

statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 859

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now move to Calendar No. 154, S. 859, the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 529

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 117, S. 529, Great Cats and Rare Canids Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 850

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 270, S. 850, the Shark Conservation Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1748

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move now to consideration of S. 1748, the Southern Sea Otter Recovery & Research Act, as reported by the Commerce Committee; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. COBURN. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to speak in morning business and will confine my remarks to the objections I just made to the leader's motions.

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

SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I am simply amazed that, when we are borrowing \$4.2 billion a day from our grandkids—that is what we are borrowing, \$4.2 billion a day—we are going to run a \$1.4 trillion deficit, and we have a unanimous consent request to move to things that spend more money, money we do not have that we are going to borrow from the Chinese or Russians to be able to pay for it, and we are going to spend the money overseas. There is no question that we should try to develop consensus in our body, but the first consensus we should have is the priorities of the problems that are facing this country. The problems that are facing this country are so big and so massive that our attention ought to be focused on those large problems, not on five separate bills that have been proffered for special interest groups. I don't understand the motivations. What I do understand is that the American people get it, even if we do not.

The fact that we are going to make attempts for political purposes to put bills that are not paid for and that will

add to the \$4.2 billion a day that we borrow on the floor when our economy is languishing because we continue to grow the Federal Government, continue to build regulations that affect and diminish the desire for people with capital to invest it in our economy—and we force people out of this country to build their plants and manufacturing facilities because of our regulations and tax codes, I do not understand.

My objections—I will not spend the time exactly outlining my objections to all these bills, but my overall objection is the priorities we are setting in the Senate. We ought to be about creating confidence so people will invest in this country rather than continuing to undermine that confidence with superfluous, well-meaning bills that are put up for political purposes instead of addressing the real problems that are facing our country.

Out of a courtesy to Senator REID and the agreement I just made with him, I will not offer my unanimous consent request at this time, but I will later today after he has had a chance to read them, on the following five bills:

The Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. Mr. President, 140,000 veterans in this country have lost their second amendment rights. It has never been adjudicated that they were a danger to themselves or anybody else. Yet a bureaucrat somewhere has taken away their second amendment rights. This bill has come out of committee twice. Senator BURR is the lead sponsor on it. We treat veterans as second-class citizens when it comes to their second amendment rights. We ought to pass that. I will ask that later.

The Firearms Fairness and Affordability Act. We make firearms manufacturers pay their taxes every 2 weeks instead of quarterly like every other manufacturer in this country. But we penalize them. We ought to treat them the same as everybody else.

The earmark transparency bill gives one Web site so everybody in America can see where the earmarks are, who offered them, what the basis for them is, whether they were competitively bid. That is something America would like to see.

Then there are two tax cheat bills, for us as Members of Congress and our employees and then other Federal employees.

So I will not offer those unanimous consent requests at this time, but I will later in the day. Again, there are important, big problems in front of this country. We need to be about addressing those rather than special interest favors at this time.

I yield the floor, and 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. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent

that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE CHARLES HIGH

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began nearly 9 years ago, 72 service members with New Mexico ties have lost their lives while defending our Nation and the freedoms we hold dear.

Seventy-two. They were brothers and fathers and husbands and sons and friends. Each was irreplaceable to his family. Each had a different story. Today, I rise to tell the story of one of those men.

U.S. Army PVT Charles High was 21 years old, a son of the city of Albuquerque who attended Eldorado High School.

Known as “Charlie” to his friends, he played the viola in his high school orchestra. He ran track. And he taught himself how to play guitar.

Charlie’s dad says he always knew that his son would join the military. He signed up for Junior ROTC when he was 14, and his dad said he was hooked. He went on to join the Army in June of 2007 and was stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky as part of the elite 101st Airborne Division.

His tour in Afghanistan was his second overseas. He served his first tour in 2008 in Iraq.

Charlie was killed last month when an IED detonated near his vehicle, which was patrolling in Afghanistan’s Kunar Province.

He leaves behind his dad Charles, his mom Kimberlea Johnson of Illinois, his fiancée Maggie Jo Simmonds, four siblings, his grandparents and great-grandmother, and dozens of other family members and friends.

A month before he was killed, Charlie had gone home to Albuquerque for a visit with friends and family. Here is what his Dad said when asked about his son’s death:

I would say he’s a true American hero. He fought and died for his country. He died doing what he wanted to do. I hate to see him go so young, but he was quite a young man all the way around. When he was home, we could see how much he had grown.

Charlie’s impact on all who knew him was evident in the messages of condolence left for his family after his death.

“He was a great friend and example,” read one.

“You never gave up and never surrendered,” said another.

“He gave his life for freedom.”

“He is a hero to us all.”

Private High: you truly are a “hero to us all.” You are forever in our hearts, and we are forever in your debt.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF RULE RELATING TO GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLAN—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S.J. Res. 39.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 2 hours of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, the resolution we are debating today is about keeping a promise. The authors of the new health care law promised the American people that if they liked their current health insurance, they could keep it. On at least 47 separate occasions, President Obama promised: “If you like what you have, you can keep it.”

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has broken that promise. Earlier this year, the administration published a regulation that will fundamentally change the health insurance plans of millions of Americans. The reality of this new regulation is, if you like what you have, you can’t keep it. The new regulation implemented the grandfathered health plan section of the new health care law. It specified how existing health plans could avoid the most onerous new rules and redtape included in the 2,700 pages of the new health care law.

This provision was a critical part of the new law. It allowed supporters to argue that current health insurance plans would be exempt from all of the rules and regulations created by the new law. Employers and health plans were told that the grandfathered protections would mean if you have coverage on the day the law passed, you could keep that coverage without having to make any major changes.

Employers and employees thought the bill would have cost-cutting measures, but now they find only cost increases. The new law will provide no relief to increasing costs until at least 2014. But this rule and its higher costs kick in now. Unfortunately, the regulation writers at the Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services broke all those promises. The regulation is crystal clear. Most businesses—the administration estimates between 39 and 69 percent—will not be able to keep the coverage they have.

Under the new regulation, once a business loses grandfathered status,

they will have to comply with all of the new mandates in the law. This means these businesses will have to change their current plans and purchase more expensive ones that meet all of the new Federal minimum requirements. For the 80 percent of small businesses that will lose their grandfathered status because of this regulation, the net result is clear: They will pay more for their health insurance.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported costs as going up between 1 and 9 percent because of the mandates included in the new health care law. Couple this increase with inflation, and small businesses are looking at a 20-percent cost increase. I actually know something about small business; I used to run one.

I ran a shoe store in Wyoming. I stocked the shelves, worked the customers to fit shoes, ran the cash register. I placed the orders with suppliers. I did the accounting, I swept the sidewalk, I cleaned the toilets. I knew what it was like to worry about making payroll at the end of the month. I know firsthand about the struggles and challenges America’s small businesses face. I understand what this regulation will do to small businesses across the country. Small businesses are struggling every day to find the resources to provide health insurance to their employees. Rather than making it easier for those businesses to continue to provide this coverage, the new regulation will mean that employers will simply drop their health coverage altogether. That is why I am so concerned about this grandfathered health plan regulation, and that is why I introduced the resolution we are debating today.

My resolution would force the administration to actually keep their promises. The resolution would overturn this grandfathered health plan regulation and allow tens of thousands of businesses across the country to keep their current plans. If we pass the resolution, millions of Americans will be spared from paying higher health care costs as a result of new Federal mandates. If we pass the resolution, small businesses across the country will not have to drop health insurance for their workers.

Congress created the Congressional Review Act we are using today specifically to overturn Federal regulations such as the one we are discussing. The sponsors of the Review Act recognized that too often Washington bureaucrats impose sweeping new regulations with little thought to the impact these changes will have in the real world. In particular, the Review Act was intended to protect small businesses across the country that are often most vulnerable to new government mandates and regulations.

That is precisely what happened with the grandfathered health plan regulation. The regulation writers went above and beyond what the law said and came up with a whole slew of requirements businesses must comply