

several high-profile first amendment cases on a pro-bono basis. Before joining that firm, Mr. Simon was a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Simon has the strong support of his two home State Senators. His nomination was reported by the Committee with strong bipartisan support.

These consensus nominees are in addition to the other highly qualified nominations on which the Senate has not been allowed to vote for many months.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session. The Senator from Illinois.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate move to morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if I could.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would say to the Senator from Illinois that I have an agreement with everybody on a 6-week extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance and the Trade Preference Act, and on both sides everybody has agreed.

I know I can't do that in morning business, so I ask unanimous consent, as soon as it is written up, that I be permitted to propose that legislation.

Mr. DURBIN. I have no objection to your bringing it up whenever it is prepared, and we will of course consider it at that time.

I thank the Senator for his work on this effort.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

FIRST RESPONDERS BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am delighted the Senate was able to reach an agreement to provide health care for the men and women who helped in the rescue, recovery, and cleanup efforts after the 9/11 attacks.

In the years since then, as we all know, a number of these brave Americans have become ill. Today represents an important step in making sure they receive the care they need as a result of their extraordinary service. No one has ever questioned whether to provide the care they need. The only question was how to do so.

Like many of my colleagues, I have been concerned that attempts to rush this legislation at the end of the session would prevent us from ensuring

the bill was written in a responsible fashion. I still believe this cause and this legislation would have benefited from a bipartisan committee process. But thanks to the hard work of a number of Senators—most notably Senators COBURN and ENZI and their staffs—we have come a long way in improving this bill.

We have made sure that more compensation will go to victims than trial lawyers. It has got improved oversight, so money isn't siphoned away from the people who need it. We put time limits on the legislation so Congress can come back and review what has worked and where improvements can be made. So this is a much better product.

Some have tried to portray this debate as a debate between those who support 9/11 workers and those who don't. This is a gross distortion of the facts. There was never any doubt about supporting the first responders. It was about doing it right.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senator from Hawaii has to make a quick departure, so I ask he be recognized after this quick request.

HELPING HEROES KEEP THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4058 introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4058) to extend certain expiring provisions providing enhanced protections for servicemembers relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosure.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 4058) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4058

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 "Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED PROTECTIONS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS RELATING TO MORTGAGES AND MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.

Paragraph (2) of section 2203(c) of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-289) is amended—

(1) by striking "December 31, 2010" and inserting "December 31, 2012"; and

(2) by striking "January 1, 2011" and inserting "January 1, 2013".

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to reaffirm my strong commitment to have the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act enacted into law. This bill is of great importance to all of the people of Hawaii. The bill would simply put the State of Hawaii on equal footing with the rest of the country in the treatment of its indigenous people. It provides a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian governing entity. However, since I first introduced this common-sense bill 10 years ago, it has been the subject of misleading attacks and procedural hurdles, and has never had the opportunity for an up-or-down vote here on the Senate floor.

Earlier this month, a handful of my colleagues who oppose this measure put out a press release, fueling speculation that I was seeking to attach this bill to must-pass, end-of-session legislation. One of these colleagues said that this measure—and I quote, "should be brought up separately and debated openly on the Senate floor with the opportunity for amendment." I could not agree more.

A structured debate followed by an up-or-down vote on this legislation is long overdue. The people of Hawaii have waited for far too long.

This Congress, the bill was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and it was passed by the House of Representatives. Despite this, it was not given an opportunity to be debated and voted on, here on the Senate floor.

I am deeply disappointed that we did not have the opportunity to consider this bill during the 111th Congress. This historic Congress saw a great many accomplishments on behalf of the American people, but tragically, it also saw unprecedented obstruction.

I remain committed to passing this bill. I am hopeful that, when we convene next year in the new Congress, I can count on every one of my colleagues to be supportive of my efforts to bring this bill to the Senate floor.

The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act is a Hawaii-specific measure. In the long traditions of the U.S. Senate, it was considered a courtesy to stand with your colleagues on matters specifically addressing the needs of their home State. This civility seems to have vanished from this Chamber.

It is frustrating to me that some of my colleagues have worked aggressively to block this bill. For some reason, they have made it a priority to prevent the people of my State from moving forward to resolve issues caused by the illegal overthrow of the Native Hawaiian government in 1893.