo Park in Hagatna. Also notable is the effort on the part of the GWC to establish the Memorias Para I Lalahita Park, which was completed in 1972 and is probably the first memorial in our Nation to be dedicated to our men and women who fought and died in the Vietnam Conflict.

Madam Speaker, the Guam Women's Club is Guam's oldest women's organization. After 55 years, I am proud to say that it remains a vibrant part of our island's community. It has received numerous national and international awards and recognition for its many successful projects and its sustained allegiance to serving the Guam community. I am proud to have been a long-time member and I am honored to recognize the current membership's adherence to GWC's goals and objectives. The Guam Women's Club has made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam from war-torn island to 21st century community—the social, political and economic leader in the Western Pacific.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound sorrow over the sudden loss of my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD who died of cancer on April 22, 2007. JUANITA was a trailblazer throughout her life and in the House of Representatives, and it was an honor for me to serve alongside her.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, JUANITA was a former teacher in the Los Angeles public school system and served on the Carson City Council and in the California State Assembly before running for Congress in December 1995. Since then, she had been elected to Congress with an overwhelming amount of support from her constituents. The 37th district of California should be proud that they had such a strong and determined representative in JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

JUANITA spoke out against injustices both in our country, especially on voting rights and election reform, and abroad, including genocide in Cambodia and Darfur, women's rights and human trafficking. Her hard work and ability to lead earned JUANITA the Chairmanship of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress. This appointment also represented another barrier she broke through: JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was the first African-American woman to chair a House committee.

Having faced many obstacles in my own life, I can truly appreciate the barriers that JUANITA knocked down in her lifetime. I know her memory will live on forever, as will the opportunities she helped create for those who follow in her footsteps.

JUANITA is survived by her husband, James McDonald, Jr.; five children; and five grandchildren. May we keep her loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB AND CAROLE DONALD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Bob and Carole Donald for their commitment to serving the community.

Bob and Carole are two individuals who truly exemplify community service and civic involvement. Since moving to Las Vegas, Bob and Carole have donated their time and energy to a variety of causes in our community. Whether it is helping a neighbor or volunteering in the community, Bob and Carole are always willing to lend a hand. Their commitment and service to others have had a positive impact on our community.

Bob has dedicated both his professional life and his personal life to serving others. He served his country in the U.S. Army before becoming a police officer with the Newark Police Department in New Jersey. During his 25 years with the Newark Police Department, Bob served on the foot patrol, the motorcycle unit, as a detective, the head of Narcotics, and as the head of the Tactical Force. As an officer, Bob always placed the safety of others before his own and protected the citizens of Newark with both honor and pride. The Newark Police Department honored Bob on a number of occasions for the leadership, commitment, and sacrifice he demonstrated as a police officer.

Bob retired as a Lieutenant from the Newark Police Department and later moved to Las Vegas. Throughout his years in Las Vegas,

Bob has been incredibly active in the community. When he is not volunteering, he spends his time either hunting or skeet shooting. He is co-founder of the Nellis Skeet Club and has won the Senior Skeet Shooting Championship of Nevada many times in the past several years.

Carole was a professional Flamenco dancer and traveled the world performing with legendary Flamenco dancer, Jose Greco. After retiring from dancing, she opened a hair salon in New Jersey and later opened another salon in Las Vegas. Carole has used her talents to help others. She has volunteered for a number of years at local hospitals, providing haircuts to patients who are too sick to leave the hospital. She is a very warm-hearted person who is not only willing to donate her time and her talents to help others, but actively seeks opportunities to do so.

Bob and Carole have been happily married for over 20 years. Bob has three children Bobby, Stephen, and Diane.

Bob and Carole Donald are outstanding examples of what it means to be community-minded. They are genuine, giving, and kind. They constantly look for ways to contribute to the world around them. Their optimism and enthusiasm for life has made a difference for all who have the privilege of knowing them.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Bob and Carole Donald for their tremendous commitment to the Las Vegas community and to the United States. I wish the Donald's the very best as they continue to set an example of service and civic involvement.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, the loss this week of our dear friend and colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a great blow to this institution and to the people of the California's 37th Congressional District.

I extend my sincere condolences to her family during this time of sorrow, and I hope that they find some comfort in knowing how deeply loved and respected Juanita was by her constituents and by her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

We honor her life and her accomplishments this week. Motivated by love of country, community and family, and inspired by her struggles as an African American leader and as a woman, she advocated for the rights of minorities and women in this country and throughout the world.

JUANITA was no less dedicated to the more parochial needs of her constituents and Southern California in general. As the tributes from her Committee colleagues highlight, she was a respected and effective member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, securing billions of dollars for her region and her state of California.

She worked tirelessly to secure transportation infrastructure investments, enhancing the economic security of the region and improving the quality of life for Los Angeles County residents. She will long be remembered by Angelenos for her leading role in making possible the construction of the historic Alameda Corridor.

She was also a woman of many firsts. In the California State Assembly, JUANITA became the first woman, in her first term, to chair the powerful Insurance and Revenue and Taxation Committees.

I know how proud she was to be the first African American woman to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.

Most recently, JUANITA became the first African American woman to hold the distinguished position of Chair of the powerful House Administration Committee in this 110th Congress, overseeing the operations of the House of Representatives.

During her short term as Chair, her hiring and contracting practices within the House of Representatives reflected her deep commitment to diversity. She was a dedicated proponent of minority rights, and was the Founder and Executive Director of the League of African American Women, comprised of 40 African-American women's groups.

JUANITA was also the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African-Americans between the ages of 18 and 35. She believed in embracing our youth and fought to give young people hope and opportunity for a better life. Juanita introduced legislation directing the Secretary of Education to study and report to Congress on the troubling dropout rate among Latino, Native American, American Samoan and African American high school students.

JUANITA will also be remembered as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur and other regions of the world where she fought against injustice and inhumanity. She worked with former Secretary of State Madelene Albright and Ambassador John Miller to address human trafficking and in support of women's rights around the world.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a dynamic member of this House, who sought to maximize her influence to better the lives of her constituents, the residents of her county and State, and all people around the world in desperate need of assistance.

JUANITA was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. And she was a beloved colleague and friend who will truly be missed.

My husband Ed and I send our deep and sincere condolences to her husband, James, her five children and five grandchildren.

We will miss you JUANITA.

SUPPORTING NIH FUNDING FOR DYSTONIA RESEARCH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of NIH funding for research to better understand the causes and treatments for dystonia.

My longtime friend Howard Thiel visited last week to tell me more about the problem of dystonia; Howard experienced severe pain and disability from this condition for nine years.

Although he is now benefiting from effective treatment, he helped me better understand the problems of the many Americans who suffer from conditions of abnormal muscle tone. In compelling terms, he described the pain, disability and suffering they experience. From spasmodic dystonia of the neck, to spasmodic dysphonia of the vocal cords, and generalized whole body dystonia, these various conditions all involve distressing, often exquisitely painful difficulties with muscle tone.

As Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has noted, "Dystonia is the third most common neurological movement disorder behind Parkinson's and Tremors." Hundreds of thousands of Americans suffer with this little known disorder. As we consider the difficult budget priorities confronting us in 2007, I ask you to give serious consideration to increased NIH support for research on neurological conditions like dystonia.

HONORING HARRY HAFT'S PLACE IN THE NATIONAL JEWISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Haft, a Holocaust survivor and inductee into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Born Hertzka Haft on July 28, 1925 in Poland, Harry Haft was only 16 when he was sent to the infamous concentration camp, Auschwitz. Here, the brave teenager was forced to fight other prisoners for the amusement of German SS guards. These perverse, bare-knuckled bouts were held while Mr. Haft routinely faced starvation, torture, and a culture of death.

However, Mr. Haft's determination and instincts kept him alive long enough to escape from the camp. After World War II ended, Mr. Haft married Miriam and traveled to America determined to find freedom, Here, he became a professional boxer, one who would battle elements of corruption and organized crime as he worked to establish himself as a professional athlete. His winning career would culminate in a bout against the future undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, Rocky Marciano. After his retirement from the ring, Mr. Haft had three children, Alan, Marty, and Helene, and today is a proud grandfather of six: Hartley, Jamie, Stephanie, Ethan, Melodie, and Jonathan,

This Sunday, April 29, 2007, Mr. Haft will take his place as a deserving member of the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Commack, New York. His story is one of perseverance and survival—of a man who escaped from unimaginable horror to find a new life and success at the top of his profession. I am proud to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK MARTIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Frank Martin and congratulate him on 30 years of exceptional success as the President and C.E.O. of Martin-Harris Construction.

Frank founded Martin-Harris Construction in 1976 with five associates and a vision. Over 30 years his vision has been realized many times over. Since its inception, Martin-Harris has been granted general contracting licenses in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Utah and currently has over 400 associates generating over $340 million in 2006. Martin-Harris Construction has been recognzed as an industry leader; their accolades include the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Inland Empire Region and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Achievement Award in Business. They have also been recognized by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties as the Top Contracting firm in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007.

In addition to Frank's exceptional business success he has made a profound impact on the community through his involvement with numerous community organizations. Frank presently serves on the board of directors of U.S. Bank and Opportunity Village. He is a Life Time Board Member of the AGC, UNLV Foundation, and the CCSN Foundation Board. Frank and his wife, Bonnie, have also hosted the annual Miss Kitty's Jeans to Jewels fundraiser for Opportunity Village since 2001 at their Bitter Root Ranch.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Frank Martin. His successes in business and philanthropic pursuits are truly commendable and his dedication to community should serve as an example to us all. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT''

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, our Nation's healthcare system boasts many triumphs—and many failures. As a nation we spend more than $1.9 trillion on health care, yet the number of those without insurance continues to grow. At last count, more than 46 million Americans under age 65 had no health insurance. This is an increase of 1.3 million people from the previous year, and continues this upward trend that began in 2000.

Those individuals who lack health insurance often forgo vital treatment and are left to depend upon a thinning safety net of healthcare providers. No health insurance often means filing medical bankruptcies or, worse yet, becoming one of the 18,000 premature American deaths each year that are attributable to lacking health insurance.

It is time to act. Today I am introducing ''Medicare for All.'' It will make the tried, true, and trusted Medicare program available to everyone under age 65. Citizens will also have the option of selecting from any of the health benefit plans available to Members of Congress, the President, and Federal employees. People with lower incomes will continue to receive extra help with cost-sharing and premiums in order to access Medicare services.

According to the Institute of Medicine, insuring all Americans would actually save the country $380 billion a year, partly because we already pay for the health care of the uninsured, who wait until they are in crisis and often receive their care in emergency rooms. If comprehensive healthcare coverage is available to all Americans, better preventative services and earlier treatments will be received, lowering healthcare costs. All Americans will reap the economic benefits of a healthier nation, from a stronger economy to lower health insurance expenses.

This plan will save not only lives, but also American jobs. American companies are competing in the international marketplace against businesses that do not directly bear the costs of providing their employees and retirees with health care.

As a result of a slowing economy earlier in the decade and healthcare premiums increasing faster than wages and incomes, the number of people with employer-based health insurance coverage continues to decline. Approximately 12.4 million people lost their employer-based insurance between 2000 and 2005. Premiums for family coverage have increased by 87 percent since 2000. American companies are trying to do the right thing, but it is getting more difficult.

I urge my colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—to support this bill, and join me in addressing the healthcare crisis faced by millions of Americans today.

JAMES L. WOOD—SOCIOLOGIST, POLITICAL ACTIVIST

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, my friend and colleague, James L. Wood, died on Wednesday, April 18, following a brief bout with an aggressive cancer. Since his retirement from San Diego State University in May 2005, Jim and his wife Patsy lived in Berkeley. Jim was an inspirational teacher and reform activist. These passions animated him throughout his life, both in his family relations and in his engagement with the larger world.

Jim was born in Oakland, CA, in 1941. After graduating from the Oakland public schools, he enrolled in the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his Bachelor's degree and Ph.D. in sociology. As a student at Berkeley, Jim met his future wife Patsy. They studied at Berkeley in extraordinary times, when national and world affairs and their academic aspirations converged. Jim's first day of graduate school, October 1, 1964, marked the beginning of the Free Speech movement. Additionally, the Civil Rights movement and the anti-war movement's mobilization of students and broad segments of the general public against the U.S. involvement in war in Southeast Asia influenced Jim to study collective behavior and mass movements.

Upon completion of his doctoral studies at Berkeley, Jim moved to San Diego and joined the Sociology Department at San Diego State University (SDSU) in 1975. His scholarship and teaching focused on social movements and political sociology. He also taught courses on statistics and methodology. Jim assumed the duties of Department Chair, from 1991 to 2000. During these years at SDSU, Jim authored and co-authored many articles and books addressing civil rights, collective behavior and student activism, social movements, and sociological traditions.

When State budget allocations for the California State University system (CSU) declined, in the early 1990s, efforts of the SDSU leadership to restructure departments on that campus, including elimination of the Sociology Department, prompted Jim to focus intensively on the politics of higher education. As an activist and leader in the SDSU Chapter of the California Faculty Association, Jim was part of a faculty-student coalition that prompted the restoration of nine academic departments that had been slated for dismantling, and the withdrawal of termination notices for the numerous tenured faculty who would have been dismissed. For the CFA Chapter, Jim chaired the legislative committee. He also actively participated in other organizations, including the American Sociological Association. He was a member and elected officer of the American Association of University Professors. In 1996, he was a founding member and later became president of the San Diego-based Faculty Coalition for Public Higher Education, which supports funding stabilization for the State's public colleges and universities, the protection of tenure in the face of the expansion and exploitation of contingent faculty ranks, faculty control of technology in the classroom, and the exposure of corporate influence in higher education.

Following retirement, Jim and Patsy resettled in Berkeley. Jim continued to be active in sharing information and supporting the reforms for the community colleges and universities to which he had devoted so much energy over the years.

For colleagues and friends, the memory of Jim as a committed professor and activist will continue as an inspiration.

Jim is survived by his wife Patsy and daughter Ann, both of Berkeley, and son Jeff of Los Angeles.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at the Unity Church, 2075 Eunice Street, Berkeley, CA.

HONORING ROBERT D. FITZER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert D. Fitzer, a longtime clarinetist, music educator, and community activist in the Mahoning Valley.

Robert Fitzer was born in Youngstown, Ohio to former YSU Dana School of Music faculty members James Fitzer and Dolores Severino. By the time he was in 8th grade he was a member of the Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra. He studied clarinet at Northwestern University, where he was a member of their

Symphony Orchestra and their Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Robert studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria and in the International Festival Institute in Round Top, Texas. He has also received coaching in chamber music by Grammy-award winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

As a musician, Bob Fitzer has performed at Carnegie Hall, recorded Grammy Award winning music, and collaborated with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has performed on motion picture soundtracks, Broadway shows on tour, and with rock bands such as Yes and Styx. He has performed with the United States Navy Band and the Blossom Festival Concert Band. Bob also served as soloist in 2004 with the Youngstown State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Bob Fitzer has been a faculty member at YSU's Dana School of Music for 11 years. He teaches a studio of 24 clarinet majors and has formed clarinet choirs, trios and quartets. He has also served on the faculties of Trinity University in San Antonio and Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. In addition, he also conducts classes at his private clarinet studio in Youngstown.

Bob Fitzer has also been involved in the community life of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. He has served as president of the Citizens League of Greater Youngstown and as a volunteer counselor at the Help Hotline Crisis Center. From 1995 to 2001 Bob Fitzer was co-host of WYSU's Commentary Café radio show. During that time I was granted the honor of being one of his guests.

Bob Fitzer spent a lifetime contributing to the art that this world so desperately needs. Currently, Bob Fitzer needs the comfort of that art and the friendship of his friends as he fights cancer. Bob, we wish you well and we pray for you and we hope you find the comfort and friendship that you have so freely provided for others throughout your life.

IN MEMORY OF MURRAY TOLER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Mr. Murray Toler of Malvern, Arkansas, who passed away April 14, 2007.

Murray Toler was a World War II veteran, devoted family man and a civic leader whose optimistic and determined outlook on life impacted all who knew him and called him a friend.

Murray Toler was born and raised in Leola and Sheridan, Arkansas, and upon graduating high school, he joined the United States Navy, where he served through World War II. Murray Toler spent a lifetime in the forestry and lumber business as the longtime partner and active manger at the H.G. Toler and Sons Lumber Company in Leola. He was a devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Malvern, where he actively served on numerous committees and boards throughout the years. Murray Toler also served on the board of directors of the Malvern National Bank for more than 40 years, an accomplishment that demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his community.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Ruby, of Malvern; his two daughters Nancy Toler Grigsby and Cindy Toler Hale; his son David Toler; and to his five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Murray Toler will be sorely missed by his family, his church and his community. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RETIRING CALVIN COLLEGE CHAPLAIN DALE COOPER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Cooper, chaplain of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who will retire after 30 years of service at Calvin.

Chaplain Dale Cooper began his work at Calvin College in 1976. Three years later, he became chaplain, and has over the past three decades provided students, faculty, and staff at Calvin College with remarkable guidance. Chaplain Cooper's devotion to God and love for all people led him to become chaplain, and by all accounts, his career at Calvin can be regarded as wholly successful. In his time there, he has provided invaluable spiritual guidance to students, whether they had suffered a loss in the family or were struggling to cope with a rigorous class schedule. Through his counseling, preaching and other interactions with students and faculty, Chaplain Cooper embodied the creed of the Christian Reformed Church to incorporate faith and to honor God in every aspect of life, including work and study. Chaplain Cooper has helped see the Calvin College community through both good times and bad, and has left a lasting impact on everyone he has come into contact with.

One of Chaplain Cooper's most remarkable endeavors occurred when he drove his 1941 John Deere ''B'' tractor across the Midwest, from Calvin College all the way to Alton, Iowa. It was a spiritual journey for Chaplain Cooper; his father was a farmer and John Deere tractor enthusiast. He had to give up farming after his wife, Dale's mother, was paralyzed from the neck down by polio. The illness confined Dale Cooper's mother to an iron lung for 40 years of her life. Incredible spiritual journeys such as this are not uncommon for Chaplain Cooper.

Chaplain Cooper's effectiveness as a spiritual guide to students at Calvin College is validated by their affection for him. Known simply as ''Coop'' to most students, Cooper has a gift of immediately connecting with people. His friendliness, open door policy, and love for Calvin College and its students, faculty and staff have earned him a sterling reputation around campus, and in the greater community.

In addition to providing guidance, Chaplain Dale Cooper will leave behind a number of programs at Calvin College that reflect his dedication to the institution. Cooper worked to constantly reform the college to welcome people of all backgrounds and faith traditions.

For these and other acts of caring, compassion and dedication to Calvin College and the community it serves, we honor Dale Cooper in his retirement. The impact he has had on people at Calvin cannot be measured by any tangible means. But ask anyone who has gotten to know him there, and it is evident that the mark he leaves behind at the institution is immeasurably large. I hope Dale Cooper's life continues to be as fulfilling for him in retirement as it has been in his years at Calvin College.

TRIBUTE TO RUDY OKRUHLIK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on April 26 the Brazoria Roundtable will honor Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his over 30 years of work in Texas schools, the last 6 years of which were spent as superintendent of Brazosport Independent School District (ISD). Brazospsort ISD consists of 11 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 3 intermediate schools, 2 high schools, and an alternative placement center. Under Superintendent Okruhlik's leadership, Brazosport ISD combined challenging academic programs with a passionate commitment to excellence in order to produce an environment conducive to high student achievement.

The results of Superintendent Okruhlik's efforts are shown in Brazosport ISD's rating as Academically Acceptable for the last 2 years on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, with 9 of the 18 regular education campuses rated exemplary or recognized in 2005. Additionally, Brazosport ISD has scored well above the minimum Federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the last 2 years.

Prior to coming to Brazosport ISD, Rudy Okruhlik served as superintendent of Palacios Independent School District from 1992 through 1997 and of Huntsville Independent School District from 1997 through 2000. In recognition of his lifetime commitment to, and achievement in, education, Okruhlik has been named an honorary life member of the Texas Association of School Boards.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again express my pleasure in joining the Brazoria Roundtable in saluting Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his work on behalf of Texas children.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JUDGE GEORGE HOWARD, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge George Howard Jr., a true treasure to the community of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and to the entire State of Arkansas. Judge Howard passed away April 21, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 82.

Judge Howard spent a lifetime breaking down barriers, and began his service to our nation at the age of 18 in the U.S. Navy during World War II. During his service, the Navy

was segregated at the time. However, it was this personal experience that led him to become an attorney to ensure equal treatment for all under the law of the land.

When he retuned from the war, Judge Howard completed his high school education in Pine Bluff and went on to graduate with honors from the pre-law program at Lincoln University in Missouri. Howard then became the first African American student to live on campus at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he earned his doctor of jurisprudence degree.

Throughout his life and career, Judge George Howard believed deeply in the fundamental idea of justice for all. Judge Howard's distinguished service on the Arkansas State Claims Commission, the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Arkansas Court of Appeals and as a U.S. Federal Judge paved the way for African Americans in Arkansas to pursue careers in public service and the judiciary. He was admired for his fairness and will be forever remembered as a dedicated public servant who cared deeply about his family, his work, his state and his country.

Judge Howard will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING REV. BILL MILLER OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my respect and admiration for a man who has devoted his life to serving God and the lives of others—Reverend Bill Miller of Hays, Kansas. The time has come to recognize this man who has touched the lives of countless Kansans and only recently retired from his post as Hospital Chaplain at Hays Medical Center.

Reverend Miller began his position at Hays Medical Center at the age of 73. With his wife Carolyn so often at his side, he remained there for 11 years. It was only this past December that he decided to retire due to health concerns.

During his tenure at Hays Medical Center, Rev. Miller delivered daily devotionals entitled ''A Moment with God'' to patients and associates both personally and through a telephone prayer line. In order to share these with others, the publication rights for these messages were given to the Hays Medical Center Foundation. They were then compiled into the book, ''The World My Father Made.''

It came as a surprise to no one when Rev. Miller's book sold out within a few months. According to the Hays Medical Center Foundation, this prompted a reprint to meet the ''overwhelming call for his book.'' One can only imagine how many lives he has touched through print.

According to Hays Medical Center Foundation Executive Director Bob Lowen, Rev. Miller ''is the Rock of Gibraltar.'' ''He's known now to second and third generations of families. He baptized kids and did whatever. Now many of those kids are parents and grandparents.''

While Rev. Miller has truly been ''The Rock'' for so many folks, it is his wife and Carolyn who has provided solidity and inspiration in his own life. Not only has Carolyn been his soul mate, but she has given of her own time as a Hays Medical Center volunteer.

Rev. Miller's history of service to others extends back several decades. He attended both Garrett Theological Seminar and Asbury Theological Seminar and was ordained in 1950. He truly made a difference in several Kansas communities as he served churches in Wichita, Hays, and Hutchinson.

Although I can express how special Rev. Miller is, no one does a better job of doing so as close friend and aforementioned Bob Lowen. As Bob said, ''Rev. Miller is a tall, lean, kind and gentle man much like Abraham Lincoln. I have no doubt but that God gave Rev. Miller to us to truly be ''Our Shepherd.''

I cannot think of better words to describe thisman. Madam Speaker, our community owes a debt of gratitude to someone who has quite simply been a ''Shephard'' to individuals in their time of need. Rev. Bill Miller has provided comfort to so many patients and families that I can only say ''thank you.'' Thank you Rev. Miller for answering the call to make a difference.

INTRODUCTION OF PLAY EVERY DAY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help address the critical issue of childhood obesity which is caused by physical inactivity and sedentary lifestyles.

Nearly 15 percent of American children and teenagers are obese. One quarter of the children between the ages of 5 and 10 already show the early warning signs of heart disease. Cases of adult-onset diabetes in children—which used to be almost unheard of—have exploded tenfold in the last two decades.

This is occurring as recess and physical education classes are being phased out of too many schools across the country. And too many communities lack adequate access to safe places and facilities for kids to play so the United States is being forced to confront an epidemic of childhood obesity.

This is unacceptable and action needs to be taken. Congress, the Bush administration, and private enterprise along with the philanthropic groups and health organizations need to reinvest to ensure that our children are living healthy lives.

Last Congress I wrote to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to request a study about the relationship between areas such as public lands and public health. GAO was unable to provide such a study in part because there were no consistent or adequate data from which to draw a conclusion.

To help better identify this relationship I am introducing companion legislation to S. 651 authored by Senator HARKIN. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with the support of Congresswoman GRANGER, Congressman BOSWELL, Congressman MCINTYRE and Congressman CUMMINGS. The bill ''The PLAY Every Day Act,'' will help to advance national physical-activity benchmarks for children and adults alike. The legislation will specifically do two things.

First, it will mandate the creation of a well-validated evaluation tool called the ''community play index.'' This index would be used to identify barriers which prevent people from being physically active in particular communities.

Second, it will assist local coalitions to use this index as they craft plans to promote physical activity and wellness in their communities.

While this bill is far from a comprehensive solution to the rise in childhood obesity it is an important step in the process. I urge the swift consideration of this legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT ITS WEST CAMPUS IN POTTSTOWN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Montgomery County Community College on its 10th anniversary of providing higher education opportunities at its West Campus in Pottstown.

Since opening its doors, the West Campus has become the hub of higher education in the greater Pottstown area. It has brought new and innovative programs and learning opportunities to the community, including degrees in chef apprenticeship, fine arts radiography and surgical technology; an art gallery to showcase local and regional works of art; and the University Center, which expands access to bachelor's and master's degree programs in Pottstown by working in partnership with area universities and colleges.

In the 10 years it has called Pottstown, PA home, the West Campus has undergone a significant transformation. Last January, the college opened a new addition that enabled it to expand its service to students, businesses and the community. During the 10th anniversary ceremony, the college will finally open the pedestrian bridge connecting the two facilities to form one, unified campus.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Montgomery County College for 10 successful years of providing quality higher education options at its West Campus in Pottstown, PA.

RECOGNIZING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, rise today to honor and recognize the 70 Oregonian workers who died on the job in 2006. In addition, I would also like to pay tribute to the 19 brave Oregonians who died last year while wearing the uniform and defending our freedoms.

On this 19th anniversary of Workers Memorial Day, let us acknowledge the steps that have been taken to address workplace safety but let us never overlook the obstacles and challenges that remain.

We have an obligation in this Chamber to do everything in our power to ensure that hardworking Americans are protected from unsafe workplaces. These men and women have worked to make our Nation great and now we must recommit ourselves to ensuring their safety.

Andrew Acevedo, Kenneth Babcock, Leslie Bealer, Terry Berkey, PVI Joseph R. Blake, Dwight Boris, Carlos Bravo, PFC Dean R. Bright, Donald Brown, Debra Chapman, Abel Cinto, James Clark, Roland Couch, Iven Cox, Scott Cox, SPC Douglas C. Desjardins, Randall Dillon, Burl Eastman, James Edson, Ronald Engelsman, SSG Jason M. Evey, CPL Billy B. Farris, Kevin Fink, Carol Forest, Sgt. Brennan C. Gibson, Kenneth Graves, Trona Griffin, Floyd Grisham, CPL Chase A. Haag, Kenneth Harper, Lori Hayes-Kotter, SFC Richard J. Henkes II, Terry Hughes, Daryl Jepson, LCpl Derek W. Jones, SPC Robert L. Jones, Pedro Juarez de la Cruz, Michael Kallis, Jeffrey King, Aaron Lambert, Craig Larsen, PO2 Marc A. Lee, James Lester, Kenneth Lewis, Howard Lichtig, SSG Nathaniel B. (Brad) Lindsey, Michael Lilburn, Louis Lobo, SPC Jeremy M. Loveless, Kyle Lowe, David Mac Donald, Devin Malmore, P03 Marques J. Nettles, LCpl. Randy L. Newman, Sean Mc Quillan, Eric Metzler, Pablo Montecinos, Douglas Mullen, Donald Mustoe, James Naillon, Brad Niemeyer, Ezequiel Osoria-Oliver, Captain Christopher T. Pate, SSG Robert J. Paul, Gary Percell, Henry Ploeg, Franklin, Pugh, Lewis Purcell, Leta Ramerman, Jose Ramirez, Anthony Rizzo, Douglas Sauter, Dale Seiders, Peter Simpson, Leland Smith, Quin Stone, Robert Thomas, Eddie Tol, PFC Thomas L. Tucker, Mark Wagner, SPC Ryan Doran Walker, Shane Watson, Lynn Webb, Jeffery Wilson, Louis Wofford, Robert Wolfe, Richard Woodworth, Howard Workman, and Ston Yackamouih.

COMMENDING BRENDAN A. JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brendan A. Jones for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Brendan is a student at the Texas Academy of Math and Science in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Brendan. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of TAMS for their outstanding commitment to Brendan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

INTERNET RADIO EQUITY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2007, the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB), a three member panel affiliated with the Library of Congress, issued a decision that changed royalty expenses for commercial and noncommercial webcasters and will likely end Internet radio as we know it today. According to the decision, which is retroactive beginning January 1, 2006 and commences through December 31, 2010, commercial and noncommercial webcasters would be subject to an increase in royalty rates from $.08 in 2006 per performance to $.19 per performance in 2010. The new royalty rates amount to a 300 percent increase for the biggest webcasters and up to 1200 percent for small webcasters. For most web casters the royalties will exceed their gross revenues and bankrupt them. The CRB has refused to reconsider its decision so the higher royalties—including retroactive royalties back to January 2006—are due May 15, 2007. My fear is that these new rates will decimate Internet radio and 70 million Americans that listen to Internet radio every month will no longer have access to this music service.

For these reasons, I have introduced the Internet Radio Equality Act which provides royalty parity for Internet radio providers. The bill vacates the CRB's March 2nd decision and changes the royalty rate-setting standard that applies to commercial Internet radio royalty arbitrations so that it is the same standard that applies to satellite radio, cable radio, jukeboxes, and record companies (when they are licensees of songwriters). The bill also sets a transition rate through 2010 that is the same royalty rate that satellite radio services pay (7.5 percent of revenue). Finally, the bill expands the Copyright Act's Section 118 musical work license for noncommercial broadcasters like National Public Radio to enable those broadcasters to also perform sound recordings over Internet radio at royalty rates designed for noncommercial entities.

I believe strongly that it is the responsibility of Congress to promote media diversity in all areas including web-based broadcasting and to ensure affordable consumer access to Internet media.

CONGRATULATING THE GOODWILL FIRE CO. NO. 1 HYDE PARK IN MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park in Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

From 1907 to today, the Fire Company has devoted itself to keeping the community safe. The Company's volunteers have been familiar faces in the Muhlenberg area, participating in every holiday parade, working with schools on fire prevention education and seeking to make Berks County a great place to live.

Without the dedication of its members, the Fire Company would never have been this successful. For 100 years, the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park has had tremendous volunteers. These brave men and women have been providing a service to the community every hour of the day for the last century. This service is provided regardless of the weather, the time of day, and many times their own family commitments.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park, its current crew and the many men and women who have worn the uniform over the years for serving the community and helping to keep Berks County safe for the last 100 years.

HONORING TOLEDO MAYOR SHARON BRANSTITER

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mayor Sharon Branstiter of Toledo, Oregon. A dedicated public servant and one who committed her entire life to enriching the Toledo community, Mayor Branstiter lost her life this past Sunday at her home due to complications associated with a double bypass surgery.

Sharon moved to Toledo from Nebraska when she was 7 years old. She attended Toledo High School and earned a degree in education from Oregon State University. Before serving as Mayor, she earned her master's degree and worked as a guidance counselor.

What is most remarkable is the passion Sharon had for serving her community. From a young age, she was active in city government and served on a multitude of committees and clubs. Her friends and family will attest that she never forwent an opportunity to voice her concerns or stand up for what she saw as just.

Sharon worked hard to increase the aesthetic landscape of Toledo. As her colleagues recall, Sharon always included flowers and trees in city projects and spent countless hours gardening and weeding public places. The streets of Toledo are lined with beautiful hanging flower baskets that Sharon secured with donations from the community. As a memory to Sharon, let us always think of her contributions to Toledo when we see and enjoy the flower baskets.

I was reminded of the closeness of communities like Toledo when I recently attended the funeral for one of our young men who lost his life in Iraq. The young Marine grew up in Toledo. At the service, Sharon shared her heartfelt memories of this young man and emotionally explained that the entire community of Toledo was losing a son. I have no doubt that the community is now grieving the loss of a

woman who was not only their mayor, but was their sister, their mother, their daughter and their friend.

I join Oregonians from across the state in mourning the passing of Mayor Sharon Branstiter.

COMMENDING ALYSSA N. NABORS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alyssa N. Nabors for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Alyssa is a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Alyssa. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of L.D. Bell High School for their outstanding commitment to Alyssa's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF COMFORT WOMEN SURVIVORS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today, Washington welcomes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, a country that has been our good and trusted ally in Asia. The Prime Minister's visit promises to further cement this important and expanding U.S.-Japan relationship.

Our strong ties depend upon our shared values of democracy and human rights or as his Foreign Minister notes, a ''values oriented diplomacy.'' Unfortunately, the rhetoric does not consistently match Tokyo's actions towards its neighbors and allies. This is dramatically true in regard to the Comfort Women tragedy where possibly as many as 200,000 women and girls were pressed into sexual servitude for the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan.

My colleague, Mr. HONDA, is the leader on this issue and introduced on January 31, 2007, H. Res. 121, legislation that calls upon Japan to ''acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal statement for Imperial Japan's Armed Force's maintenance of a system of sexual slavery, presently known to the world as 'Comfort Women,' during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands.''

On February 15, 2007, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, held a moving hearing with three survivors of this abusive Imperial Japanese government sanctioned and maintained system. It was clear from their testimony that these women needed, but had not received an adequate apology for their suffering and humiliation from the Government of Japan.

Clearly their experience is neither new nor has this sort of violence against women stopped. The topic of sex slavery is not merely a historical footnote, but has relevance to today's world where human trafficking is exploding and rape is a feature of ethnic conflict. Thus, it should come as no surprise that H. Res. 121 has substantial bipartisan support, with nearly 100 cosponsors.

To date, a careful analysis of the Japanese political process shows that Japan has never provided an official governmental apology to the Comfort Women. This is incredible. Do the Japanese think we do not understand their political system, nor care to?

It is also a concern of Congress that Tokyo's apparent insensitivity, it's surprising and insistent focus on narrow definitions and self-seeking legalisms convincing to no one but a few, even in Japan, is harming U.S. relationships in Asia and adding instability to an already volatile region.

An unequivocal admission of past wrongdoing toward the Comfort Women would remove an outstanding moral issue weakening the ties between Japan and major U.S. allies in the region. But more important, it would demonstrate Japan's commitment to human rights, women's rights, and underscore its very new efforts to combat human trafficking. Officially apologizing to the surviving Comfort Women is ''value oriented diplomacy.''

Getting history right and taking formal responsibility for historical misdeeds are the marks of a great nation. An apology from Japan with respect to the Comfort Women would enhance Japan's over 60-year history of constructive and responsible membership in the today's world community and our alliance.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons, I hope that my colleagues will join in co-sponsoring H. Res. 121 to signal that the U.S. is very concerned about this important request for social justice and human dignity from Japan.

RECOGNIZING EAST VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of East Vincent Township, Chester County, for celebrating its 175th anniversary on May 4th, 2007.

East Vincent Township is a rural community situated on the banks of the Schuylkill River in Chester County. During the Revolutionary War, GEN George Washington and the Continental Army traversed and lived in the area during their Valley Forge encampment. Today, more than 6,500 people call East Vincent home. As the Township grows and develops, significant efforts are being made to preserve its beautiful open spaces for future generations.

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the East Vincent Township community will gather and celebrate this auspicious occasion with a parade, ceremony and evening concert.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of East Vincent Township for celebrating their 175th anniversary and for contributing to the wonderful quality of life of Chester County, PA.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN LOVE OF LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable student athlete from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Kevin Love was recently named the 2006–07 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Often perceived as the most prestigious high school athletic award, Kevin was selected from among a group of more than 547,000 student boy basketball players. Kevin averaged 33.6 points, 17 rebounds, four assists, and three blocks per game as center for the Lake Oswego Lakers.

In addition to his distinguished record on the court, Kevin received this honor for the many contributions he has made in the classroom and in our community. As an active volunteer, Kevin has mentored countless youth and is an inspiration to all.

It is truly an honor and privilege to extend my sincere congratulations to Kevin Love. I wish Kevin continued success as a future UCLA Bruin.

COMMENDING KIM TRAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kim Tran for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kim is a student at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

Kim is ranked first in her class at Birdville High School. Aside from academics, Kim holds leadership positions in numerous clubs

and organizations. She has led the school's math and science teams to victory while attaining some personal awards. Recently, Kim was accepted to Stanford University.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Kim. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Birdville High School for their outstanding commitment to Kim's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this conference report because it recognizes the reality on the ground in Iraq. It's past time for the President to recognize that reality and to change course in Iraq.

As events in Iraq have shown repeatedly over the last 4 years, we are fighting an insurgency that retains the support of the Iraqi people. Every previous troop increase the President has implemented has failed to achieve its stated end: to reduce the violence and buy time for Iraq's government to work out a political solution to end the insurgency. So far, the President's latest troop surge has produced the same result: The insurgents have adapted, our casualties are rising, and Iraq's leaders are no closer to a political settlement that will end the fighting than they were before the ''surge'' began.

This week, the Government Accountability Office provided fresh evidence that events in Iraq are spiraling out of control.

GAO Comptroller General David Walker testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on April 23 that ''Despite U.S. and Iraqi efforts to shift a greater share of the country's defense on Iraqi forces, the security situation continues to deteriorate.'' Mr. Walker further noted that ''in November 2006, the State Department reported that corruption and infiltration by militias and others loyal to parties other than the Iraqi government have resulted in the Iraqi security forces being part of the problem in many areas instead of the solution.'' So despite multiple changes in our approach to training Iraq's security forces over the past 4 years, they remain just as sectarianly fragmented, undermanned and infiltrated by insurgents as when we began the process in 2003.

Additionally, Iraq's civilian government shows no signs of reforming itself. Indeed, as Mr. Walker noted in his testimony, ''Some Iraqi ministries, including the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Health, Transportation, and Tourism, are led by ministers whose allegiance is to political parties hostile to U.S. goals. These ministers use their positions to pursue partisan agendas that conflict with the goal of building a government that represents all ethnic groups.''

The Iraqi population continues to support the insurgents. Iraq's security forces remain ineffective, corrupt, and infiltrated by insurgents. Iraq's sectarian civil war rages. Key Iraqi Government ministers are actively working against stated American aims in Iraq. And the President of the United States wants this Congress to write him a blank check to continue funding this failed policy.

Fortunately, the conference report before us rejects the President's failed approach and holds him and the Iraqi Government accountable for events on the ground in this civil war-ravaged country. Passing this bill will send a clear message to Iraq's leaders that the patience of the American people has limits. Passing this bill is the best way to pressure Iraq's leaders to do what is necessary to end their civil war, because this Congress will not leave American troops in the crossfire between Iraq's sectarian factions year after year. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

RECOGNIZING CARRIE BAGNELL AS SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FL 2007 ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Carrie Bagnell as Santa Rosa County's Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Carrie Bagnell joined the Santa Rosa School District in 2006, with a background in Elementary Education from Indiana University. Ms. Bagnell is currently in her first year of teaching, where she teaches kindergarten at West Navarre Primary School in Navarre, FL.

Throughout her inaugural year of teaching, Carrie Bagnell has gained experience and training in phonics, literacy block, classroom organization and management, grants, and education of students with exceptionalities, ESE. Above all, she has earned the heart and respect of her students and the school community. Out of her passion for teaching and her love for children, Carrie Bagnell is the positive force behind each student's growth of mind, by giving them the confidence, knowledge, and inspiration needed to succeed.

The Rookie Teacher of the Year recognizes one teacher in his or her third year or less of teaching, and to be honored as Rookie of the Year places Carrie Bagnell among the great teachers in northwest Florida. Santa Rosa County is honored to have her as one of its own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Carrie Bagnell on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD GRESKO AND EXPRESSING THAT HE SHOULD RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HIS COURAGEOUS ACTIONS ON MARCH 11, 1970 IN VIETNAM

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute Richard Gresko, one of America's true heroes. The reason for my statement today, however, is to correct a grave injustice done to him by our country.

In March of 1970 Richard Gresko was in Vietnam serving as a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps. On the night of March 11, 1970 Gresko was leading three of his fellow marines in an ambush to protect a village from the Viet Cong. Around midnight Gresko's team was surprised from behind by the enemy. A firefight ensued and one of the enemy threw a grenade in between Gresko and his men.

As the citation on his military award reads, ''With complete disregard for his own personal safety and fully aware of the dangers involved, he unhesitatingly threw himself on top of the grenade, absorbing most of the blast fragments with his own body in order to protect his men from certain injury and possible death.'' Despite being painfully wounded, Gresko continued to direct his men in combat. When he was helicoptered out to receive medical treatment, he continued to give information about the enemy despite bleeding profusely with hundreds of pieces of shrapnel in his face, arms and chest. Madam Speaker, it is a miracle that he survived.

Madam Speaker, I wish I could be here today to say that Richard Gresko, a man who unhesitatingly risked his own life to save his fellow marines, received the recognition that he deserves, but sadly I cannot. Mr. Gresko's bravery, sacrifice, and valor are beyond question, yet he has not been honored as he should. To truly honor this brave American, he should be awarded the Medal of Honor. Despite the fact that Gresko's commanding officer immediately put him in for the Medal of Honor, 6 years would pass before any recognition of Mr. Gresko's heroism was made by our Nation when he was awarded the Navy Cross.

Madam Speaker, as a former soldier I appreciate the amount of courage and bravery it takes to do what Mr. Gresko did for his men. There is no room for subjectivity in this matter. Richard Gresko risked his life to save men under his command. That is the highest form of sacrifice a serviceman can make and it deserves the highest honor that our Nation can bestow.

For over 30 years Mr. Gresko has patiently waited for the recognition that he deserves. His case has undergone countless reviews but each time is caught in a web of bureaucracy and dead ends. It is high time that we honor this hero and pay tribute to him for what he did for us. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill to authorize and request that the President of the United States award Richard Gresko the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on March 11, 1970, in Vietnam.

As if his gallantry on the battlefield was not enough, Mr. Gresko is also a pillar of his community in Newtown, PA, in my district. He is a father, a grandfather, and a husband of more than 38 years. Even today, despite the fact that he lives in constant pain from the injuries he sustained that night, Mr. Gresko is adamant that he would do it all over again. His instincts told him to run from that grenade, but Mr. Gresko says, ''You have to overcome that. You know you're gonna die, but you have to protect your men. Sometimes the whole is more important than the one.''

Madam Speaker, Richard Gresko is truly among the finest that America has to offer. It is my hope that with the introduction of this bill we will move one small step closer toward correcting an injustice that has gone unrecognized for almost 4 decades. Our Nation must do right by this hero whose actions define the phrase ''above and beyond the call of duty.''

REMEMBERING RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, with the passing of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the world lost a truly heroic leader. President Yeltsin was instrumental in placing Soviet Communism on the ash heap of history, fulfilling the vision of Ronald Reagan for victory in the Cold War by liberating Russia for its citizens to benefit from freedom and democracy.

The words of Vladimir Simonov, political commentator for the Russian News and Information Agency Novosti, in the article He Did It His Way memorialize President Yeltsin well.

BORIS YELTSIN: HE DID IT HIS WAY

MOSCOW.—President Bush sees Boris Yeltsin as a historic figure who served his country at a time of great change.

Prime Minister Tony Blair recalls the Russian leader as an outstanding statesman who realized how much Russia needed democratic and economic reforms.

Javier Solana, a European Union official and former secretary-general of NATO, thinks that Yeltsin displayed incredible foresight and courage when he decided to sign a hitherto unthinkable agreement on Russian cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance in the early 1990s.

These statements could be summed up in the following words, which the West could write on a wreath to lay at the grave of Russia's first elected president: ''We are grateful to you for creating a Russia that no longer scares us.'' In other words, Yeltsin made Russia look normal in the eyes of the civilized world.

He gave his people three simple, fundamental rights that citizens of civilized countries have enjoyed for a long time. Under Yeltsin, Russians received the opportunity to say what they thought, elect who they liked to major posts, and own private property, be it a house in the Moscow suburbs or a villa in Nice, although the majority could buy the latter only in theory.

Having embarked on the path of democracy and the market economy, no matter how awful it seemed to some initially, the mysterious and dangerous communist controlled Russia turned into a sensible and understandable country. Russians became more like Westerners. Perhaps at that moment, when differences were swept away, the Cold War came to an end. Credit for this historic accomplishment largely goes to Yeltsin as well.

By the end of his eight-year-long rule, Boris Yeltsin had lost the admiration of his compatriots. His popularity in Russia, but not in the West, had gone down. Well-to-do analysts watching events in Russia from afar thought that nothing tragic was happening. To be more precise, they believed that Russia had to go through its ordeals like any country undergoing a great change.

The West shares our grief because it also understands the greatness of the late Russian president. After all, it was Yeltsin who buried communism and made Russia part of the free world. In history textbooks he will always be remembered as a giant Russian standing on a tank, the man who prevented his country's return to the gloomy era of totalitarianism.

Frank Sinatra once sang ''I did it my way.'' The same words can be applied to Yeltsin. He did it his way, and both Russia and the West are grateful to him for choosing freedom.

HONORING MARIO GALLEGOS, JR., FOR BEING NAMED ''GOVERNOR FOR A DAY''

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Mario V. Gallegos, Jr., on being named ''Governor for a Day'' in the State of Texas. Senator Gallegos, a long time Houstonian, has served his community first as a Houston firefighter, then as a Texas State Representative, and now as a Texas State Senator. He was the first Hispanic Senator elected to represent Harris County.

Senator Gallegos, like myself, is a graduate of the University of Houston. In Austin, he continually serves as a strong voice for the university, to ensure levels of funding increase with the growing population of his district.

Having served 22 years as a firefighter, where he retired as Senior Captain, Senator Gallegos has fought for growth and increased funding for firefighters and law enforcement, alike. He was recently recognized for his work in the 77th Legislative Session by the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters and the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas. Senator Gallegos has also received such accolades as the Texas Municipal League's ''Distinguished Legislative Service Award,'' Legislator of the Year by the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, and the Fiestas Patrias Distinguished Hispanic of the Year Award.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize my good friend in his continued work to serve Texas, Mario Gallegos. His distinguished legacy of service speaks volumes and I congratulate him on being named ''Governor for a Day.''

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER KRISTEN HRIZO

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Kristen Hrizo of West Mifflin High School.

Kristen is the winner in the 2007 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Kristen's work, a piece utilizing pencil, ink, watercolors, color pencil, and marker, is entitled ''A Walk in the Jungle.''

Kristen's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I am certain that her family is proud of her artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

It gives me great pride and pleasure that Kristen's painting will be representing the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be set up in the United States Capitol in the coming weeks. The winners of the Congressional Art Competitions held in each Congressional District will be displayed in that exhibit.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Kristen's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display throughout the next year. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular. I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

I want to congratulate all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District Art Competition and thank them for sharing their gifts with us.

U.S. TROOP READINESS VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Spending bill.

A few weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed a version of this legislation that included billions of dollars in non-emergency spending and numerous provisions relating to troop withdrawal that were not requested by the Administration or our military leaders. The conference agreement before us today endorses these extraneous provisions, and as a

result the President has made clear he will veto this bill.

As our Nation continues to debate the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq, some of my colleagues have argued that Congress should mandate a hard deadline for the redeployment of U.S. troops. While I believe that Congress has an important role to play in this debate, such crucial decisions should not be made without substantial input from our military and foreign policy leaders. I have disagreed with many aspects of our strategy in Iraq, but I feel strongly that requiring an arbitrary date for troop withdrawal would endanger our soldiers and undermine efforts to maintain stability in the Middle East.

Now is the time for Democrats and Republicans to unite around a strategy that funds our troops and supports an effective way forward in Iraq. We cannot afford to waste precious moments arguing over political objectives and pork barrel spending projects, such as those included in this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against this bill and I call upon my colleagues to dispense with the political rhetoric and get to work immediately on passing a bipartisan emergency supplemental spending bill.

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S BID FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, for years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization (WHO). The health rights of Taiwan's 23 million people have been grossly neglected. As a democracy, the Government of Taiwan is compelled to respect the wishes of its people and apply for membership into the WHO. Also, Taiwan would like to be invited to send observers to sessions of the World Health Assembly this May.

I support Taiwan's bid to be a member of the WHO. Taiwan's bid is closely related to its campaign for World Health Assembly observer status and meaningful participation in World Health Organization activities. The health rights of the 23 million Taiwanese people must be respected. Moreover, Taiwan is willing and able to contribute to the world health network. As of December 2006, Taiwan had 32 technical missions stationed in 29 partner countries and dispatched 16 mobile medical missions to 12 countries. It is conceivable that with a membership in the WHO, Taiwan will be able to contribute even more of its resources to the global health network.

Several years ago, Taiwan was gripped in crisis with the outbreak of SARS. Since Taiwan was not a member of the WHO, Taiwan encountered a significant amount of red-tape in getting WHO assistance to the affected areas during its urgent time of need during the SARS crisis. Should there ever be a new medical crisis in Taiwan, the WHO should be free of all barriers in assisting people in urgent need of immediate medical attention.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's application for WHO membership in the name of Taiwan does not represent any change of Taiwan's status quo. Taiwan is most commonly known as "Taiwan" internationally and the Government of Taiwan has made it absolutely clear that it has no intention of changing its national name. Taiwan's Constitution has not been changed.

I hope that the administration will once again enthusiastically support Taiwan's application and that no government will dispute Taiwan's membership request. All nations, especially the United States, Japan, and major European countries, should request the WHO to make appropriate arrangements for Taiwan to participate in WHO's mechanisms or at the very least grant Taiwan WHA observer status this May.

TRIBUTE TO THE AU SABLE ANGLERS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most effective, well organized and long standing conservation groups in the State of Michigan, the Au Sable Anglers. This organization, which has done so much to preserve the Au Sable River, celebrates its twentieth anniversary on Saturday.

The Au Sable River is located in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The river winds from Lake Huron inland running approximately 140 miles to the center of the peninsula. This picturesque river and its surrounding wetlands are a favorite fishing spot for Michigan residents seeking brown trout as well as for fishing enthusiasts who travel from across the country each year for some of the best fishing in the nation. The river has faced many threats, but the Au Sable Anglers have remained stalwart champions of the river, helping to preserve this wondrous natural resource for future generations of trout anglers and outdoorsmen.

The Anglers of the Au Sable was born out of efforts to prevent a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policy from being rescinded. The State's 1986 Catch and Release fishing policy was at the time being challenged. To thwart efforts to rescind this policy, a local businessman named Rusty Gates, whose fishing lodge and tackle shop abuts the banks of the Au Sable River, rallied supporters.

In May of 1986, Mr. Gates began culling a mailing list from his lodge guests and patrons of his fly shop to organize allies and protect the catch and release policy. In September of 1986, six anglers—Rusty Gates, Dan Drislane, Ed McGlinn, Dennis Potter, Vic Prislipski and Gene Ballou—met in the Gates Au Sable Lodge. This organizational meeting was the genesis of the Au Sable Anglers. In August of that year, the Au Sable Anglers held their first annual members meeting with 75 conservationists in attendance.

While the Au Sable Anglers were originally formed to address the issue of the Department of Natural Resources' Catch and Release policy, they rapidly expanded their areas of interest to face down an array of threats to the Au Sable River.

When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiated its re-licensing process for scores of hydroelectric dams in Michigan, including six on the Au Sable River, the Anglers helped ensure that Au Sable River would be protected. In the early 1990s, the Anglers discovered illegal water regulation at a dam on the Au Sable that was causing extremely low water conditions. After pressure from the Anglers, the owner of the dam abandoned this environmentally damaging practice. The Au Sable Anglers were also involved on issues surrounding gas exploration near the river.

Although the Au Sable Anglers are active on public policy and environmental issues affecting the Au Sable River and its ecosystem, they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves to help remediate pollution and keep the river clean. Over the years they have helped restore scores of soil erosion sites and funded the repair and restoration of hundreds of fish habitat sites. Every year since September of 1996, they have held an annual river clean up, in which hundreds of volunteers walk more than 100 miles of river, filling trash bags with waste and debris. Since its inception, the annual river clean up has evolved into an event that rallies the entire Au Sable River community together. Not only do volunteers from the Anglers pitch in, but local property owners along the river open their land to the trash collection teams and help guide the teams from point to point.

The organization has also lent its financial resources towards engaging young people in conservation studies. Over the years, the Anglers have underwritten several graduate biology students to investigate soil erosion and other problems impacting the Au Sable River and its habitat.

Today, after twenty years of hard work to preserve the Au Sable River for future generations, the Au Sable River Anglers remains a vibrant and effective organization. The group boasts over 600 conservationists as dues paying members and remains involved in local environmental issues and in river remediation efforts. Rusty Gates continues to serve as the organization's President. Like the organization's founders and board members, he should be commended for dedicating so much of his personal time to building the organization and protecting the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, the Au Sable Anglers provide an inspiring example of how ordinary citizens can band together to protect and improve their local environment. While the Au Sable Anglers have not won every battle they have fought, their collective, tireless efforts have done much to preserve one of northern Michigan's great locations for fishing, canoeing and outdoors life.

Twenty years ago, six outdoorsmen gathered to discuss how they could protect and improve a northern Michigan river that they cared for greatly. Today, twenty years later, thanks to that initial meeting, the Au Sable Anglers remains a vigilant defender of the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, as this local, grassroots organization observes its twentieth anniversary, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking the Au Sable Anglers for their work and in saluting them for their stalwart advocacy on behalf of the Au Sable River.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Founded in my home state of California on April 26, 1967, NAFCU's current member credit unions stretch from coast-to-coast and are more than 1,000 in number. These credit unions in turn represent more than 30 million individual credit union members.

From 1967 until today, NAFCU has been a strong voice in Washington on behalf of Federal credit unions. The NAFCU members in my district tell me that this association does an excellent job providing them with representation, information, education, and assistance to meet the challenges that cooperative financial institutions face in today's economic environment.

It is with this in mind, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Federal Credit Unions on their 40th Anniversary. I have worked with NAFCU on issues that are important to the credit unions in my congressional district, and I look forward to doing so in the future. Congratulations NAFCU on your 40th Anniversary.

ON PROTECTING AMERICA'S WORKERS ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act (OSHA), passed in 1970, promised America's workers safe and healthy workplaces.

However, OSHA has gaps in coverage and approximately 8.6 million State, county and municipal employees are not covered by the law. Public employees have the same health and safety problems as do private-sector workers but have no protection in more than 20 States and the District of Columbia.

In addition, millions of airline and railroad employees, as well as Department of Energy contractors, are inadequately covered.

Another sad reality is that many employees already covered by OSHA are afraid to report health and safety violations for fear of retribution. When an investigation does occur, however, workers and families are often left in the dark about the progress of the investigation, and too often, even when an employer commits multiple violations, penalties are weak and ineffective.

The Protecting America's Workers Act improves upon OSHA in a number of ways: It raises civil penalties on employees and makes felony charges available against employers who commit willful violations. It also expands coverage to include public employees and millions of other workers who are inadequately covered by other laws. In addition, the Act improves upon current whistleblower protections, specifically giving workers the right to refuse to do hazardous work and protecting against employer retribution. Finally, it requires OSHA to investigate all cases of death and serious injuries and gives workers and families the right to meet with investigators.

Since the passage of OSHA in 1970, much progress has been made. It has been reported that over 349,000 lives have been saved. Nonetheless, too many workers are still dying—5,764 in 2005—and millions of others are injured or become ill by working in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. The provisions of the Protecting America's Workers Act strengthen OSHA so that it can meet its promise to ensure safe and healthy workplaces for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Comprehensive Learning Assessment for Students and Schools Act or "CLASS Act of 2007." This legislation makes practical and meaningful reforms to the No Child Left Behind Act.

The importance of ensuring that each child in America is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential cannot be overstated. Having an educated workforce is a matter of economic competitiveness and it is a matter of national security. I voted for the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, in 2001 because it placed much needed focus on accountability and on closing the socalled "achievement gap" in this country by targeting the achievement of low-income and minority students. These remain laudable and important goals.

Since the law was enacted 5 years ago, I have met with students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and others to discuss the real-world effects of this Federal mandate. What I have learned is that there is broad consensus in favor of establishing high standards and accountability, but there is also an emerging consensus that the law has had some unintended consequences.

In 2005, several stakeholders in Colorado's education community, including representatives from the Colorado Association of School Executives, the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Education Association, and the Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services Association, produced a policy paper suggesting meaningful reforms to the NCLB. The policy paper's prescriptions mirror what I have heard first hand from constituents in my district and other Coloradans. My legislation addresses many of these suggested reforms.

First, the way that the Department of Education currently measures Adequate Yearly Progress, AYP, does not yield an accurate metric for actual student progress in our Nation's schools. For example, in Colorado in 2004, the Boulder Valley School District met 140 of 142 required performance targets, Littleton Schools met 124 of 128, and Durango met 91 of 94. Yet under the "all or nothing" rules of NCLB each of these districts were labeled as failing.

The CLASS Act would allow schools to use longitudinal growth to measure student proficiency to calculate AYP more accurately. Longitudinal growth measures a student's progress from previous years as opposed to comparing the scores of one cohort of students one year to an entirely different cohort the following year. By focusing directly on individual students, we can develop a much better understanding of ways to improve the grade-level learning process.

In addition, the CLASS Act would require that multiple measures be used to assess AYP. These would include: the proportion of State report card indicators met, a performance index score, student drop-out rate, and a measure based on individual student achievement gains over time by disaggregated groups. When a school is required to offer transfer choices and supplemental services to a school because that school has failed to meet all of its AYP targets, transfer choice and supplemental services will only be available to students who fall under the one of the subgroups that failed to meet an AYP target. For example, if the students with disabilities subgroup is the only one within a school to not achieve AYP, then only those special education students would be offered transfer options and supplemental services. This common-sense measure allows schools and districts to target resources where they are needed most.

Second, two federal mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and NCLB are conflicting. Whereas NCLB requires that students progress at similar rates, IDEA expressly states that students with disabilities progress at different rates. NCLB requires that students progress be measured by a "proficient score" on a standardized test; IDEA is based on an Individual Education Program (IEP) team decision with a test score as just one factor. The CLASS act would allow a student's IEP to be taken into consideration when determining the assessment level under which a student would be tested for the purposes of NCLB.

Third, the CLASS Act would acknowledge the fact that becoming fluent in a new language is a complex process that occurs over time. It is unfair and unproductive to require students, while they are learning English, to be tested in both the acquisition of a new language and in the subject content. The CLASS Act would exclude the performance of students with limited English proficiency who have resided in the United States for less than three years, so as to avoid any distortion in measurement resulting from the new arrivals of such students.

NCLB has provided critical tools for parents, teachers, and administrators to understand how children are learning and what schools and families can do to improve education. But in order for accountability assessments to be meaningful, they need to be transparent and fair.

Madam Speaker, the CLASS Act goes a long way toward achieving the goal of transparent and fair assessments of student progress without compromising the critical goal of demanding excellence in our public education system. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GLEN ROCK COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO CURB UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the community of Glen Rock for joining together to fight underage drinking, which, according to the National Institutes of Health, results in the deaths of approximately 5,000 people under the age of 21 each year.

Many Glen Rock high school students face a destructive rite of passage called the Keg Race. The Class of 2007 is expected to consume 107 kegs of beer before graduation day in June. While no one has yet died as a result of this under-culture of house parties and drinking, the community has come together to try to put an end to this practice before some irreversible damage is done.

Regrettably, this is not a problem isolated to the community of Glen Rock. A 2003 study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism noted that by the time they have reached the eighth grade, nearly half of all adolescents have had at least one drink and more than one in five reports having been ''drunk.'' About a third of all high school seniors report engaging in binge drinking—that is, having at least five or more drinks in a single occasion—within two weeks of being asked as part of the report.

Elected leaders, spiritual leaders, and parents are joining together to form a web of support for each other and for community young people to help break this cycle of underage drinking in Glen Rock. And, I commend their efforts and hope other communities will follow their lead.

TRIBUTE TO KOUICHI R. TANAKA, M.D., M.A.C.P.

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Kouichi R. Tanaka for his important contributions to the field of medicine and medical education.

Dr. Tanaka was born in Fresno, California where he lived on a grape farm with his parents and three siblings. In July, 1942, he and his family were placed in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. Despite the lack of books and appropriate educational facilities, Dr. Tanaka pursued his dream of becoming a physician.

He would go on to earn a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine degree with high distinction from Wayne State University, serve in the United States Army, and become a resident in medicine and fellow in pathology and hematology.

Dr. Tanaka began his academic career at the UCLA School of Medicine in 1957 and joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1961 as chief of the Division of Hematology. He would also serve as associate chair of the Department of Medicine, acting chair of the Department of Medicine, director of the Hematology Research Laboratory, program director, Professor of Medicine, and playa key role in training over 450 internal medicine physicians during the past 46 years. In addition, Dr. Tanaka has written nearly 300 research publications, leading to important contributions in the study of erythrocyte metabolism and to the understanding of hemolytic disorders.

Dr. Tanaka has received many awards and held many positions of distinction. He was President of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society at Wayne State University School of Medicine and founding associate editor of the American Journal of Hematology. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University School of Medicine; the Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and the Laureate Award of the American College of Physicians Southern California Region 1. He is the first Japanese American elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He was ACP Governor for Southern California Region I, was awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians, and was presented with the 1999 UCLA Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award. In 2004, he was selected to the inaugural class of ''LA BioMed Legends''.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share how proud I am to have Dr. Tanaka working in my district's most important biomedical research institute, the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 240, which urges all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service, ITS, who have yet to ratify the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but a systematic campaign of genocide carried out by the Nazis against the Jews. The world must never forget the more than 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In total, the atrocities were more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe.

We must never forget the evil acts that happened during that era and we must continue the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and anti-Semitism in every form today.

After over 60 years, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all over the world dedicated to the memory of those who so cruelly lost their freedom and their lives, and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice. As we allow for open access to the Holocaust archives, we remind the world that the Holocaust indeed was a sad part of our world's history, should anyone doubt its existence. As recently as December 2006, the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, held the second Holocaust denial conference in Tehran in 1 year. The time to act is now. The opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more opportune, especially with the resurgence of anti-Semitism in this part of the world.

The International Tracing Service (ITS) archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, remain the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world. The 50,000,000 records on the fates of some 17,500,000 individual victims of Nazi war crimes will forever be memorialized, reminding the world of the travesty and devastation that occurred in Nazi Germany. There have been too many instances of survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims being refused their moral and legal right to information—for restitution purposes, slave labor compensation, and personal closure.

Problems persist when those who have requested information in the past have reported facing significant delays and even unresponsiveness; furthermore, the records remain inaccessible to researchers and research institutions.

The 1955 Bonn Accords established an International Commission of 11 member countries, which includes the United States, and is charged with overseeing the administration of the ITS Holocaust archives. The amendments to the Bonn Accords require each of the 11 members of the International Commission to ratify the amendments before open access to the Holocaust archives is permitted.

The International Commission of the ITS agreed upon amendments to the Bonn Accords that would allow researchers to use the archives and would allow each Commission member country to receive digitized copies of archive materials and make the records available to researchers under the respective national laws relating to archives and privacy. Only 4 members out of the 11 Commission member countries have ratified the amendments to date. Although the United States is one of the 4 members that have ratified the amendment, there are 7 member countries that have yet to ratify. It is imperative that these 7 member nations ratify the amendment because it is essential that Holocaust researchers obtain access now, while survivors are living. I join my colleagues in urging all countries that have yet to ratify the amendments to abide by their treaty obligations made in May 2006 and to expedite the ratification of these amendments.

The murder of 6,000,000 Jews and more than 5,000,000 other victims during the Holocaust must not be forgotten. We must remember those who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust and those who were not so fortunate to survive the evils committed by the Nazis. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 240.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN R. SMITH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to COL John R. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Programs and Legislation Division, for his 25 years of service to the U.S. Air Force and our country. A command pilot with over 3,600 flight hours, Colonel Smith has supported combat operations around the world to include Operations Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Allied Force, Northern and Southern Watch, and Desert Fox. He has also flown numerous presidential support missions as well as humanitarian missions in relief of the devastation from hurricanes George and Mitch, flood relief in Mozambique, and earthquake relief in Turkey.

COL John R. Smith was born into the Air Force, the son of a World War II pilot and former prisoner of war COL Darrell Smith (ret.) and his wife Helen. Following his father into the Air Force, after high school he earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982 as a distinguished graduate. Upon completion of pilot training, he returned as a T–37 instructor pilot to teach and mentor future aviators first at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and then at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, home of the Pilot Instructor Training School. In 1987, he was selected as Randolph's Instructor Pilot of the Year. Following his tour in Air Training Command, Colonel Smith was selected to represent the United States Air Force as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. In 1992, Colonel Smith was selected to fly the C–5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. From the C–5, Colonel Smith was assigned to the Pentagon in the Air and Space Operations directorate where he served as the C–5 and C–141 Program Element Monitor directing over $1.5 billion in funding for these two fleets. He was then reassigned as a Joint Warfighting Capabilities Analyst where he prepared recommendations on Department of Defense budgets, programs, and force structure alternatives for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Smith was selected to command the Third Airlift Squadron, flying C–5s out of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. Under his leadership, the Third overcame low aircraft maintenance reliability rates to support 17 major contingencies, exercises, and relief operations including critical taskings in support of operations in Iraq, Bosnia, and the Far East. The squadron was twice selected as the best operations squadron of the year at Dover, garnered 18 higher headquarter aircrew awards, and earned the year 2000 nomination for the best airlift squadron in Air Mobility Command. Following command, Colonel Smith attended Air War College and was then selected for a tour in the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison where he served as the Deputy Chief of the Weapons Systems Division. For the last 2 years Colonel Smith has served as the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division. There he is responsible for Air Force legislative engagement with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in offering our sincere thanks to Colonel Smith, his wife Jana, their four daughters, Renae, Elayne, Claire, and Pamela, and four sons Benjamin, Zane, Chad, and Kyle, for their service to our Nation. I would like to especially remember Zane, their second son, who died from leukemia at the age of 2. We wish the Smith family the best of luck in all future endeavors and congratulate Colonel Smith on the completion of an outstanding and successful active-duty career.

CALLING ON THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7, which calls on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up its effort to stop the genocide. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Rep. BARBARA LEE, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced. More than 3 million other Darfurians depend today on international aid for their survival. The United Nations has identified the situation in Darfur as the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world. The United States has officially labeled it genocide.

As we learned last week on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocents. When we say we must ''never forget,'' we must demonstrate that we mean it. H. Con. Res. 7, which has 115 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, is an important step in this cause.

This important legislation calls on the League of Arab States to support and accept United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, and ensure access for humanitarian aid workers; and to work with the international community to bring about a lasting peace in Darfur.

I hope that the Arab League will play a constructive role in ensuring humanitarian assistance in Darfur, insisting that the Bashir government accept more peacekeeping troops, and make a stronger effort to engage Sudan's neighbors in the peace process—which is what this Resolution is designed to do. Finally, the Arab League must work with the United States and the United Nations to work with the Sudanese government to help forge a comprehensive plan for stability and reconstruction across the whole of the country.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7 and I hope all of my colleagues will lend it their support.

CONGRATULATING SAM BIANCO UPON BEING AWARDED THE UNITED WAY OF AMERICA'S ''JOSEPH A. BEIRNE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD''

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Sam Bianco, of Vandling, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was chosen by the United Way of America to receive its prestigious ''Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award.''

Established in 1974 by the United Way of America, the award annually recognizes a union member or labor leader who has rendered outstanding service to a local United Way community.

The award is named in honor of the late Joseph A. Beirne, co-founder of the Communications Workers of America International Union and the first union member to ever serve as board president of United Way of America.

Mr. Bianco has been a staunch volunteer and supporter of the United Way of Wyoming Valley since 1955. At that time he served as a campaign solicitor at International Ladies Garment Workers Union shops. He also served as business agent for the Pittston ILGWU and, later, as district manager for the Wilkes-Barre ILGWU. He currently serves on the United Way of Wyoming Valley's board of directors, finance committee, campaign cabinet and he has chaired the labor participation committee for the past 27 years.

Under Mr. Bianco's volunteer leadership, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council and United Way of Wyoming Valley were named the 1998 recipient of the ''National AFL–CIO Model Cities in Community Services Award'' for the outstanding partnership created between the local labor movement and United Way in jointly addressing and meeting human service needs.

Mr. Bianco, as president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, has partnered with the United Way of Wyoming Valley on numerous community service projects including the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive; creating the ''Unions in the Community Girl Scout Patch'' and being a co-sponsor of the annual United Way Labor Christmas Project.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bianco for giving his community so many years of devoted service. His contributions to the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania are legendary as is his love of helping people in need.

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAME ''AMERICA''

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifth centenary of the word ''America''—a name that has become

synonymous with opportunity, equality, freedom and hope.

On April 25, 1507, German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller and Vautran Ludd, Chaplain to the Duke of Lorraine, created a map that gave the name ''America'' to the new world discovered by Christopher Columbus 15 years earlier. According to historical accounts, the name was a tribute to Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who made 4 voyages to the new world between 1497 and 1504.

Waldseemueller and Ludd published 1,000 copies of the map that first coined the term ''America,'' and I am proud to say that the only surviving copy—a priceless relic of our shared heritage—now resides in the Library of Congress, after being purchased in 2003 from the German Prince Waldburg-Wolfegg for $10 million.

In the 500 years that have passed since the word ''America'' was first used, the term has become more of an idea than a name—a concept that celebrates what is best about humanity; a principle that defines what liberty, justice and unity are really all about; and a goal for the people of the world to strive towards.

We have come a long way over the last half-millennium—from a name on a piece of paper to a moral, political and economic leader among nations. And it gives me great pride to mark this momentous occasion on the House Floor and to join people all over the world in celebrating the fifth centenary of the word ''America''—a notion that now means so much to so many people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a Committee in Congress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the Caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since President Woodrow Wilson signed its charter on May 17, 1917, the organization has trained thousands of volunteers that have responded to numerous disasters in Humboldt County, California.

The lives of the citizens of Humboldt County have been greatly improved by the presence and benevolence of this organization. Whether disaster struck a single family or the entire community, the Red Cross has provided disaster relief focused on meeting basic human needs of shelter, food, and health services.

In its 90-year history, the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded to hundreds of disasters; playing a critical role after the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding of 1964, four earthquakes that struck during the early 1990s and the New Years Eve storm of 2006. They provided assistance and sent volunteers to help after the attacks of September 11, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina.

Leaders of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross have trained thousands of community volunteers in first-aid, health and safety services and disaster preparedness. They are committed to strengthening the ability of Humboldt County and its communities to prevent, respond and recover from unexpected emergencies and disasters and have led the local effort of a broader campaign of national preparedness.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the many individuals who make up the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross and extend our hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a simple solution to the global warming problem, a carbon tax.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day. Today, in Earth Day's honor, I propose the Save Our Climate Act. The first Earth Day in 1970 led to new laws to improve air and water quality, and was an important impetus for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. On Earth Day 2007, climate change is the preeminent environmental concern. I hope 2007 will be remembered as the year we addressed global warming by passing the Save Our Climate Act.

Climate change is a worldwide problem requiring each nation to do its part. The International Panel on Climate Change—600 of the world's leading scientists—suggests that temperatures may increase three to seven degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Al Gore's ''Inconvenient Truth'' may have seemed like a scare tactic, but if we don't wake up to the realities presented in his documentary, we will soon wake up to flooded coastlines, unfarmable plains, and species extinction.

To date, the United States has failed to take necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Though the U.S. emits approximately six billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) each year—comprising nearly 24 percent of the world's total emissions—we have failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. If we continue our refusal to act, we cannot expect other countries to do their part.

The vast majority of environmentalists and climate change experts agree that we need to reduce CO2 emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to stop the current pace of climate change. Every year we delay enacting legislation to slow climate change makes it that much more difficult to stop global warming.

Economists widely agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. The Save Our Climate Act is just that, a simple tax on fossil fuels that will decrease emissions and create immediate incentives for green energy. Under this legislation, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—will be taxed at a rate of $10 per ton of carbon content. That means coal, which has higher carbon content than natural gas, will be taxed at a higher rate. This tax structure promotes the use of less carbon intensive fossil fuels and creates an incentive to use other non-carbon-based fuels.

The tax will increase by $10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the U.S. reduces its CO_2 emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen at that level. The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase, producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

While economists agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce CO_2 emissions, few agree on what to do with the revenues raised from the tax. The Save Our Climate Act does not prescribe how we should spend carbon tax revenue, but recognizes the many competing interests for this revenue. Low and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy prices under this system could receive some of the revenue in the form of reduced income taxes or increased tax deductions or credits. We could also spend the money on alternative energy sources, health care, education, or a myriad other domestic environmental and social priorities.

The Save Our Climate Act is a simple solution to a very difficult problem. Some have suggested a system of CO_2 emission caps and a market to buy and sell emissions credits, often referred to as ''cap and trade.'' I

worry that industry will thwart any attempt to set a real emissions cap. I also worry about the bureaucratic costs of effectively enforcing such a system. In contrast, a carbon tax is easy to administer and reduces CO_2 emissions by raising the price of fossil fuels, thereby reducing demand for those fuels. It's Economics 101, but unlike most school lectures, this econ lesson could save our planet.

Global climate change is too important for us to continue our inaction because of industry stakeholders or the worry over political consequences of raising taxes. A carbon tax is the best way to address the problem of global warming. I urge all my colleagues to do what's right for our country and the world by supporting the Save Our Climate Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE ANESTHESIOLOGY TEACHING FUNDING RESTORATION ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Anesthesiology Teaching Funding Restoration Act of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by Representatives JIM RAMSTAD (R–MN), DARLENE HOOLEY (D–OR) and PETE SESSIONS (R–TX).

This bill would restore 100 percent payment of the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) for teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) has endorsed this important legislation.

Paying teaching anesthesiologists 100 percent of the PFS for two concurrent anesthesia cases was the policy of Medicare until 1994. In that year, the Health Care Financing Agency (now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) issued a rule reducing the Medicare payment to teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases to 50 percent for the second case. This rule has reduced the financial viability of medical schools and hospitals which have teaching anesthesiology programs.

Since the 1994 rule change, 31 anesthesiology residency programs have closed. An ASA survey of anesthesiology residency programs found that the average program was losing $400,000 per year partially as a result of the payment reduction. Some programs serving larger Medicare populations report losses in excess of $1 million per year. The UCLA program reported annual losses in excess of $600,000.

Many programs receive subsidies from their medical schools or universities to offset these losses. However, some programs are experiencing additional losses as local commercial health care providers, including United and Blue Cross/Blue Shield in selected areas, drop full payments for overlapping cases and adopt the Medicare 50 percent policy for their commercial beneficiaries.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase the flow of Medicare funds into these important teaching programs while also providing the programs an opportunity to dispute pay reductions by health care commercial providers. By increasing access to well-trained anesthesiologists, the ultimate result will be healthier patients.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Americans have access to the highest quality anesthesiology services.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT BRANDON GREENWAY AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DOUGLAS GREENWAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two Americans who achieved greatness in April 2007 at Fort Benning, Georgia. SSG Brandon Greenway and his father, CSM Douglas Greenway, became the first father-son team to compete in the U.S Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition.

The U.S. Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition started in 1981 to determine the best two-man Ranger team in the country. The strenuous 3-day competition is designed to test the teams' physical, mental, and technical abilities as Rangers with less than 50 percent of the teams completing the competition. Every year, the event brings a great spotlight to Fort Benning, as the best and brightest Rangers in the U.S. Army display their incredible capabilities.

This event is designed to challenge the most tactically skilled and athletically gifted members of the U.S. Army. This is why so many took note when CSM Douglas Greenway entered this year's competition with his 23 year old son, SSG Brandon Greenway. At 47 years old, Sergeant Major Greenway was also the oldest Soldier ever to enter the competition. This father-son team met the challenges of this grueling competition and finished in the top half of the field.

This competition is a great way to cap the career of CSM Douglas Greenway, who is retiring in May 2007 after a distinguished 28-year Army career. Fort Benning will miss Command Sergeant Major Greenway, and I commend him as well as his spouse and family for their service to the country. For this reason, and for becoming the first father-son team to compete in the U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition, I am pleased to honor the Greenways in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING LENAPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lenape Middle School of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. This school has consistently stretched beyond its own expectations, and was recently distinguished as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch.

This honor is bestowed upon Lenape by a coalition comprised of the Pennsylvania Middle School Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Lehigh University, Gettysburg College, and Duquesne University. It is one of only three Pennsylvania schools credited with this achievement, and should serve as inspiration for other schools around the country. It is through the dedicated efforts of teachers, administrators and students that America will keep its place at the pinnacle of success in education.

Lenape Middle School is a prime example of the success for which we strive each and every day. Through hard work, Lenape reaches new heights every school year. It meets and exceeds expectations, and celebrates learning.

Beyond academics, however, Lenape creates a flexible learning environment conducive to the struggles and pressures of early adolescence. Students are provided with the best teachers and resources available, and have the opportunity to excel in the areas they most enjoy. The performance of Lenape Middle School has once again raised the bar throughout the country, and they are to be applauded for their accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, strong public education sets the United States apart from the rest of the world. Lenape has been recognized as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch because it is a leader in public education; it is blazing a new trail in middle school education that other schools will do well to follow.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD OF BISHOP JOSEPH MADERA, M.SP.S.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service and devotion Bishop Joseph J. Madera has bestowed to the community on the event of his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

Bishop Madera was born in San Francisco on November 27, 1927. He was raised in Mexico and received his priesthood at the Holy Spirit Missionaries House of Studies in Coyoacan, Mexico City, on June 15, 1957. Upon his ordination, Madera assisted in the minor seminary of the Holy Spirit Missionaries. After his work at the seminary, he was assigned to parish work in Mexico and soon after he was sent to the United States to serve in California.

His service in the Diocese of Fresno has made Bishop Madera a legacy in the community. On March 4, 1980, Bishop Hugh Donohue retired and Madera, who was serving as an appointed coadjutor bishop, was consecrated a bishop and was named Bishop of Fresno. During his tenure with the Diocese of Fresno, Bishop Madera founded the KNXT television station. He had his Sunday Mass in English, which was broadcast throughout the entire country and to Latin America.

Bishop Madera has an extensive résumé, having served in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Diocese of Fresno serving the communities of Fowler and Del Rey, Our Lady of

Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard, and as an assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish. In addition to his responsibilities to the church, Bishop Madera actively oversaw the pastoral care of 24 labor camps in Ventura County, lectured at the Camarillo Seminary of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and hosted radio broadcast programs both at the local and international levels. He was also instrumental in the construction of the second part Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA, as well as the rectory and the church.

In recognition of his years of commitment to the Catholic Church, Bishop Madera had the distinctive honor of receiving his ordination as auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services by the late Pope John Paul II in 1991. In this post, Bishop Madera was responsible for the pastoral care of 2 million Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. military and their families, the residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and the civilian employees of the U.S. Government living abroad.

Bishop Madera's work and outreach efforts are highly commendable. He has left the communities in which he has served a better place because of the sincerity and generosity of his services and faith. Through his post on the Archdiocese for Military Services, he reached out to provide comfort and guidance to Americans domestically and overseas. Even though he is now retired, his advocacy and commitment to service carries on as he currently volunteers to assist the Bishop serving the Sacramento area in California. For all these reasons, it is without doubt an honor to recognize him today as Bishop Joseph Madera continues to touch the lives of many people, leaving his mark of good will across the world.

TRIBUTE TO MS. NATALIE HIATT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Natalie Hiatt for having served in my office as a congressional intern in the winter of 2006 and the spring of 2007. She has performed her duties with utmost distinction, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the tremendous work she has done on my behalf.

Ms. Hiatt is currently studying at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, as a transfer student from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. She will graduate in May 2007 with a bachelor of arts in public affairs and administration. Due to her exemplary academic record, Ms. Hiatt has received scholarships such as the Academic Scholarship Award through her participation in the honors program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ms. Hiatt has consistently gone above the call of duty in ensuring the efficient operation of my office and maintaining ties with constituents in my district as a part of the press team. She also provided valuable insight on various legislative bills, and her ability to work with others, as shown by her extensive involvement in the college community at the University of Oklahoma, was of great benefit to my legislative team. She has a bright future ahead of her, and I am proud to support her as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the benefit Ms. Natalie Hiatt brought to my congressional office and ask you to join me in honoring her. I thank you for your time.

HONORING VICKI CODY DURING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Month of the Military Child I rise today to honor the mother of two military children, Vicki Cody. Army members and military families throughout the world know her as the wife of Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody, but today I want to recognize her contributions to our nation as the mother of Tyler and Clint Cody, two outstanding young men who grew up at military posts throughout the world and followed in the footsteps of their father serving as Army helicopter pilots.

Standing behind her three Soldiers, Vicki Cody is the glue that holds her family together. For over thirty years, she has been so much more than a wife and mother. Her many roles include nurse, cook, teacher, driver, volunteer, moving crew, painter, dog walker, bill payer, and fixer of all things broken. On top of all that, Vicki has added one more title: author.

In her years as a military spouse and the mother of two Soldiers, Vicki Cody saw the need to help other families facing the challenges of supporting their sons and daughters in uniform. Working with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), her book, ''Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents'' Guide,'' has reached thousands of families. At a time when every Soldier can expect to serve multiple combat tours, supporting the families they leave behind is critical.

I'd like to read a short excerpt from Mrs. Cody's book: ''I have an advantage of having been part of this system for the past 30 years. I have a deep understanding of the military in general, and I have access to all kinds of information, resources, and support systems. Still, I know how scary it's been for me having both sons in a combat zone, and I think about all the parents out there who don't have that background. This must be very confusing and frightening for them.

''So, I want to use my knowledge, experiences, candor, insight—whatever I have I want to share with other families. I'm a little old-fashioned in that I still believe in the power of the human touch or connection. I also believe each of us can make a difference. Sometimes it's something as simple as reassuring a frightened mom or dad and letting them know there's a toll-free number they can call to get in touch with the rear detachment of their Soldier's unit, or maybe there are terms they don't understand, or why the mail takes so long, or why their Soldier hasn't been able to call for weeks. Sometimes they just need a little knowledge of a very complex and vast organization. I wish I could wrap my arms around all the parents out there.''

From there, the book goes on to explain in simple but powerful terms how important family is to every Soldier. As a military mother and wife, Vicki describes how families can best support their loved ones in uniform throughout the stressful deployment process as they make preparations, execute their combat mission, and readjust when they return home.

At a time when we are calling up our troops to bear an enormous burden, our military families need all the help and support we can give them, and Vicki Cody has stepped up to the plate again and again to offer her wisdom and the warmth of her heart as she speaks to the families of military members both in person and through her inspirational written words.

I am working with the AUSA to send copies of Mrs. Cody's book to every Member of Congress, and I urge each of you to read it and share the supportive and helpful guidance with the military families who live in your districts. While there is not an Army post or other military installation in every Congressional district, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines come from every corner of our Nation—from the smallest towns and biggest cities. These troops are the ambassadors of their hometowns as they serve in defense of our Nation throughout the world, and we must support them and the families they leave behind.

Vicki Cody and her fellow military spouses and parents are unsung American heroes. Without the support of their families, our military could not accomplish their mission, and we owe every mother and father, sister and brother, husband and wife, son and daughter, a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PASTOR PAUL HIRAM WELCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Pastor Paul Hiram Welch for his lifelong service and dedication to the First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, FL.

Pastor Welch discovered his calling at the early age of three when he was introduced to the ministry by his father, D.L. Welch, upon his establishment of First Pentecostal Church of Pensacola. Pastor Welch's love for the ministry only continued to strengthen. He followed in his father's footsteps and chose to lead the spiritual growth of the community. At the age of 16, Pastor Welch preached his first revival and began his own evangelical ministry upon graduating from high school.

He returned to Pensacola in 1956 to serve as Associate Pastor and 3 years later, he married Shirley Ann Lane of Montgomery, AL. Members of the congregation came to know them as Brother Paul and Sister Shirley. In the mid-70s, Brother Paul was named Pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola. The impact Pastor Welch has had on the community is immeasurable; so many have come to know and love the Lord through his service to God.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church. Pastor Welch has served as a member of the Florida District Board of the United Pentecostal Church International for more than 32 years and now

serves as an honorary board member. He also serves on the board of Lighthouse Ranch for Boys in Hammond, LA.

Through his leadership and dedication, Pastor Paul Welch has honorably and spiritually served the church and the northwest Florida community. But he is also a loving husband and father, and Pensacola is truly blessed to have him as one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a man who has served as an inspiration to us all. A deep sense of personal service to his faith for so many years is something to truly be admired and honored.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coppell High School Band for their accomplishments and commitment to the City of Coppell. The Coppell High School Band represents one of the finest organizations in Texas and in the City of Coppell. The band, which is composed of over 350 members, represents the school with pride and dedication that is shown through their hard work, perseverance, and achievements. The Coppell Band has received a variety of National and local awards and honors such as the Tournament of Roses Parade and has been a 7-year consecutive winner of the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Championship. I commend the Coppell Band of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of becoming a premier north Texas organization for families and students to become involved in. I honor the Coppell High School Band on this milestone and look forward to the future as the city and this organization continues to be a shining example in north Texas. It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my congressional district and give my sincere congratulations to the Coppell High School Band.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR SÁNCHEZ MADAN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Oscar Sánchez Madan, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Madan is an independent journalist who has been a contributor to the independent press agency Cubanet since 2005. His straightforward articles as an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba have helped interested observers of the Cuban tragedy throughout the world to learn the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his commitment to accurate reporting, he persistently chronicled the brutal violence and rampant corruption of the Cuban tyranny. Mr. Sánchez reported the truth in totalitarian Cuba, with the knowledge that any freedom of the press, any effort to shed light on the regime's atrocities, is met with brutal repression.

According to a Cubanet report, Mr. Sánchez Madan was arrested and detained by state security thugs on February 25, 2007 because of articles he had written describing problems confronted by the oppressed people of Cuba on a daily basis. He also reported on corruption by a government official in the town of Pedro Betancourt. After being detained, several state security agents questioned Mr. Sánchez Madan, demanding to know whether he was an independent journalist or had studied journalism. All the documents he carried on him pertaining to a story he was working on were confiscated.

Despite being forced to endure incessant repression, beatings and several unwarranted detentions in the last year alone, he remained committed to the people of Cuba and to exposing the truth concerning the tyranny. According to reports, on April 13, 2007, state security thugs confronted Mr. Sánchez Madan with trumped-up charges that he posed a ''pre-criminal social danger''. In little over one day, he was arrested, tried and ''sentenced'' to 4 years of torture in a totalitarian dungeon without even so much as the presence of a relative or a defense lawyer.

Mr. Sánchez Madan finds himself in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag whose depraved conditions are described by the U.S. State Department as ''harsh and life threatening.'' The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime against humanity that people who work for freedom, who expose the truth and who work for the restoration of human rights to the Cuban people, are locked up in these condemnable conditions.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Sánchez Madan is one of the many heroes of the Cuban democratic movement locked in the dungeons of a maniacal tyrant for exposing the truth about the realities of totalitarian Cuba. No matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, these men and women represent the best of the Cuban nation. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Oscar Sánchez Madan and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation for their dedication to the Mesquite community where they enrich the education and development of the city's 35,000 children. The Foundation promotes community awareness and student development, provides educational funding and encourages creativity. Their work has supplied valuable funds through grants for programs to supplement school budgets. Their efforts help students in Mesquite have access to the best educational experience possible.

The Foundation has been instrumental in financing many programs that kids enjoy today. Such funds have been used to purchase ''hands-on consumable science lab materials'' to provide students with interactive laboratory equipment. Other grants have secured reading materials for pre-school children to increase pre-kindergarten reading readiness levels.

To date, the Foundation has raised over $800,000 and has awarded more than $200,000 in grants to campuses and individuals. Soon, the Foundation will be formally announcing their next round of grants totaling an additional $200,000.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation today in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber yesterday, April 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 259.

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy at Virginia Tech, as people try to make sense of this senseless act, we must remember to find strength in community. Last week, I spoke to Korean-American leaders in my district who expressed their deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy—the same sense of sorrow shared by all Americans. I expressed my hope that the Korean-American community would not be targeted in any way, in the aftermath of this situation.

I am proud that so far this fear hasn't materialized, but I rise today to remind Americans not to place blame on this or any other group. Korean Americans should feel no communal sense of guilt or responsibility for this act. Their own pride in their achievements and contributions to American society should remain undiminished.

Rather, we all should keep the victims, their families and the Virginia Tech community in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We can do this by supporting efforts like that of Washington State Senator Paull Shin, who has been working with local Korean Americans to start a fund for the victims' families. We also should work together to make sure that college campuses across our Nation retain their openness and continue to be bastions of hope and opportunity.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, for generations, Israel has been defending itself against hostile nations and terrorism in the midst of a region long plagued by turmoil and instability. The United States, now more than ever, must stand by its relationship with Israel. I want to take this opportunity to address in more detail my support of recent legislation before Congress regarding Israel.

I am pleased to see a key piece of legislation pass the House this week that I have cosponsored, H. Res. 125. The resolution expresses deep concern over the use of civilians as human shields in violation of international humanitarian law and the law of war during armed conflict. During the summer of 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and the State of Israel, Hezbollah routinely used this brutal and illegal tactic of embedding its forces among civilians to use them as human shields. This bill calls upon the international community to recognize the breaches of international law through the use of human shields and calls upon the State Department to make recommendations to prevent the future use of human shields during armed conflicts. The majority of civilian casualties of that conflict might have been avoided and civilian lives saved had Hezbollah not employed this tactic.

I am also very concerned about an issue facing the rapidly shrinking population of Holocaust survivors, and their right to research the facts of the unspeakable tragedy. Earlier this year, I signed letters addressed to the Ambassadors from Great Britain, France, Greece, Belgium and Italy urging them to expedite the process of releasing the Holocaust archival records of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located in Bad Arolsen, Germany. These millions of extensive records have remained inaccessible to Holocaust survivors, their families, and researchers alike for decades. Although progress was made last May when the International Commission of the ITS amended the Bonn Accords to allow each Commission member country to receive a digitized copy of the archives, some of the nations have yet to ratify the amendments. For the sake of these survivors and their families, I joined my colleagues in urging these governments to ratify this critical treaty amendment without delay. These letters led to the introduction of H. Res. 240, of which I am an original cosponsor and that passed the House this week. Mirroring the letters, the bill urges all countries that have not ratified the amendments to abide by their May 2006 treaty obligations and expedite such ratification. The bill goes on to urge all members of the International Commission of the ITS to consider the short time left to Holocaust survivors and unanimously consent to open the ITS archives should all countries not ratify the amendments by May 2007.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have always supported strengthening the partnership between the United States and Israel. I am pleased to see these two important bills pass the House, and throughout the 110th Congress, I will continue to look for opportunities to bolster the relationship with our key ally, Israel.

TRIBUTE TO CPL TYLER S. TROVILLION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay tribute to Cpl Tyler Seth Trovillion, USMC. Corporal Trovillion, a 23-year-old resident of Richardson, Texas, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

He belonged to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon of Camp Pendleton, California. He died on June 15, 2005, when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

We Texans are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and promoting democracy.

To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Tyler's courage and service to the United States of America.

As President Ronald Reagan once said, ''Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem.''

Tyler, God bless you and God bless America. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR LOIS REBICH

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lois Rebich, the 2007 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rebich is an Instructional Support teacher at Ross Elementary School in the North Hills School District in Pennsylvania. She began her teaching career seventeen years ago in the Pittsburgh City School District, but has been teaching in the North Hills School District for the past fifteen years.

Through individual assistance and one-on-one tutoring, she provides support to students who have academic, behavioral or organization issues. Mrs. Rebich has excelled by coordinating her efforts with parents, teachers, administrators and other students. As one parent said, ''Mrs. Rebich does whatever it takes for the student and teacher to orchestrate a successful learning experience.''

Pennsylvania has participated in the ''Teacher of the Year'' program since 1965. The program is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year. Each year one teacher is recognized for excellence in education.

I am honored to have the chance to recognize Mrs. Rebich's extraordinary accomplishment of becoming the 2007 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. She is representative of all the great teachers in the state of Pennsylvania. These selfless men and women spend every day educating our children and helping them to become happy and productive citizens of this great country.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1591, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5123–S5259

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1225–1247, S. Res. 173–175, and S. Con. Res. 29. **Pages S5183–84**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "Report of the Select Committee on Intelligence Covering the Period January 4, 2005, to December 8, 2006". (S. Rept. No. 110–57) **Page S5183**

Measures Passed:

National Small Business Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 174, honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007. **Pages S5255–57**

Israeli Independence Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 175, recognizing the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. **Page S5257**

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Conference Report: By 51 yeas and 46 nays (Vote No. 147), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1591, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S5128–53**

Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 4:15 p.m., on Monday, April 30, 2007, Senate begin consideration of S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions. **Page S5257**

Nonination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Harold R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on March 26, 2007 be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works. **Page S5255**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

John Roberts Hackman, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years.

Robert Gideon Howard, Jr., of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

44 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy. **Pages S5254–55, S5258**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2007.

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2010.

James R. Keith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Army. **Pages S5257–58**

Messages From the House: **Page S5182**

Measures Referred: Page S5182
Measures Read the First Time: Page S5182
Executive Communications: Pages S5182–83
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5184–85
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S5185–S5223
Additional Statements: Pages S5181–82
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S5223–24

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—147) Page S5153

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:15 a.m., and adjourned at 6:00 p.m., until 2:45 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5257.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including the USA PATRIOT Act, after receiving testimony from Robert S. Mueller, III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

UNLAWFUL ENEMY COMBATANTS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine legal issues regarding individuals detained by the Department of Defense as unlawful enemy combatants, after receiving testimony from Senator Leahy; Daniel J. Dell'Orto, Principle Deputy General Counsel, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, (Ret.) USN, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy, Concord, New Hampshire; Jeffrey H. Smith, former General Counsel of the Center Intelligence Agency, Neal K. Katyal, Georgetown University Law Center, and David B. Rivkin, Jr., Baker Hostetler, all of Washington D.C.; and Mark P. Denbeaux, Seton Hall Law School, New York, New York.

BUDGET: DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Air Force and aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Carrol H. Chandler, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Vice Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant General Donald J. Hoffman, USAF, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, both of the U.S. Air Force, William Balderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Air Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research, Development and Acquisition, and Rear Admiral Bruce W. Clingan, USN, Director, Air Warfare, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, both of the U.S. Navy, and Lieutenant General John G. Castellaw, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, all of the Department of Defense.

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation concluded a hearing to examine clean coal technology, after receiving testimony from Joseph M. Chaisson, Clean Air Task Force, Harpswell, Maine; Roberto R. Denis, Sierra Pacific Resources, Las Vegas, Nevada; Gregory J. McRae, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Chemical Engineering, Cambridge; Michael W. Rencheck, American Electric Power, Columbus, Ohio; and John M. Wilson, Siemens Power Generation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

LAND BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 169, to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, S. 312 and H.R. 497, bills to authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion, S. 580, to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails, S. 686, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historical Trail, S. 722, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 783, to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana, S. 890, to provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and H.R. 1047, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a

study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System, after receiving testimony from Senator Allard; Daniel N. Wenk, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Mayor Timmy Kerner, Lafitte, Louisiana; Brigadier General Carl W. Reddel, (Ret.) USAF, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and James P. Brown, City of St. Louis, Missouri Office of the Mayor, both of Washington, D.C.; Kim Burdick, National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Rockland, Delaware; Linda Borkow, Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, Dobbs Ferry, New York; and Gary Werner, Partnership for the National Trails System, Madison, Wisconsin.

COAL

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure concluded a hearing to examine coal, focusing on a clean coal technologies, after receiving testimony from Steve Waddington, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, Cheyenne; Nina French, ADA Environmental Solutions, Napa, California; John Diesch, Rentech Energy Midwest Corporation, East Dubuque, Illinois; Brian J. McPherson, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; and William L. Townsend, Blue Source Companies, Holladay, Utah.

OSHA

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety concluded a hearing to examine the effectiveness of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), after receiving testimony from David Michaels, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, former Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health, and Peg Seminario, AFL–CIO, both of Washington, D.C.; Konnie Compagna, Service Employees International Union, Kent, Washington; and Thomas F. Cecich, TFC and Associates, Apex, North Carolina, on behalf of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF DUCK VALLEY WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 462, to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, after receiving testimony from Senator Reid; W. Patrick Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Allen Biaggi, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City; and Kyle Prior, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 2046–2071; 1 private bill, H.R. 2072; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 42; H. Con. Res. 132–133; and H. Res. 339–343 were introduced.

Pages H4203–04

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4204–05**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 1873, to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–111, Pt. 1). **Page H4203**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Lincoln Davis to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H4179**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Monsignor George R. Coyne, St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Tiltonsville, Ohio.

Page H4179

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, April 30th. **Page H4180**

Restoring the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros: The House passed H.R. 249, to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, by a yea-and-nay vote of 277 yeas to 137 nays, Roll No. 269.

Pages H4182–92

Rejected the Price (GA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House

forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 234 noes, Roll No. 268. **Pages H4190–91**

Rejected:

Price (GA) amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2007) that sought to add a new section relating to requirement of offsets (by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 238 noes, Roll No. 267). **Pages H4187–90**

H. Res. 331, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question. **Pages H4180–82**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, May 2nd. **Page H4194**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4189–90, H4191, and H4192. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FARM CROP PROVISIONS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review proposals to amend the program crop provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Climate Change. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Tom Armstrong, Senior Advisor, Global Change Programs, U.S. Geological Survey; Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary; Sam D. Hamilton, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dan Kimball, Superintendent, Everglades National Park, and Don L. Neubacher, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, both with the National Park Service; Ron Huntsinger, National Science Coordinator, and Mike Pellant, Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator, both with the Bureau of Land Management; and Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, Forest Service, USDA.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing of the Secretary of Labor. Testimony was heard from Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on the Office of Compliance/Congressional Budget Office. Testimony was heard from Peter Orszag, Director, CBO; Tamara Chrisler, Acting Executive Director; and Peter Eveleth, General Counsel, both with the Office of Compliance.

CREDIT CARD PRACTICES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled ''Credit Card Practices: Current Consumer and Regulatory Issues.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SECURE HANDLING OF AMMONIUM NITRATE ACT OF 2007

Committee on Homeland Security: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 1680, Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007.

SAFE PORT ACT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled ''The SAFE Port Act: A Six-Month Review.'' Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: ADM Craig E. Bone, USCG, Assistant Commandant, Prevention, U.S. Coast Guard; Jayson Ahern, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection; and Maurine S. Fanguy, Program Director, Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program, Transportation Security Administration; Stephen L. Caldwell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, GAO; George P. Cummings, Director, Homeland Security, Port of Los Angeles, California; Richard A. Wainio, Port Director and CEO, Tampa Port Authority, Florida; and public witnesses.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SHARING/ CLASSIFICATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment held a hearing entitled ''The Over-Classification and Pseudo-Classification of Government Information: The Response of the Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment.'' Testimony was heard from Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Carter Morris, Director, Informational

Sharing and Knowledge Management, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; Wayne M. Murphy, Assistant Director, Directorate of Intelligence, FBI, Department of Justice; COL Bart R. Johnson, New York State Police; and Mark Zadra, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Law Enforcement, Florida.

PATIENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, The Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 1908, Patent Reform Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EMPLOYER CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK ACCESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 1700, COPS Improvements Act of 2007; and H.R. 916, John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Employer Access to Criminal Background Checks: The Need for Efficiency and Accuracy. Testimony was heard from Frank Campbell, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION AND WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law held a hearing on Proposals for Improving the Electronic Employment Verification and Worksite Enforcement System. Testimony was heard from Representatives Calvert, Dreier, Reyes, Gutierrez, and Flake; and public witnesses.

OCEANS CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR 21ST CENTURY ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 21, Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Farr and Allen; Jack Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a joint oversight hearing on Land-use Issues Associated with Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Development. Testimony was heard from Representative Peterson of Pennsylvania; Henri Bisson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior; Tony L. Ferguson, Director, Minerals and Geology Management, Forest Service, USDA; John Emmerich, Deputy Director, Department of Game and Fish, State of Wyoming; and public witnesses.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on H.R. 1462, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act. Testimony was heard from Jason Peltier, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Water and Science, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior; Ann Bleed, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Nebraska; Ted Kowalski, Program Manager, Water Conservation Board, State of Colorado; Mike Purcell, Director, Water Development Commission, State of Wyoming; and public witnesses.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy and Environment held a hearing on Establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy—H.R. 364, To provide for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL REGULATORY SYSTEM

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing on Amending Executive Order 12866: Good Governance or Regulatory Usurpation? Part II. Testimony was heard from Steve Aitken, General Counsel, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; and public witnesses.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation held a hearing on Small Business Innovation Reauthorization on the 25th Program Anniversary. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRS TAX GAP PROPOSALS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Closing the Tax Gap Without Creating Burdens for Small Businesses." Testimony was heard from Mark W. Everson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue, IRS, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—FEMA'S PREPAREDNESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held an oversight hearing on FEMA's Preparedness and Response to All Hazards. Testimony was heard from VADM Harvey Johnson, USCG (Ret.) Deputy Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

VETERANS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 92, Veterans' Timely Access Health Care Act; H.R. 315, Help Establish Access to Local Timely Healthcare for Your Veterans (Healthy Vets) Act of 2007; H.R. 339, Veterans' Outpatient Care Access Act of 2007; H.R. 463, Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act; H.R. 538, South Texas Veterans' Access to Care Act of 2007; H.R. 542, To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in languages other than English, as needed, for veterans with limited English proficiency; H.R. 1426, Richard Helm Veterans' Access to Local Health Care Options and Resources; H.R. 1470, Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act; H.R. 1471, Better Access to Chiropractors to Keep Our Veterans' Health Act (BACK Veterans' Health Act); H.R. 1527, Rural Veterans' Access to Care Act; and a draft discussion on the Rural Health Care bill and a proposed TBI bill. Testimony was heard from Chairman Filner; and Representatives Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida; Pearce, Rothman, Ortiz, Solis, Latham, Moran of Kansas and Altmire; Gerald M. Cross, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and representatives of veterans organizations.

POVERTY REDUCTION

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support held a hearing on Poverty Reduction. Testimony was heard from Linda Gibbs, Deputy Mayor, Health and Human Services, City of New York; and public witnesses.

R&D AND SYSTEMS ACQUISITION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on R&D and Systems Acquisition. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled "Dangerous Climate Change." Testimony was heard from James Hansen, Director, Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NASA; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Joint Economic Committee: On April 5, 2007, Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 110th Congress.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 30 through May 5, 2007

Senate Chamber

On Monday, at 4:15 p.m. Senate will begin consideration of S. 1082, Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 1, to hold hearings to examine conservation policy recommendations for the farm bill, 2 p.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: May 1, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for United States Forest Service, 10 a.m., SD–124.

May 2, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for global health, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

May 2, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for defense intelligence, 10:30 a.m., S–407, Capitol.

May 2, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the government of the District of Columbia, focusing on federally-funded entities, 3 p.m., SD–192.

May 3, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2088 for the Office of the Secretary of the Senate and the Library of Congress, 10 a.m., SD–124.

May 3, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Equal Employment Opportunity, 10 a.m., SD–192.

May 3, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: May 1, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense transportation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

May 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the United States Central Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program, with the possibility of a closed session in S–407 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

May 3, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold closed hearings to examine Navy force structure requirements and programs to meet those requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session in SR–222, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 30, Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism, to hold hearings to examine Halliburton and United States business ties to Iran, 2 p.m., SR–253.

May 1, Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine improving air service to small and rural communities, 10 a.m., SR–253.

May 1, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine Electronic On-Board Recorders (EOBR's) and truck driver fatigue reduction, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

May 2, Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism, to hold hearings to examine United States trade relations with China, 9:15 a.m., SR–253.

May 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 3, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 27, to authorize the implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement, 10 a.m., SD–366.

May 3, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 390, to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, S. 647, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, S. 1139, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, H.R. 276, to designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, H.R. 356, to remove certain restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District's ability to use certain property acquired by that District from the United States, S. 205, to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska, and H.R. 865, to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: May 1, Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine advanced technology vehicles, focusing on the road ahead, 10 a.m., SD–215.

May 2, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Medicare prescription drug benefit, focusing on monitoring early experiences, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 1, to hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing on measuring progress and supporting effective interventions, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 30, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine the Federal government's role in empowering Americans to make informed financial decisions, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

May 1, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Howard Charles Weizmann, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

May 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Internet as a portal to violent Islamist extremism, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 3, to hold hearings to examine S. 310, a bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, 9:30 p.m., SR–485.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 1, to hold hearings to examine process patents, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 2, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the security of international travel documents, focusing on interrupting terrorist travel, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 495, to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information, S. 239, to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing sensitive personally identifiable information, to disclose any breach of such information, S. 1202, to require agencies and persons in possession of computerized data containing sensitive personal information, to disclose security breaches where such breach poses a significant risk of identity theft, and the nominations of

Debra Ann Livingston, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Roslynn Renee Mauskopf, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Richard Sullivan, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 1, to hold hearings to examine the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (Public Law 95–511), 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

May 3, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 2, to hold hearings to examine the Nursing Home Reform Act (Public Law 100–203), focusing on what has been accomplished and what challenges still remain, 10:30 a.m., SD–628.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, May 1, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review the crop insurance industry, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

May 1, Subcommittee on Specialty Crops, Rural Development, and Foreign Agriculture, hearing on review of rural broadband programs operated by the USDA's Rural Utilities Service, 1 p.m., 1302 Longworth.

May 2, full Committee, hearing on review of the USDA's release of program beneficiaries' Social Security numbers and the Department's information systems, generally, 1 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, April 30, Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Missile Defense Agency, 1:30 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

April 30, Subcommittee on Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, executive, on Defense Intelligence Agency, 5 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

May 1, Subcommittee on Defense, on Health Personnel Overview, 10 a.m., and on Preventative Medicine and Cancers Programs, 1:30 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

May 1, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Public Witnesses, 1:30 p.m., H–144 Capitol.

May 2, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations, on Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, 9:30 a.m., 2362 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Defense, on Defense Health Program Overview, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

May 3, Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Mobility Aircraft, 10 a.m., and on Joint Strike Fighter and Tactical Aircraft, 1:30 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, May 2, Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 11:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Readiness, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 11 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, to mark up H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, April 30, Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness, hearing on "Paying For a College Education: Barriers and Solutions for Students and Families," 1:30 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, hearing on Retirement Security: Strengthening Pension Protections, 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 1, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled "Achieving—At Long Last—Appliance Efficiency Standards," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 1014, Heart Disease Education, Analysis Research, and Treatment for Women Act, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 20, Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on H.R. 1902, Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act of 2007, 3 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Assessing the Impact of a Safe and Equitable Biosimilar Policy in the United States," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled "Facilitating the Transition to a Smart Electric Grid," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures?' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 1, to consider the following bills: H.R. 698, Industrial Bank Holding Company Act of 2007; and H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, 4 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 1, hearing on the Future of Political, Economic and Security Relations with China, 12:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Europe and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, joint hearing on Do the United States and Europe Need A Missile Defense System? 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight and the Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia, joint hearing on Arab Opinion on American Policies, Values, and People, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 1, hearing entitled "The Direction and Viability of the Federal Protective Service," 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, May 2, meeting of the Ad Hoc Election Panel to discuss matters pertaining to the Contested Election in the 13th Congressional District of Florida,10 a.m., 1309 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 1, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, to consider issuing subpoenas to James Comey; followed by a hearing on the Second Anniversary of the Enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005: Are Consumers Really Being Protected Under the Act: 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 1525, Internet Spyware (I–SPY) Prevention Act of 2007, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, hearing on An Examination of Point Systems as a Method for Selecting Immigrants, 3 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

May 3, Antitrust Task Force, to consider the findings and recommendations of the Antitrust Modernization Commission, as established by the Antitrust Modernization Commission Act of 2002, 1:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, to continue hearings on the Continuing Investigation into the U.S. Attorneys Controversy, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 660, Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, hearing on the U.S. Economy, U.S. Workers, and Immigration Reform, 3 p.m., 2137 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 1, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, joint oversight hearing on The Future of Fossil Fuels: Geological and Terrestrial Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 1, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing on Gone with Wind: Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds and Bats, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 3, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a precursor to the Conference of the Parties, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 1, hearing on FDA's Critical Mission and Challenges for the Future, 10 a.m, 2154 Rayburn.

May 2, full committee, to consider pending business, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 2, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Evaluating Children's Dentistry Under Medicaid, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 3, full Committee, hearing on Crop Insurance, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, May 1, to consider the following: H.R. 1429, Improving Head Start Act of 2007; H.R. 1867, National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007; and H.R. 1868, Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007, 2:30 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, May 2, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on NASA's Space Science Programs: Review of Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request and Issues, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Reorienting the U.S. Global Change Research Program Toward a User-Driven Research Endeavor, H.R. 906, Global Change Research Data Management Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on Transitioning the Environmental Measurements Laboratory to the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 3, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on The SouthEast Crescent Authority, The Northern Border Economic Development Commission, and the Southwest Regional Border Authority, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 3, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Accelerated Education Benefits for Veterans, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 1, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing to examine the SSA's ability to hire Administrative Law Judges to address the growing disability claims backlog, 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

May 3, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on financial assistance programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 1, executive, to mark up the Fiscal Year 2008 Intelligence Authorization Act, time to be announced, H–405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2:45 p.m., Monday, April 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 4:15 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S.1082, Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Monday, April 30

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Altmire, Jason, Pa., E886
Baca, Joe, Calif., E864
Becerra, Xavier, Calif., E883
Bonner, Jo, Ala., E862, E863
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E869
Brady, Robert A., Pa., E861, E863
Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E861, E862, E862, E863, E863, E864, E874, E875, E875
Castle, Michael N., Del., E877
Costa, Jim, Calif., E883
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E884
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln, Fla., E885
Dingell, John D., Mich., E866, E871
Doyle, Michael F., Pa., E877
Ehlers, Vernon J., Mich., E872
Filner, Bob, Calif., E871
Fossella, Vito, N.Y., E886
Garrett, Scott, N.J., E880
Gerlach, Jim, Pa., E873, E874, E875
Green, Gene, Tex., E867, E877
Harman, Jane, Calif., E880
Hensarling, Jeb, Tex., E885
Herger, Wally, Calif., E865
Herseth, Stephanie, S.D., E865
Holt, Rush D., N.J., E876
Hooley, Darlene, Ore., E873, E874, E875
Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E866, E881
Inslee, Jay, Wash., E874, E885
Israel, Steve, N.Y., E870
Jackson-Lee, Sheila, Tex., E880
Johnson, Sam, Tex., E886
Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E881
Kennedy, Patrick J., R.I., E866
Langevin, James R., R.I., E869
Lewis, Ron, Ky., E868
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E861, E862, E882
McGovern, James P., Mass., E867
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E885
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E876, E884
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E867
Moran, Jerry, Kans., E873
Murphy, Patrick J., Pa., E876, E883
Paul, Ron, Tex., E868, E872
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E861
Porter, Jon C., Nev., E869, E871
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E864
Reyes, Silvestre, Tex., E884
Ross, Mike, Ark., E872, E872
Roybal-Allard, Lucille, Calif., E870
Royce, Edward R., Calif., E879
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E871
Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E881
Sessions, Pete, Tex., E878
Shimkus, John, Ill., E862, E863
Skelton, Ike, Mo., E881
Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E870, E882
Stupak, Bart, Mich., E865, E878
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E882
Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E875
Udall, Mark, Colo., E873, E879
Walden, Greg, Ore., E866, E867
Walsh, James T., N.Y., E864, E868
Walz, Timothy J., Minn., E885
Westmoreland, Lynn A., Mac, Ga., E883
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E877
Woolsey, Lynn C., Calif., E879

Congressional Record The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through *GPO Access*, a service of the Government Printing Office, free of charge to the user. The online database is updated each day the *Congressional Record* is published. The database includes both text and graphics from the beginning of the 103d Congress, 2d session (January 1994) forward. It is available through *GPO Access* at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess. Customers can also access this information with WAIS client software, via telnet at swais.access.gpo.gov, or dial-in using communications software and a modem at 202–512–1661. Questions or comments regarding this database or *GPO Access* can be directed to the *GPO Access* User Support Team at: E-Mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov; Phone 1–888–293–6498 (toll-free), 202–512–1530 (D.C. area); Fax: 202–512–1262. The Team's hours of availability are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, except Federal holidays. ¶The *Congressional Record* paper and 24x microfiche edition will be furnished by mail to subscribers, free of postage, at the following prices: paper edition, $252.00 for six months, $503.00 per year, or purchased as follows: less than 200 pages, $10.50; between 200 and 400 pages, $21.00; greater than 400 pages, $31.50, payable in advance; microfiche edition, $146.00 per year, or purchased for $3.00 per issue payable in advance. The semimonthly *Congressional Record Index* may be purchased for the same per issue prices. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250–7954, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2250. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.