

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, Thank you for that explanation. I am pleased to hear that homeless children will be able to receive services while their families are taking actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.

Regarding enrollment while other required documentation is obtained, the bill language requires that States use procedures to ensure such enrollment occurs after an initial eligibility determination is made. Yet, eligibility documentation is among the required documentation homeless families must produce. However, we know that homeless families struggle to produce documents, due to their poverty and mobility. Can Senator MIKULSKI, please clarify the intent of the phrase "after an initial eligibility determination?"

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, The language calls for procedures to permit enrollment of homeless children, after an initial eligibility determination, while required documentation is obtained. To implement this language and its intent, States will need to implement procedures to make abbreviated initial eligibility determinations of homeless children and enroll them immediately, while required documentation, including some documentation to prove eligibility, is obtained.

For example, a State could adopt a procedure that a child referred by a local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless liaison would be determined to be initially eligible and enrolled in services immediately, while required documentation is obtained. The family then would have to take necessary steps to provide standard documentation to establish eligibility.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI for that important clarification. The intent of the bill as she describes it will greatly improve homeless children's access to childcare. I appreciate the Senator's dedication to this legislation, which helps expand opportunity for families and enhance the quality of childcare for young people across the country.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I support the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, reauthorization bill, S. 1086, which is now pending before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, which would send it to the President for his signature. I want to congratulate my colleagues, Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership on this bill, and Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator BURR. This reauthorization has truly been a bipartisan effort and illustrative of the Senate HELP Committee's effectiveness this Congress, and I congratulate Senator HARKIN on his leadership of this committee as he retires from Congress next month. Through the HELP Committee's leadership and work with their House counterparts, this legislation will serve to better support working families and children and make a significant im-

provement to our current childcare programs.

The last time we authorized this program was in 1996. I know that very well because I was serving in the House of Representatives at the time and had the opportunity to be the ranking member on the Human Resources Subcommittee in the House Ways and Means Committee that was considering welfare reform and childcare, and how we could reward families for work, and how our welfare system could become a transitional program rather than a permanent program that would allow people, particularly moms, to be able to get into the workforce, stay in the workforce and climb up the economic ladder.

Today, under CCDBG, there are 1.6 million children eligible for program services. CCDBG provides not only a safe environment for those children, but allows 70 percent of their parents to work and an educational opportunity for the child at the same time. A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, study showed that parents who had their children in childcare for 2 years or more were more likely to remain employed. CCDBG provides stable employment, help for the child, and a positive economic situation for the family.

This bi-cameral, bi-partisan CCDBG reauthorization bill before us makes improvements to this successful program, as it should. It allows the States to develop 13 specific health and safety standards, such as first aid and CPR, and SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome. It is keeping our children safer in childcare by having safety standards that are developed. This legislation: requires the States to do annual health, safety, and fire inspections of nearly all childcare providers; expands comprehensive background checks for those who are involved in childcare; steadily increases the annual authorization of appropriations; phases in a doubling of the annual set-aside for quality initiatives to 9 percent by 2019; makes information available online for parents to make informed childcare decisions; promotes more transparency in the program; and provides additional State flexibility on how they can set priorities within the childcare program. This program is a model of how federalism should operate, with the Federal Government and the States collaborating together to improve the quality of life for many middle-class American families.

This legislation will accomplish our objectives so we can get more people into the workforce and provide access to early childhood education to help children succeed in life. This program will allow us to help American families and strengthen the economic security of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence for a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The motion to concur with amendment No. 3923 is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "aye" and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "aye."

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—88

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Alexander | Franken | Moran |
| Ayotte | Gillibrand | Murphy |
| Baldwin | Graham | Nelson |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Paul |
| Begich | Harkin | Portman |
| Bennet | Hatch | Pryor |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Reed |
| Blunt | Heitkamp | Reid |
| Booker | Heller | Risch |
| Boozman | Hirono | Roberts |
| Brown | Inhofe | Rockefeller |
| Burr | Isakson | Schatz |
| Cardin | Johanns | Schumer |
| Carper | Johnson (SD) | Scott |
| Casey | Johnson (WI) | Sessions |
| Chambliss | Kaine | Shelby |
| Coats | King | Stabenow |
| Cochran | Kirk | Tester |
| Collins | Klobuchar | Toomey |
| Coons | Landrieu | Udall (CO) |
| Corker | Leahy | Udall (NM) |
| Cornyn | Levin | Vitter |
| Crapo | Manchin | Walsh |
| Cruz | Markey | Warner |
| Donnelly | McCain | Warren |
| Durbin | McCaskill | Whitehouse |
| Enzi | McConnell | Wicker |
| Feinstein | Menendez | Wyden |
| Fischer | Merkley | |
| Flake | Mikulski | |

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—11

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| Boxer | Hoehn | Sanders |
| Cantwell | Murkowski | Shaheen |
| Coburn | Murray | Thune |
| Hagan | Rubio | |

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, while I was unable to vote on the motion to concur in the House Amendment to S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, I would have recorded a vote in opposition to this bill, just as I did when this bill was originally before the Senate in February. I have three reasons to oppose this bill.

First, the Constitution does not permit the Federal Government to operate this program. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists all the powers given to the Federal Government, none of which includes funding for and oversight of State and local child care programs.

Second, this bill will increase the authorized size of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, program by over \$1 billion without eliminating or reducing a lower priority program elsewhere. At a time when our national debt is over \$17 trillion, Congress continues to spend away the future of the next generation. This reauthorization will exacerbate this problem, and our children will deal with the harsh consequences of our Nation's future fiscal insolvency.

Third, this CCDBG reauthorization does not address previously identified duplication and overlap in existing Federal child care programs and tax expenditures. While it does include a provision for the Department of Health and Human Services to study the issue, I do not believe it goes far enough. The Government Accountability Office has

already identified 33 programs for which child care is an eligible use of funds. For example, States often transfer billions of dollars in funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program to use in their child care programs. Ultimately, this kind of overlap and duplication underscores Congress' reckless disregard for our future well-being.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 1050, 898, 961, and 533—these are career ambassadors, in case anyone wants to know—that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. REID. We expect these nominations to be approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote to end Republican filibusters on three district court nominations for Georgia, two of which are judicial emergency vacancies. The Senate should not need to waste our time jumping through these procedural hurdles to confirm nominees who are strongly supported by two Republican home State Senators.

After we vote to invoke cloture and confirm these three nominees, we will still have 17 judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar—11 to serve on district courts and 6 to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Another nine judicial nominees will be recommended by the Judiciary Committee this Thursday. By the end of the week, there will be 26 nominees reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee pending before the full Senate. All but a few of these nominees will have been reported unanimously and several are from States with at least one and sometimes two Republican home State Senators, including: Wisconsin, Penn-

sylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. These nominees should all be confirmed before we recess in December. As I mentioned last week, I hope that Senate Republicans will work with Senate Democrats to "clear the decks" on pending business before the end of the 113th Congress, as the incoming majority leader has suggested.

So let us work together as we have in past lameduck sessions to get these nominees confirmed and serving their communities. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm all 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm all 14 of President Bush's judicial nominations pending on the Executive Calendar, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. We should do the same now.

Leslie Abrams is nominated to fill a vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. She is currently an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. Prior to becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, she was in private practice at two nationally known law firms. After graduating from Yale Law School, Ms. Abrams served as a law clerk to Judge Marvin J. Garbis on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Mark Cohen is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He has extensive experience, having practiced for over 30 years in both the public and private sectors. Currently a partner at the law firm Troutman Sanders, Mr. Cohen has also served as counsel to former Georgia Governor, Zell Miller, and spent part of his legal career at the Georgia office of the attorney general.

Eleanor Ross is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She currently serves as a State court judge in DeKalb County, where she has presided over hundreds of cases dealing with both civil and criminal matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she served in various capacities as both a State and Federal prosecutor for over a decade. Throughout her legal career, she has tried over 150 cases to verdict.

All three of these nominees have the strong support of their Republican home State Senators, Senator CHAMBLISS and Senator ISAKSON. All three were also reported unanimously from the Judiciary Committee 5 months ago by voice vote.

If confirmed, Leslie Abrams and Eleanor Ross will be the first African-American women to ever serve as Federal judges in the State of Georgia. This historic moment is long overdue.