

have the Bush deficits that we have to deal with, and we cannot rewrite history. It is our responsibility to balance the Federal budget.

The budget resolution we have before us, offered by the Budget Committee, puts us on a glidepath to balancing the budget at a faster rate than the President's budget would. So we are acting fiscally responsible and investing in America's future, investing in jobs, and providing the appropriate tax relief for middle-income families.

I thank Chairman CONRAD for his cooperation and leadership and for bringing us all together on the Budget Committee. I particularly thank him for the help on an amendment I was able to get into the budget resolution, which will help in providing dental care particularly to our children.

I mention that whenever I can because a little over a year ago, a 12-year-old boy from Maryland, who lived about 6 miles from here, Deamonte Driver, had a toothache. His mom tried to get him to a dentist. Social workers made numerous phone calls to try to find a dentist to take care of his needs. That was in 2007, in the United States of America, in my own State of Maryland. They could not find a dentist who would take care of him. He only needed an \$80 tooth extraction. Instead, he suffered from abscessed teeth and he had to go through two brain surgeries, costing a quarter of a million dollars, and he lost his life because we would not invest in access to affordable dental care for our children.

I thank Chairman CONRAD for allowing an amendment to be added to this budget bill that will allow the Finance Committee to bring a bill to this floor that will make sure we will have no more tragedies like Deamonte Driver's in America, and make sure our children have access to dental care. It is the No. 1 leading disease affecting children. The number of children who have untreated tooth decay is alarming, particularly in minority communities and in rural areas. We can do much better. This budget resolution will allow us to move in that direction.

I thank Chairman CONRAD for allowing us to move forward with NIH research so we can do much better. In the 1990s, we were committed to doubling the amount of money in NIH. It was a great day for this Nation. But the Bush budgets would have us fall back and lose our competitive advantage. The budget before us will allow us to continue to make progress in the Federal Government on NIH research.

On Amtrak funding, I thank the chairman and the committee for allowing us to move forward. Senator LAUTENBERG has been particularly effective in bringing this issue to our attention. We need an efficient rail system in this country.

We have read recently about how we have to monitor our water more effectively. The budget before us gives us a much better chance of achieving those objectives than the President's budget.

This budget is a good investment for America's future—that is what it is—so we can become more competitive and pay down our debt, so we can provide the appropriate relief to middle-income families. It is about choices, and we made tougher choices. We could not do everything we wanted to do.

I want to make this point: Considering the legacy of the Bush deficits we have to deal with, considering the economic problems this Nation is confronting, considering the political realities we have to work with, where there are serious differences between the majority in Congress and President Bush, considering all those issues, considering the Bush budget and how that would lead us into red ink by providing tax relief to individuals who I don't believe need it—particularly when we are asking our children and grandchildren to pick up those costs—considering all that, and considering that this budget puts a priority on job growth and the competitiveness of our Nation, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I think it is worthy of strong support in this body. I am certain when we pass this resolution and reconcile it with the House, many of the implementing bills are going to enjoy large bipartisan support.

This budget resolution deserves that support. I am proud to endorse it, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:25 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 313, received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 313) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families in the war in Iraq and to re-

member those who are serving our Nation in Afghanistan and throughout the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 313) was agreed to.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

AMENDMENT NO. 4160

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS], for himself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENEZDEZ, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. CONRAD, proposes an amendment numbered 4160.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and tax relief to America's troops and veterans)

On page 3, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,755,000,000.

On page 3, line 12, decrease the amount by \$1,730,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, decrease the amount by \$28,324,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, decrease the amount by \$167,072,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, decrease the amount by \$141,689,000,000.

On page 3, line 20, decrease the amount by \$1,755,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, decrease the amount by \$1,730,000,000.

On page 3, line 22, decrease the amount by \$28,324,000,000.

On page 3, line 23, decrease the amount by \$167,072,000,000.

On page 3, line 24, decrease the amount by \$141,689,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, increase the amount by \$22,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$97,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, increase the amount by \$846,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$5,664,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, increase the amount by \$13,496,000,000.

On page 4, line 14, increase the amount by \$22,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$97,000,000.