

and it brings in about \$20 billion. Where is the President's promise that he would not raise taxes on individuals who make under \$250,000 a year? Well, it is nonexistent. Last week, this was made clear during the Finance Committee markup. When asked about the effect of this individual mandate tax on the middle class, the chief of staff for the Joint Committee on Taxation responded:

We would expect that some people paying would make less than \$250,000.

For hard-working families, the individual mandates will load them up with a fancy benefit plan covering services they may not want or need. They will be required to buy it or their government will penalize them.

This is a complex and a fundamental shift in how we approach health care in our great country, indeed, in how much the government dictates the health care decisions of each and every American.

Furthermore, this legislation raises money by taxing insurance companies, medical device manufacturers, and prescription drug manufacturers. Does anybody doubt for a minute that will be passed on to the average guy? There is little doubt that these increased taxes will lead to higher premiums, more expensive medical equipment, and higher drug prices for Americans. These industries will compensate for the added tax by raising prices, ultimately raising the cost of health care in this country.

Additionally, this plan is likely to decrease research and development in the health care sector, which has been a major driver of innovation and improvement in health care quality. Creating policy that decreases the quality of our health care makes no sense. It is counterproductive. Requiring employers to provide health insurance to their employees or be fined or taxed does not make sense. The Finance Committee proposal is expected to collect \$27 billion worth of those fines or taxes. In tough economic times, with unemployment almost in double digits and forecasts to go into double digits, putting more requirements and mandates on job creators and job sustainers is counterproductive. Employers will think twice about hiring more workers.

There is little doubt that these increased taxes will lead to higher insurance premiums, more expensive medical equipment, and higher drug prices for Americans. These industries will compensate by raising their prices. They simply will.

I fear low-income Americans will suffer the most. They need those jobs. We must carefully evaluate the details of this legislation and ensure that our attempts to make things better, which I believe we can do in a bipartisan way, do not ultimately make things worse. I suggest that in tough economic times, creating legislation that increases the cost of health care, that raises taxes is not true health care reform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MAJORITY PARTY MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 290.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 290) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with the filling of Senator Kennedy's seat by the State of Massachusetts, we are now rearranging the committees. Some have been vacant since his death.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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. 290) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 290

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Levin (Chairman), Mr. Byrd, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Reed, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Mr. Nelson (Nebraska), Mr. Bayh, Mr. Webb, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Udall (Colorado), Mrs. Hagan, Mr. Begich, Mr. Burriss, and Mr. Kirk.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS: Mr. Harkin (Chairman), Mr. Dodd, Ms. Mikulski, Mr. Bingaman, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Reed, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Brown, Mr. Casey, Mrs. Hagan, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Franken, and Mr. Bennet.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Lieberman (Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Carper, Mr. Pryor, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Tester, Mr. Burriss, and Mr. Kirk.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Schumer (Vice Chairman), Mr. Bingaman, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Casey, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Warner.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, as the Senate realizes the business today is the administration's fiscal year 2010 Defense budget proposal, our Committee on Appropriations, as everyone knows, in the regular order, had hearings and took advantage of advice from testimony and suggestions received by other Senators on and off the committee about the provisions of this important legislation. It sets out, as the Senate appreciates, the funding that will be permitted by the Department of

Defense for the next fiscal year. So the subject we have today before us is specifically an issue involving a funding provision in the administration's fiscal year 2010 Defense budget proposal.

The administration proposed several funding cuts for weapons programs they deemed unneeded. The Senate Appropriations Committee, in its hearings and in its deliberations, reviewed each of the proposals and generally agreed with the recommendations set forth in the administration's budget submittal.

This bill does not include additional funding for F-22 aircraft, the Presidential helicopter, the Joint Strike Fighter alternate engine, the combat search and rescue helicopter, the Kinetic Energy Interceptor, and several other programs which were proposed for funding cuts by this administration.

The C-17 aircraft is an area where we did not agree. The committee proposed \$2.5 billion be included in the bill for 10 additional aircraft. As we all know, the Defense Department is not infallible. It was wrong and overruled by Congress when it recommended program terminations of the F-117 stealth fighter and the V-22 Osprey.

The C-17 is the current backbone of our strategic airlift capability, and it will be for decades to come. C-17s are being utilized all over the world at a much faster pace than previously anticipated. While they comprise only 60 percent of the Air Force's strategic airlift fleet, they are flying 80 percent of all worldwide strategic airlift missions.

This demand for C-17 lift capability is only going to grow as new airlift missions emerge. Other missions we know about already are rapid deployment of theater missile defenses, counterinsurgency operations, as well as growing airlift demands for an expanding Army and Marine Corps.

Failure to fund the C-17 will result in the United States shutting down its airlift manufacturing base at a time when the demand for airlift is likely to grow. Allowing the C-17 supply base and production line to shut down and then trying to reconstitute it would cost billions of dollars and take years to accomplish.

The Quadrennial Defense Review and the upcoming Mobility Capability and Requirements Study are reassessing our strategic airlift requirements. Until those requirements are reevaluated, the C-17s should be included in this bill. The Air Force Chief of Staff has stated that he believes 205 C-17s and 111 C-5s are needed to meet strategic airlift requirements and that procuring more than the 205 C-17s already purchased should involve a light reduction and retirement of C-5A aircraft.

Prior to enactment of the fiscal year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act in June of this year, the Air Force was prohibited from retiring the older and less capable C-5As. Now that the Department has authority to retire these aircraft, we should replace a number of