

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Fischer	Mikulski
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Franken	Murkowski
Baucus	Graham	Murray
Begich	Grassley	Nelson
Bennet	Hagan	Paul
Blunt	Harkin	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Pryor
Burr	Heinrich	Reid
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Risch
Carper	Heller	Roberts
Casey	Hoeben	Rockefeller
Chambliss	Inhofe	Rubio
Chiesa	Isakson	Schatz
Coats	Johanns	Schumer
Coburn	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Collins	Kaine	Shaheen
Coons	King	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Tester
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Crapo	Landrieu	Toomey
Cruz	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Leahy	Sanders
Boxer	Lee	Stabenow
Brown	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cardin	Menendez	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—1

McCaskill

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 60-vote threshold having been achieved on this bill, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 1911), as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1911

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1911) entitled “An Act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013, to direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following amendment:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. INTEREST RATES.

(a) *INTEREST RATES.*—Section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2013” after “ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2006”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “on or after July 1, 2006,”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “on or after July 1, 2006,”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “on or after July 1, 2006,”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) *INTEREST RATE PROVISIONS FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2013.*—

“(A) *RATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE FDSL AND FDUSL.*—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, for Federal Direct Stafford Loans and Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans issued to undergraduate students, for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2013, the applicable rate of interest shall, for loans disbursed during any 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, be determined on the preceding June 1 and be equal to the lesser of—

“(i) a rate equal to the high yield of the 10-year Treasury note auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1 plus 2.05 percent; or

“(ii) 8.25 percent.

“(B) *RATES FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL FDUSL.*—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans issued to graduate or professional students, for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2013, the applicable rate of interest shall, for loans disbursed during any 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, be determined on the preceding June 1 and be equal to the lesser of—

“(i) a rate equal to the high yield of the 10-year Treasury note auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1 plus 3.6 percent; or

“(ii) 9.5 percent.

“(C) *PLUS LOANS.*—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, for Federal Direct PLUS Loans, for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2013, the applicable rate of interest shall, for loans disbursed during any 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, be determined on the preceding June 1 and be equal to the lesser of—

“(i) a rate equal to the high yield of the 10-year Treasury note auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1 plus 4.6 percent; or

“(ii) 10.5 percent.

“(D) *CONSOLIDATION LOANS.*—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, any Federal Direct Consolidation Loan for which the application is received on or after July 1, 2013, shall bear interest at an annual rate on the unpaid principal balance of the loan that is equal to the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans consolidated, rounded to the nearest higher one-eighth of one percent.

“(E) *CONSULTATION.*—The Secretary shall determine the applicable rate of interest under this paragraph after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and shall publish such rate in the Federal Register as soon as practicable after the date of determination.

“(F) *RATE.*—The applicable rate of interest determined under this paragraph for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct PLUS Loan shall be fixed for the period of the loan.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on July 1, 2013.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) *PAYGO SCORECARD.*—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) *SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.*—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

SEC. 4. STUDY ON THE ACTUAL COST OF ADMINISTERING THE FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) complete a study that determines the actual cost to the Federal Government of carrying out the Federal student loan programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), which shall—

(A) provide estimates relying on accurate information based on past, current, and projected data as to the appropriate index and mark-up rate for the Federal Government’s cost of borrowing that would allow the Federal Government to effectively administer and cover the cost of the Federal student programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) under the scoring rules outlined in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(B) provide the information described in this section in a way that separates out administrative costs, interest rate, and other loan terms and conditions; and

(C) set forth clear recommendations to the relevant authorizing committees of Congress as to how future legislation can incorporate the results of the study described in this section to allow for the administration of the Federal student loan programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) without generating any additional revenue to the Federal Government except revenue that is needed to carry out such programs; and

(2) prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives setting forth the conclusions of the study described in this section in such a manner that the recommendations included in the report can inform future reauthorizations of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, if it is in order, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Arkansas.

THUD APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of the THUD appropriations bill that is on the floor this week. I know all of us have listened to the speeches and the commentators, and we hear a lot of people around Washington say: Cut, cut, cut.

Well, I am for cutting our spending, and I think we need to tighten our belt, but we need to do it in a smart way, and we need to do things such as cut programs that do not work. We need to also make smart and targeted investments in our future. The question is, how do we do that?

Well, one of the ways we do that is by supporting this legislation today. By

working together and investing in our future, we can do great things for this country, and that is what the THUD bill is about.

Yesterday, the FAA announced seven airports in our State would receive a total of \$4.8 million from the FAA for infrastructure upgrades. That is part of what the bill is about. Some of these are runway rehabilitations, some are new lighting systems, some may be drainage improvements. These not only promote safety—and certainly they make air travel safer in this country, and that is extremely important—but also they are a way to spur economic activity. It is a great way to reinvest Federal tax dollars into my State and into the other 49 States to create jobs. Let me give Arkansas as an example of this.

In Arkansas—and I know we are only about 1 percent of the population, so you can kind of do the math here—commercial and general aviation airports actually support 29,000 jobs and contribute \$2.5 billion every year in economic activity.

Our airports are important, but it is only actually a piece of the puzzle. We need to remember that we have other great infrastructure we need to invest in, such as waterways and ports and highways, and rural communities—we have to make sure they are not left behind—such as rural housing, but also rural broadband.

So there are a lot of ways we can invest to make this country stronger. That is why I believe it is very important to support this THUD appropriations bill.

The bill passed in committee on a bipartisan vote 22 to 8. I was proud to vote for it. I was glad to see it get such a large bipartisan vote in the Senate subcommittee. I certainly hope my colleagues will do this again on the floor in a very bipartisan way.

This bill includes things such as the Federal-Aid Highway Program. This is a program that helps support interstate maintenance, bridge repairs, highway safety. After all, how many reports do we have to read that talk about the distressed infrastructure of our highways? So if we want to replace these bridges that are beyond their lifespan, this is the way to do it.

Every \$1 billion in Federal highway and transit investment supports 13,000 American jobs.

This bill also includes popular programs that have been put to good use, such as TIGER. I could go through several of the TIGER grants my State has received, but one of those I am proud of is the TIGER grant for West Memphis, AR, to develop their port. It is an intermodal facility on the Mississippi River, right across from Memphis, which is crowded. West Memphis has all the same attributes that Memphis has, it just happens to be on the Arkansas side of the river, and that investment there is going to explode development and do great things up and down the Mississippi River.

The Airport Improvement Program is also part of this, the Contract Tower Program, the Community Development Block Grants. Every mayor, every elected official in the counties, the Governors—they all know how important the CDBG money is.

The other great thing about supporting this legislation is that it is one step in the right direction headed back to what we call regular order, trying to get things done in the Senate the way they ought to be done, with us working together, going through the committee process, coming to the floor with a bill, having amendments, having debate, sometimes fussing and fighting with one another, but nonetheless getting it done, and this is a great way to do that.

I believe moving our country forward with new jobs and a stronger economy is something we all should be able to agree on. All of us should be able to agree on this, maybe with a little difference here and there. But I hope a big number of Senators will support this legislation.

Lastly, let me say a few words about Chairwoman MIKULSKI and her ranking member Senator SHELBY. Senator MIKULSKI has been amazing in her leadership of the Appropriations Committee. Everybody on the committee knows she is a breath of fresh air. She is so energetic and so knowledgeable and so good at what she does. We are so excited to have her there as chair of that committee. She is going to go down in history as one of the all-time greats. We are so proud she is pushing so hard to get these bills out of the committee and get them to the Senate floor and, hopefully, get them done on the Senate floor, so we can send them over to the House and get them conferenced.

Also, I have to say thank you to Senator MURRAY, who is the chair of this subcommittee, and also Senator COLLINS. I think Senator COLLINS is a great legislator. She knows how to get it done. She knows how all the bits and pieces work around here. She knows the process. She has great relations on both sides of the aisle. One thing I like about SUSAN COLLINS is a lot of times she will take on the hard items. She gets the hard work done. We need more Senators like her around here.

Certainly Senator MURRAY is incredible. She does so much good in the Senate and for the country and for her State.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to look at this bill. I know we are going to have some amendments, we are going to have some more debate. That is part of it. That is great. But let's get up-or-down votes and let's get this through the system.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here once again, actually now for

the 40th time, to urge my colleagues to wake up to the threat of climate change.

I am very pleased to be joined today by our colleague Senator BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii, who is a champion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. As Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor, he co-authored his State's net metering rule, which encourages renewable energy, and he led the design of the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio, which is on track to be No. 1 in the Nation. He has pushed commonsense ways to boost energy security and battle climate change, and it is no wonder he has been called Hawaii's "Ambassador of Energy."

We are here today in the wake of a hearing last week in the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The premise of that hearing was simple—"Climate Change: It's Happening Now." Disappointingly, again, allies of the fossil fuel industry attempted to discount or downplay that straightforward call to action.

Of the climate scientists on hand, everyone—even the minority witnesses—agreed that carbon dioxide causes climate change. That is physics 101. And all but one agreed that climate change is a real problem. The only academic who did not, Dr. Roy Spencer, is affiliated with the industry-backed George C. Marshall Institute and the Heartland Institute.

Regrettably, Dr. Spencer played a tried-and-true trick of the climate deniers: deselecting data that does not support your conclusions. Scientists around the world have been collecting high-quality surface temperature data for more than 100 years. To Dr. Spencer, however, the only data that matters are satellite and balloon readings of atmospheric temperatures in the tropics. Why ignore data outside the tropics? Why ignore surface temperature data? Why ignore ocean data, when the oceans cover two-thirds of the globe? Well, when you look at all the data, it shows the Earth warming at a much faster rate than his data in isolation.

Other minority witnesses played similar games.

Ms. Furchtgott-Roth, who is not a climate scientist, testified. She appears to be a sort of all-purpose witness-of-all-trades for the Republicans on topics that range from job training to health insurance to constitutional law, even to Samoan fisheries. She claimed that climate change has stopped.

Well, if you look at the past decade, you can convince yourself that climate change has stopped. Actually, on this chart I have in the Chamber, you can convince yourself that climate change has stopped five different times. But when you look at the whole picture, the only conclusion is that the Earth is getting warmer. The past 10 years were warmer than the 10 years before that. In fact, the past 10 years were warmer than any other 10 years in recorded history.