

If Senators would prefer to amend it, they will have that opportunity this evening. Members of both parties will be able to offer amendments. I know many of our friends across the aisle are eager to do that. Republicans will have their chance too. There is a lot we expect to consider.

For instance, do Senators want to be seen supporting a policy that costs up to a million jobs or will they stand tall for American jobs instead? Will Senators support more tired tax hikes or will they support the jobs those higher taxes threaten to destroy? And do Senators want to raise the cost of energy or do they want to see the American people reap benefits of our energy revolution?

So tonight, the American people will have their voices heard again in the Senate under new management. They will see a new Congress that is back to work again and on their behalf. After considering all of these amendments, we will take a vote. When the budget passes, we will conference with the House. That is how this process has worked historically. It is what the American people have a right to expect now, and that is what we hope to see again shortly.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

THE VOTE-ARAMA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Republican leader leaves, in the weather reports today, they forecast snow starting late today. Maybe that will calm down the generosity of the offering of amendments today, because snow is going to continue until tomorrow.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would say to my friend, the Democratic leader, the history of this exercise is that the lateness of the evening affects the number of amendments we have, and we will finish the process just as early as Members would like to finish the process.

I know the Democratic leader and I both look forward to it.

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation between Senator SANDERS and Senator ENZI in our arriving at the point we are now. The Republicans have a totally different vision of what the country is and should be than we have, but the debate between these two good Senators has been civil. It has been very polite. It is the way things should happen around here. So I appreciate that very much.

The Republican budget makes clear the priorities of the Republicans. Republicans would get two-thirds of their cuts from low-income Americans, but they would not plug one single loop-

hole for corporations or the rich—and I mean the mega rich—not a penny. They would double down on harmful sequestration, which is when automatic cuts occur across the board. We know how disastrous this has been.

For the 1 year it was in effect—take, for example, the National Institutes of Health—almost \$2 billion they lost that 1 year.

On the floor is the senior Senator from the State of Illinois. I have heard him speak here on the floor about what a difficult time the people at NIH are having because they don't have enough money to do basic research. The sequestration that was put upon us last time caused the NIH to stop their research on a universal flu vaccine. Hundreds of thousands of people die around the world every year, and tens of thousands of people die every year in the United States because of flu. They were close to having a universal flu vaccine that would take care of this.

Sequestration is awful. It is part of the Republican budget. They are doubling down on this harmful sequestration on health, education, and even national defense.

Talk about a gimmick. This is a doozy, what they are trying to do with defense, to try to pretend they are going to put \$38 billion more in the Defense budget. But it is pretend, because even looking at the Republican budget, it is not possible to do. Once even the Republican hawks look at this, they will say: Well, maybe we are not going to get that \$38 billion.

So their budget has lots of gimmicks—lots of gimmicks. It has been written about all over the country in editorials from east to west and from north to south.

Fortunately for the country, the Republican budget will not become law.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

Pending:

Enzi (for Kirk) amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.

Rounds/Inhofe amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to pre-

vent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties.

Rubio modified amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050).

Daines amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments.

Daines amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget.

Moran amendment No. 356, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran.

Roberts/Flake amendment No. 352, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Federal employee performance awards.

Roberts amendment No. 462, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to over-the-counter medications.

Vitter amendment No. 515, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty.

Vitter amendment No. 811, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Gardner amendment No. 443, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Coats/Warner amendment No. 595, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Coats amendment No. 368, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing States the Medicaid flexibility they need to implement innovative reforms to improve care and enhance access for our Nation's most vulnerable.

Daines amendment No. 465, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Second Amendment rights.

Daines amendment No. 387, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to postal reform.

Wyden/Crapo amendment No. 434, to provide for an adjustment to committee allocations for wildfire suppression funding.

Paul amendment No. 940, to increase new budget authority for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050) with offsets.

Sanders (for Murray/Alexander) amendment No. 697, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation that reforms and strengthens elementary and secondary education.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 798, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time.

Sanders (for Cantwell) amendment No. 800, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a comprehensive approach to crude-by-rail safety.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 812, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide women with affordable access to comprehensive health care, including preventative services (such as contraception and breast cancer screenings), improve maternal health, and ensure that a woman has

the same benefits and services no matter what part of the United States she lives in, all of which is critical to improving the health and well-being of women, children, their families, and society as a whole, and is an essential part of a woman's economic security and opportunity.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 951, to establish and fund a new Federal-State partnership to expand access to high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families, offset with revenue from closing loopholes.

Sanders (for Durbin/Coons) amendment No. 345, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for Federal investments in biomedical and basic scientific research.

Sanders (for Durbin) amendment No. 817, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide tax benefits to patriot employers that invest in American jobs and provide fair pay and benefits to workers and to eliminate tax benefits for corporations that ship jobs or profits overseas.

McCain/Flake amendment No. 360, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Wyden/Bennet amendment No. 708, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education to boost student attendance and completion.

Wyden amendment No. 791, to strike reconciliation instructions to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Finance and require regular order.

Wyden amendment No. 870, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to extending tax provisions expiring in 2013 or 2014 for 2 years, such as those contained in the EXPIRE Act of 2014.

Heller amendment No. 453, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of Transportation prioritizes the construction of projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors on the National Highway System, which will improve the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods through the United States and facilitate economic development and create jobs in the United States.

Heller amendment No. 452, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of the Interior enters into candidate conservation agreements with each of the relevant 11 Western States before the United States Fish and Wildlife Service makes a listing determination on the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Heller amendment No. 457, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibition of Veterans Benefits Administration executive bonuses until the backlog of disability claims for veterans is eliminated.

Heller amendment No. 456, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the privacy, dignity, and safety needs of women veterans.

Coons/Bennet amendment No. 343, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preserving mandatory appropriations for agricultural conservation programs.

Coons amendment No. 391, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the expansion of access to the income tax credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

Coons/Rubio amendment No. 392, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts while students are in elementary school and secondary school.

Coons amendment No. 394, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies.

Coons amendment No. 802, to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Baldwin amendment No. 432, to provide additional resources to create the opportunity for more Americans to obtain a higher education and advanced job skills by supporting two free years of community college paid for by raising revenue through requiring millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.

Baldwin amendment No. 436, to preserve the point of order against the reconciliation legislation that would increase the deficit or reduce a surplus.

Manchin amendment No. 694, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development.

Manchin amendment No. 578, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States.

Whitehouse amendment No. 700, to ensure high-income earners pay a fair share in taxes and to use the revenue to invest in repairing our Nation's bridges, coastal infrastructure, and damage from wildfires.

Whitehouse/Udall amendment No. 867, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to making it more difficult for corporations and billionaires to secretly influence elections by making unlimited undisclosed campaign expenditures, and to prevent such entities from evading campaign finance law, including through making false statements to government agencies.

Whitehouse amendment No. 895, to prohibit budget resolutions that support cutting over \$1,000,000,000,000 in spending without identifying specific programmatic effects.

Casey amendment No. 632, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

Casey amendment No. 633, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing the child and dependent care tax credit.

Merkley/Coons amendment No. 842, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to consumer financial protection.

Merkley amendment No. 843, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to restoring reductions in the Republican budget to the Stafford loan program that would mandate that students currently in college pay interest on their loans before they have received their education benefits, to make college more affordable, to reduce the debt burden of students, and to help graduates afford to pay back student loans.

Merkley/Brown amendment No. 952, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a more level playing field in trade agreements.

Merkley amendment No. 953, to save student financial aid and reduce the student loan debt levels in the Republican budget by 15 percent by eliminating new mandated interest charged while students are still in school.

Blumenthal amendment No. 825, to expand the deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Cassidy amendment No. 341, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the promotion of United States offshore energy production.

Cassidy amendment No. 539, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving Medicaid based on successful and bipartisan State demonstration projects.

Cassidy amendment No. 795, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to au-

thorizing Federal permitting for manufacturing and energy construction projects relating to national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone lower than a certain existing standard.

Coons (for Bennet) amendment No. 715, to create clean energy jobs through predictable and fair incentives for renewable energy.

Murkowski (for Thune) amendment No. 607, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for the permanent elimination of the Federal estate tax.

Murkowski (for Thune) amendment No. 743, to reduce funding for the General Services Administration by \$1,000,000 until 50 percent of counties in nonattainment for the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone as of January 30, 2015, achieve the air quality standard set forth in the 1997 NAAQS, and direct those funds to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of helping municipalities reach attainment with the 2008 NAAQS for ground-level ozone, acknowledging that (1) given limited State and Federal resources and the delay of the Administrator in issuing to States implementation guidance for the 2008 ground-level ozone NAAQS, priority should be given to achieving the 2008 standard, (2) the Administrator has not sufficiently implemented that standard, (3) focusing by the Administrator on the most polluted areas that are in nonattainment with that standard would benefit public health, and (4) promulgating a lower standard at this time would impose undue costs on the economy and workforce of the United States.

Murkowski/Sullivan amendment No. 838, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.

Murkowski amendment No. 770, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 485, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 490, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community bankers.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 852, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing small business regulatory relief and preventing duplicative regulations for investment advisors.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this has been an important week for the Senate as we work to set spending goals for our Nation. Before this year, the Senate has only been able to pass two budgets in the past 6 years. Now that Congress is under new management, we are on track to pass a budget after only 3 months.

The reason we are working so hard is to restore the trust of the American people, who want and deserve more effective and efficient government. This week, as part of the Senate's regular order, we have been debating and offering amendments and have actually voted more than a dozen times on how best to set spending limits and make government live within its means, including votes to protect property rights of all Americans and to save Medicare.

The spending goals and limits we have set are why passing a budget is so

important to our Nation. They let congressional policymakers who actually allocate the dollars get to work by following our spending limits. Without that, they are delayed.

We have had that situation for a number of years, in which the fiscal year actually ends and we don't have the spending bills done. That is what happens with government shutdowns. That is what happens with extending its ability to operate without having a budget. That shouldn't happen.

So we want to get a budget passed by April 15 so that the spending committees can get busy looking at their areas of jurisdiction, their specific areas of interest, to come up with the best policies possible that have a total spending package that will keep government operating and meeting its objectives as the people expect.

But today is the day for which we all have been waiting. Today the Senate will begin voting on many amendments offered this week by way of what is affectionately known as a vote-arama. We will start voting early this afternoon, and we will continue until we are exhausted, until we are done, until people think their amendments have been covered sufficiently. That is the way we do it in the Senate.

The Senate debate on this balanced budget demonstrates that Congress is doing its part to deliver a healthy economy for each and every American. The important first steps we have taken this week will help deliver a government that is more accountable, which is absolutely essential for strong job growth and job creation. This budget will help every American who wants to find a good-paying job and a fulfilling career.

I am incredibly proud of my colleagues who are working together to deliver real solutions, real results, and real progress for hard-working taxpayers.

I find this a little bit stressful. I am an accountant. I have found a way to escape some of that tension. I have been reading the Tax Code, and it is time for us to reform the Tax Code. There are hundreds of pages on minor decisions, on different ways of calculating it, and I am excited that we are going to do that. One of the things both sides of the aisle have talked about is speculation on tax reform. Tax reform needs to be done in a bipartisan way. I know the chairman of the Finance Committee and the ranking member on the Finance Committee have already been working on it. We have subgroups set up to solve different parts of the Tax Code, and I am confident we can do that. There are general instructions in the budget bill that allow some latitude to the Finance Committee in a number of different ways, and I am hoping we can wind up with a simpler Tax Code, one that will not take care of my frustrations in future years, but will ease the frustrations of the American people as to taxes.

There has been a lot of speculation on where budget cuts are being made. I

know there is a lot of frustration on the other side. Our budget sets limits for the different spending groups. It doesn't get into the details. The people who know the details in those areas are on the committees, and they can make better decisions than we as the Budget Committee can make. I do point out frequently that part of my discovery during this process was that there are 260 programs whose authorizations have expired. That means the specific committees that came up with the idea for these programs haven't looked at them for some time, and that didn't stop us from going ahead and funding them anyway. They have expired, but in some cases we are spending four times as much as what was originally envisioned for that particular program. Does it amount to much money? It amounts to \$293 billion a year—\$293 billion a year. If the committees do their work, there is a lot of money available for the areas outside of defense.

Defense has its authorization done every year, so they are in a different category from all of the rest of the Federal Government programs. So if you are thinking there are a lot of hands tied on what can be done, there is \$293 billion out there that is being spent that has expired and ought to be looked at. In businesses, they have to look at their expenses every single year and see where they can cut in order to continue the business. Around here one of those programs hasn't been looked at since 1983.

So there is a lot of work for us to do. It is all included in the budget. I hope we can finish the budget tonight and put everybody to work on these extra tasks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I heard my friend from Wyoming say he is relieving his stress over the budget by reading the Tax Code. In my religion, when you go to confession, you are given a penance for your sins. I cannot think of a more awesome penance than reading the Tax Code. I certainly hope it gives my friend from Wyoming a good frame of mind as he attacks this vote-arama.

I am going to be brief because our ranking member on the budget has arrived on the floor, but I do want to say this: Budgets make choices, and there are one or two choices—certainly more than one or two but one or two that I would like to highlight that I think are worrisome.

The Republican budget eliminates health insurance for 27 million Americans. That is 9 percent of people in America who would lose their health insurance protection because of the Republican budget. Part of it is the passionate refusal of the Republicans to accept the Affordable Care Act, which now in itself protects 15 to 16 million Americans. We have said to them, if you don't like the Affordable Care Act, give us an alternative, and they have

yet to do so—and, frankly, because it is fairly difficult, as it was passing this bill. But to take health insurance away from 27 million Americans and say that is going to make a better life for working families? No, it will not. It will make a bigger challenge for these families which will be extremely difficult.

Secondly, I am worried and I think other Members from both sides of the aisle share concerns about sequestration cuts when it comes to areas such as biomedical research. How in the world can we justify cutting research from the National Institutes of Health to find cures for diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes—the list goes on. If we believe we are making a better America by cutting back research and innovation, particularly biomedical research, it is extremely shortsighted. When I take a look at the 200 or so pending amendments on budget resolution, it looks like there are 10 of them—including one I am going to offer—relative to medical research. Democrats and Republicans are saying spare this area of Federal spending. I would like to propose that all of us who share this goal on both sides of the aisle join in an effort to make sure this is treated differently in our budget. It shouldn't be subject to mindless and deep cuts in biomedical research, which will deny to a lot of suffering people the hope they need and deny cures that will not only save lives but save dramatic amounts of money.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, when we look at budgets, we look essentially at two things. First off, we look at what the budget actually does, because it is a set of priorities, and we look at what the budget does not do.

Any sensible group of people, whether it is a family, whether it is local government, State government, whether it is a business—people sit around the table and say, OK, these are our needs, this is what we have to address or this is no longer relevant or this is wasteful and we have to get rid of it. That is what a budget process is about.

When you examine the Republican budget, it almost seems they turn that equation upside down and they do everything we should not be doing and they don't do what we should be doing. The overall reality of America that most people understand is the middle class of this country for the last 40 years has been shrinking. Yes, we are in a lot better shape today than we were when President Bush left office, but real unemployment is 11 percent. We have the highest rate of childhood poverty in the industrialized world. Despite the modest gains to the Affordable Care Act, 35 million Americans still have no health insurance. Millions of families—whether it is in Nevada or Vermont—are wondering how in God's name they are going to be able to send their kids to college when school is so expensive. What happens to those

young people when they leave school deeply in debt?

People are working in Vermont, in Nevada, in Wyoming for horrendously low wages because we have a minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, and people are wondering why it is that they work 40 hours a week and still have to go to the emergency food shelf to put food on the table. Those are some of the issues the American people are talking about and they are thinking about, and they wonder, How does it happen that while they are working longer hours for low wages, the people on top and the large profitable corporations are doing phenomenally well? How does it happen that in the last 2 years, 14 of the wealthiest people in this country have seen a \$157 billion increase in their wealth? How does it happen that one family, the Walton family, owns more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of the American people? How does it happen that 99 percent of all new income generated in America since the Wall Street crash goes to the top 1 percent?

Those are the issues the American people are wondering about. Why, with an increase in productivity, am I working longer hours for lower wages? Why, if I am a woman worker, do I make 78 cents on the dollar compared to a male worker? Those are the questions.

Then you look at the Republican budget. The Republican budget does nothing to address the real problems except to make them worse. One of the problems, to be very frank, and works to the Republicans' advantage—and I have to say this, frankly—the Republican budget is so outrageous that when we explain it, people don't believe what we are saying. Senator DURBIN made the point—no debate here—if I am wrong, somebody jump up and correct me. The Republican budget eliminates the Affordable Care Act, right? It does that, and 16 million Americans lose their health insurance—16 million people have no health insurance. But that is not enough. The Republican budget cuts over \$400 billion in Medicaid. That is another 11 million people losing their health insurance—16 plus 11 is 27 million people losing health insurance.

Does anybody in America think that makes any sense at all? These are men, women, children. You cut Medicaid and you throw people off. These are pregnant women who need to go to the doctor to make sure the baby they are carrying is healthy or little babies who are born. That is what they do.

But meanwhile, here is something they do not do. When they get up there and say this budget does not include any tax increases, they are right. I can see that. They are right. But what they are really saying is: We will not—we will never ask the billionaires in this country to pay a nickel more in taxes. We will not ask the one out of four major corporations that pay nothing in taxes to start paying their fair share of taxes. We will make it harder for kids to go to college, we will throw people

off of health insurance, but we will not ask the rich and the powerful to pay more in taxes.

That is what this budget debate is about, and I hope the American people pay attention to that.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 689

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 689.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 689.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the dynamic scoring provision)

On page 104, line 16, after "shall provide" insert ", in addition to the estimate of budgetary effects without macroeconomic effects, an estimate of the budgetary effects from changes in economic output, employment, capital stock, interest rates, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from the major legislation and"

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we had an energetic discussion this morning about the budget that is before us. The amendment I am going to offer will help us have a better process to get to pro-growth tax reform to actually get this economy growing.

My colleague, Senator SANDERS, talked about the fact that real unemployment is far higher than the numbers that are officially reported. I agree with him on that. I agree with him that the economy is not out of the woods, and I agree with him that a lot of people are left behind and will continue to be until we get this economy growing the way you normally see an economy grow during a recovery. It is the weakest economic recovery, economists tell us, since the Great Depression; that is, measured in terms of economic growth, GDP, and in terms of job growth.

So what this budget does is it puts in place the process for us to actually get pro-growth on policies: yes, on health care; yes, on taxes, on regulations, and so on to be able to move the economy forward. It was President John F. Kennedy who said that "a rising tide lifts all boats." Now, some people get stuck on the shoals and we need to take care of them too. That is why this budget also has a strong safety net necessary to get economic growth—not sufficient but necessary. That is what this budget does.

By the way, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office—not the Republicans, not I—the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office looks at this budg-

et and says, you know what. By balancing the budget in 10 years—balancing the budget—therefore, reducing the amount of deficits and the huge debt overhang—a record level of debt we have in our country right now—that will result in more economic growth and more jobs. That is what the Congressional Budget Office said. So this notion that somehow by actually dealing with the debt and deficit and by actually having a balanced budget is bad for the economy—it is just the opposite. This is a first but incredibly important step to getting this economy back on track and to bringing back these jobs.

By the way, this is about not just economic growth but about better jobs, about rising wages, and it is about getting to a situation where instead of having wages going down—which is what has been happening over the last 6 years—we can actually see wages go up. On average, wages have gone down about 8 percent. So for working families in Ohio and around this country, we have seen wages go down 8 percent. By the way, half of that reduction in wages came during the so-called recovery. So something is not working. Part of what is not working is running these hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit every year and spending more than this place takes in every year and building up these levels of debt that are unprecedented—over \$18 trillion.

We did vote on the President's budget yesterday. It is the only alternative we have to be able to compare what this side of the aisle wants to do and what the other side of the aisle wants to do. In the budget the President put out, there was an \$8 trillion increase—increase—in the debt over the next 10 years. That is adding to the over \$7 trillion of debt that has been added over the last 6 years under the Obama administration. That may be why not a lot of people voted for the budget that the President presented. In fact, only one person did—1 out of 100. The reason is, it adds so much more debt and so much more in annual deficits that it actually puts that wet blanket over the economy and doesn't enable us to see the economic growth we want.

So one element of growth, as the chairman of the Budget Committee talked about this morning, is tax reform. I think everybody acknowledges that our Tax Code is antiquated. It is out of date. It is inefficient. It does not let us compete around the world. So workers in Ohio are competing with one hand tied behind their backs because our Tax Code is so inefficient that it does not let them compete effectively around the world.

So let's reform the Tax Code. Everybody who looks at it—economists right, left, or center—agrees the Tax Code does not work. They have different ideas on how to fix it, but they all say: if you could fix this Tax Code, you would see more growth.

By the way, you would see not just more jobs but better jobs. If you look

at the issue of business tax reform—there is actually a lot of similarity between what the administration is talking about and what Members of Congress on my side of the aisle are talking about. The economic analysis there is that the No. 1 impact of having the highest business tax rate in all the developed world is on wages and benefits. The No. 1 beneficiary will be workers because they are going to see their wages go up and they are going to see their benefits go up. These are the middle-class jobs we want to create in this country.

So let's have this tax reform. Let's make sure it is pro-growth.

Now back to this amendment and why it is so important to that. This is an amendment that says: Let's require the Joint Committee on Taxation—that is the group who handles scoring those tax reform proposals—to give us the right analysis so we can come up with pro-job, pro-growth tax reform that will actually enable us to bring back these good middle-class jobs. That is what this amendment says. It requires them to provide us what is called macroeconomic scoring.

Right now, unbelievably, when you provide a tax reform proposal on the floor of the Senate, what you get back is just a static score that has no relationship to what the impact will be on the economy. It assumes there will be zero impact on the economy. Now, nobody believes that. Everyone knows tax changes will have some impact on the economy—good, bad, indifferent—yet we do not have that information to be able to ensure that we are writing the right tax reform to get to the result we all want. It seems absurd, I know, but that is the current situation.

What this amendment says is, let's have a requirement that the Joint Committee on Taxation provide to the Senate a dynamic score, a macroeconomic score. By the way, they already do it. They already have a model to do it. They just do not provide it to us. Would there be a so-called static score, too, that shows no economic changes? Yes, you would have that too. I cannot imagine that any Member of this body, Republican or Democrat, would not want to have that information, would not want to know what the actual impact is on the economy.

Think about this: If McDonald's raises the price of its Big Mac to \$10 or \$12, what is going to happen? Under a static score, it would say: McDonald's will get more revenue. We know what will happen. We will not go to McDonald's and our kids will not go to McDonald's because it is too expensive. The revenue will go down.

We need to have that kind of commonsense analysis here on the floor of the Senate so we can, indeed, put forward tax reform that makes sense for the economy and makes sense to the American people and helps to do precisely what Senator SANDERS talks about, which is to get that unemployment number down and provide better

jobs, higher paying jobs. If we do not do that, we are letting down the people we are elected to represent.

I hope this amendment No. 689 is supported by Democrats and Republicans alike as a commonsense approach to this. Let's apply macroeconomic analysis to anything that is a tax reform proposal over \$15 billion. That is the right level. The House has similar analysis in their legislation, so this could actually end up being something on which the House and Senate can agree.

Let's ensure that we have the information we need to write the right kind of legislation to get this economy moving and to deal with both sides of the coin. One, spending restraint—and we all know that has to happen—and two, growth, get this economy moving. If we do that, we will see more gross revenues and be able to make this objective we have set out in this budget, which is to actually, for the American people, who cannot understand why we cannot do it, balance this budget. They have to balance their budgets. We have to in our families. We have to in our businesses. We have to in our States. We ought to do it here in the Congress as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from West Virginia.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 415 AND 416 EN BLOC

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendments Nos. 415 and 416 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 415

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to a requirement that any new environmental agreement signed by the United States with any foreign country or countries not result in serious harm to the economy of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO A REQUIREMENT THAT ANY NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY NOT RESULT IN SERIOUS HARM TO THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a requirement that any new environmental agreement signed by the United States with any foreign country or countries not result in serious harm to the economy of the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 416

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to briefly address these two amendments. The first amendment simply says that the United States should not sign an international environmental agreement that would do serious harm to our own economy. That commonsense principle passed the Senate by a vote of 95 to 0 in 1997.

Last year, the administration announced the climate agreement with China. That agreement requires significant short-term carbon emission reductions here in the United States, but China is allowed to continue increasing its carbon emissions until 2030. That disparity could place the United States at a significant economic disadvantage. In November, global talks began in Paris on a broader international agreement.

My amendment simply states what every Senator who voted in 1997 said: No agreement should cause serious harm to the American economy.

My second amendment protects the reliability of our electricity grid. North American Electric Reliability Corporation released a report that found that the targets set forward in the President's Clean Power Plan will be difficult if not impossible to achieve without degrading the reliability of the grid.

We all want to have our lights turn on and our heat and air-conditioning work. This is in peril. My amendment simply makes sure families and businesses have the reliable electricity they expect by blocking the EPA from finalizing, proposing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid.

I ask my colleagues to support these amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENT NO. 437

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up Peters amendment No. 437.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 437.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENHANCING AND IMPROVING THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE APPLICATION BACKLOG.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, the amendment that I have just called up that is pending before the Senate deals with what I think is a critical issue for this country; that is, making sure we can continue to move forward with innovation to grow the economy.

There certainly are many debates that are going to be held as to how we get the productivity in this country to increase, how we create more middle-class jobs and grow the economy from the top to the bottom. But I think there is broad consensus that what has really driven our economy—really through the centuries but certainly most recently in the United States—has been innovation. It is about innovation, creating the next big thing, the big products that transform people's lives. In order to do that, companies that come up with these ideas need to have patent protection so that the effort they put into that product, the money they put into that product, they are able to protect as they market that product and get a return on their investments. Unfortunately, however, the backlog of patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has become completely unacceptable.

The America Invents Act made a number of very important changes to our patent system that targeted the reducing of the backlog and driving innovation. At the time that act was passed, there were more than 700,000 patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Those applications had an average review time of 3

years or longer before the applications were granted patent protection. Three years is simply an unacceptable amount of time to wait as these inventors who are trying to get their patent protections—they have to wait several years before they can bring those products to the market and have the protections of patents.

What makes it even more unacceptable is that these folks who are applying for these patents pay a user fee. They pay a fee in order to have this work done. Yet, with sequestration and other types of budget maneuvering, the patent office actually cannot fully utilize the fees that are generated by the people who are paying these fees. So, in a sense, this is an innovation tax. People who are innovating pay a tax while they are innovating, when what we should be doing is accelerating their ability to bring these products to market, create jobs, and advance the economy.

The backlog now, after the passage of the act, still stands at 600,000, with an average review time of 2.3 years. So we have made some progress, but we still have a long way to go.

So in order to reduce the patent application backlog, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office needs the ability to access all of the fees it receives in order to hire additional examiners and administrative patent judges. That is what this amendment before us does—it gives the patent office the resources it needs in order to do its job effectively. The end result is a stronger American economy. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 521

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and call up Peters amendment No. 521.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 521.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in science, technology, and basic research in the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND BASIC RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to investment in science, technology, and basic research in the United

States, which may include educational or research and development initiatives, public-private partnerships, or other programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, this amendment is similar to the previous amendment in that it focuses on innovation. It focuses on what this country does best, which is create new products and advance the knowledge with scientific discoveries and new inventions.

This amendment, however, deals specifically with scientific discovery and technological breakthroughs that drive our economy. We have known throughout human history that the drivers of that have been the big breakthroughs, whether it is the cotton gin or the internal combustion engine or the railroads. These have been inventions that have transformed the entire planet.

We need to continue to have those innovations, but in order to do that, we need to invest in basic scientific research. Investments in basic research have resulted in countless innovations that improve our day-to-day lives and support the Nation's overall productivity and competitiveness.

The Federal Government has long played a crucial role. This has always been, in the past, a very bipartisan issue, that the Federal Government invest in this basic, cutting-edge research and development. However, we have seen a very I think disturbing trend over the last few decades as R&D spending has fallen. The amount of money which the Federal Government puts into basic scientific research now is less than 1 percent of GDP. This is simply unacceptable. We have to look at basic scientific research as the seed corn for our economy. We need to invest in seed corn so we can harvest the rewards of that investment.

This amendment would strengthen Congress's ongoing commitment to responsibly increasing investments in science, technology, and basic research and help ensure U.S. science and technology leadership in an increasingly competitive world.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment to show our commitment to investing in basic scientific research so we can continue to make the U.S. economy the strongest in the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 639

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and call up Peters amendment No. 639.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 639.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING TRADE AND TRAVEL AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry, which may include construction at ports of entry or increased staffing at ports of entry, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, this amendment deals with another critical aspect of growing our economy. Certainly innovation and basic scientific research are the real drivers of long-term economic growth, but another very important aspect of that is international trade. The United States has the best workers in the world. We have the best entrepreneurs. We have the best innovators. We need to be in a position that we can continue to promote trade across the world.

So I rise to offer an amendment that will support trade and travel through our U.S. ports of entry. As we all know, trade and travel drive economic development. In fact, they generate over \$2 trillion in economic impact and support nearly 15 million jobs nationwide. However, it is unfortunate to say that many of our busiest ports of entry are in need of modernization in order to safely and efficiently process travelers and goods.

I speak about this with firsthand experience. In Michigan, our manufacturers and agricultural producers rely on efficient trade with Canada, which is our Nation's largest export market, our top customer, as well as our closest ally. However, existing infrastructure at our ports of entry often does not allow for the most efficient processing of trucks and cargo. We have two major crossings in Detroit—in Windsor, Canada, as well as Port Huron in Sarnia. Both of those trade areas need additional investment in their customs plazas to efficiently handle the trade between our two countries.

Those investments are important investments in the future of this country and important in order to make sure we continue to expand trade and economic activity. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. First, Mr. President, I thank Senator PETERS for the amendments he just offered. We had a hearing in the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee in regard to the

patent issues. It is clearly a huge concern by the innovators, the small business, biotech, and high-tech firms. I thank the Senator very much for giving us an opportunity to act on that matter.

Secondly, let me compliment the Senator on the research issues. I took to the floor yesterday and talked about the budgets of the National Institutes of Health and how critical that is, not only for their direct mission, which is to find answers to diseases, but also to provide the answers to building blocks for companies that do incredible work.

I was at AstraZeneca in Frederick on Monday, where they do the biologics manufacturing, and they depend very much on the NIH budget.

I thank the Senator for the amendments he offered. I know we will have a chance to act on them a bit later.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, AND 900
EN BLOC

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Cardin amendments Nos. 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, and 900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. CARDIN] proposes amendments numbered 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, and 900 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 364

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for children and pregnant women under Medicaid)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives that would improve oral health care for children and pregnant women under the Medicaid program by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 367

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing a funding stream for a voter reinfranchisement initiative)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING PROVIDING A FUNDING STREAM FOR A VOTER REINFRANCHISEMENT INITIATIVE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing a funding stream for a voter reinfranchisement initiative, which may include Bureau of Prisons notifications for released inmates of voting rights, notifications by United States attorneys of voting rights restrictions during plea agreements, and a Department of Justice report on the disproportionate impact of criminal disenfranchisement laws on minority populations, including data on disenfranchisement rates by race and ethnicity, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 439

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mandating a higher threshold that the Small Business Administration may guarantee, through the Surety Bond Guarantee Program, of the bonds that small businesses are required to obtain so that they may be able to better compete successfully for Federal Government contracts)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING THE GUARANTEE THRESHOLD FOR THE SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Surety Bond Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include exploring or raising the range for surety bonds, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 440

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the Family Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program from \$225,000,000 to \$350,000,000, as passed by the Committee in 2013, which is zero subsidy and funded entirely through fees paid by investors and businesses)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RAISING THE FAMILY OF FUNDS LIMIT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years

2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 899

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of financial literacy education to allow individuals to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE DECISIONS WITH THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to financial literacy education, which may include improvements to financial literacy education curricula in schools or which may improve the capacity of teachers to provide effective financial literacy education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 900

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of civics and government education)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to civics and government education, which may include improving instruction in civics and government education or which may improve the capacity of teachers to provide effective civics and government education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to talk a little bit about the amendments.

I see Senator PORTMAN on the floor, and I want to talk about amendment No. 899, which provides a deficit-neutral reserve fund for financial literacy.

The two of us have been working for over a decade to increase the amount of savings for Americans, particularly retirement savings. We know that at early ages people need to understand the importance of saving.

I offer this amendment, and Senator PORTMAN has been very helpful to me in developing this amendment. I hope we will be able to act on this a little bit later.

Amendment No. 364 deals with oral health, which establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving

oral health care for pregnant women and children under Medicaid. Let me point out to my colleagues something they may not be aware of; that is, the oral health of a pregnant woman very much impacts the baby. Therefore, it is important pregnant women have attention to their oral health care needs. It is transmitted to their babies.

I urge my colleagues to help us in supporting this effort. We have taken major steps to improve pediatric dental care. This is another step we can take by dealing with pregnant women.

With regard to amendment No. 367, which sets up the deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide for voter enfranchisement initiatives, once again I think my colleagues would be surprised to learn there is an estimated 5.85 million citizens who cannot vote as a result of criminal convictions and nearly 4.4 million of those have already been released from prison.

We have 4.4 million people living in our community whom we expect to be productive citizens, and yet they have been disenfranchised from voting.

Nationwide 1 in 13 African Americans of voting age have lost their right to vote, a rate four times the national average. I think that should give us all concern.

Latino citizens are also impacted because they are disproportionately over-represented in the criminal justice system.

States have vastly different approaches to people voting with criminal convictions. This patchwork of State laws has caused confusion among the election officials and the public, sometimes resulting in the disenfranchisement of even eligible voters. So this amendment would provide much needed information into the hands of citizens returning from incarceration.

I thank my colleague Senator PAUL for his work with regard to this issue. The two of us are trying to find a way we can bring forward together a workable way that can help many who have been released from our prisons to have the right to vote and participate in our community.

With regard to two amendments I am offering, amendments Nos. 439 and 440, both are related to my work as the ranking Democrat on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

One would set up a deficit reserve fund to deal with surety bonds. We have increased the limit of the surety bond by the SBA for small companies, which is very important. This would help make that a more permanent increase.

The small companies, if they try to get a surety bond, have to pledge just about every one of their assets in order to get it. The SBA program helps with that credit so they can get affordable surety bonds without jeopardizing their ability to raise capital. This amendment calls attention to that need where we can help small businesses in this country.

I also set up the deficit-neutral reserve fund for family funds within the small business investment company.

I thank Senator RISCH. He has been working on this issue, and I have been working with him on this issue. I think we will hopefully be able to come together on legislation that will increase the opportunities under the small business investment companies, which is, again, an avenue for capital for small companies, the driving force for job innovation in our community.

This amendment would allow us again to focus on that legislation, which we hope to move through the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Lastly, I have offered a deficit-neutral reserve fund, amendment No. 900, concerning civic education.

I have taken the floor to point out that, yes, we need to stress areas of excellence in the sciences, et cetera, in education, but let's not forget civic education. The bedrock of our country's values are based upon our civic system, and it is important that young people have a full understanding of civic education.

This amendment would give us an opportunity, in this Congress, to move forward in promoting civic education for our school system.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I applaud my colleague from Maryland for these constructive amendments. I am happy to be a cosponsor of the financial literacy amendment, which enables all of our constituents to be able to save and invest more, particularly with regard to retirement savings for retirees.

The savings rate is low. Baby boomers are retiring without having lifetime savings, and financial literacy is critical for them. It is also critical for our young people to give them the opportunity to start saving early with the power of compound interest and to be able to make wise decisions for their future—whether it is for retirement, whether it is for health care or whether it is for other purposes.

I have enjoyed working with my colleague Senator CARDIN on this issue over the years, and I am proud to cosponsor his amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 681

I wish to call up another amendment this morning because it is very important for all of us in this Chamber because all of us are affected by it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendment No. 681.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 681.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to demolishing vacant and abandoned homes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEMOLISHING VACANT AND ABANDONED HOMES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding to improve the safety of neighborhoods in the United States, which may include demolishing blighted and abandoned homes, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this is a commonsense amendment that calls for prioritizing the investments to tackle a very important issue for our cities and towns across our country, especially those hardest hit by the housing crisis.

Main Streets, unfortunately, across our country have become littered with abandoned and blighted properties.

In Ohio, there are about 80,000 of these abandoned home; hundreds of thousands, of course, across the country. I have had the opportunity to walk the streets in some of our cities in Ohio with some of our farsighted mayors who are tackling this issue. They are looking for a little bit of help. I have been in Warren, OH, Toledo, OH, and Lima, OH.

When you walk these streets and talk to the people in the neighborhoods, they let you know how they are feeling about this. They don't like these blighted properties, in part, because it reduces the home values for the whole neighborhood. In fact, there is some evidence out there that these blighted properties can cost neighbors up to 80 percent of their home value. So one of the best things you can do for tumbling home values in America right now in struggling neighborhoods is demolish these abandoned properties.

Second, and this is very important, they become magnets for crime, for arson, and for other dangerous activities that put neighbors at risk. It puts first responders at risk. There are stories around the country. Unfortunately, in my home State of Ohio, some first responders, firefighters, have gone to a fire in an abandoned structure, actually been injured, and in one case lost their life. This is something neighbors feel strongly about.

When I was in Toledo, with the mayor of Toledo, observing one of the demolitions—it was a house that was about 10 feet away from a neighboring home. The mother was there with some of her young children, and she said: Thank goodness this is happening, because every night I go to sleep I put my

head on my pillow praying that the house next door is not going to be subject to the arson attacks that have happened in the city of Toledo in these abandoned structures and praying that my children are not going to be injured by an arson next door to me.

It is critical that we provide this help. Land banks in these areas have done a terrific job. Cleveland, in particular, I will hold up as doing a great job. But in States like mine and in other manufacturing States—Florida, Michigan, and other States around the country—these land banks are doing the best they can, but they need additional resources to demolish many of these properties in order to help struggling neighborhoods recover.

This has been a bipartisan issue. We have been able to direct some funding there, including from the hardest hit funds. I want to continue to make progress because it is so important, again, for our neighborhoods and for the safety of those people who live in these neighborhoods that are affected most directly by abandoned homes.

I hope we can get some votes from both sides of the aisle for this amendment today and make it clear to those local officials across our country, and to those neighbors in these communities, that we are going to do what we can to help provide the resources to be able to deal with these blighted and abandoned structures.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 944

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendment No. 944.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. NELSON], for himself and Mr. SCHATZ, proposes an amendment numbered 944.

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To create a point of order against legislation that would use tax dollars to censor publicly-funded climate science)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST USING TAX DOLLARS TO CENSOR PUBLICLY-FUNDED CLIMATE SCIENCE.

It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would censor or otherwise limit the ability of any Federal employee or Federal agency to use in official documents or presentations terms common in scientific literature describing atmospheric, climate, weather, or oceanic processes, including terms relevant to

changes in the global climate system or other risks to human health, the environment, and the economy related to air pollution.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, what this amendment does is it supports the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: freedom of speech, to prohibit censorship of Federal agencies and Federal employees from speaking in scientific terms about the oceans, the weather, the atmospheres, and the climate.

You would think this is so common sense and so understood under our freedom of speech in our U.S. Constitution, but we have all read news reports at the State level, at the local level, and maybe even at the Federal level that, indeed, some folks are trying to muzzle scientists from speaking about the science involving the oceans, the atmosphere, climate, and the weather.

I have the privilege of knowing something about the space program. When I hear people saying they don't want NASA to get involved in climate, well, NASA builds the satellites, NASA launches the satellites—but then NOAA, in the Department of Commerce, operates these weather satellites—other satellites that are taking measurements of the Earth to understand what is happening to our atmosphere, what is happening to our climate.

When I start talking about the atmosphere, I can't help but flash back 29½ half years ago, looking at our planet out the window of a spacecraft and looking at the rim of the Earth and seeing the thin little film that is the atmosphere that sustains all of our life.

There is a lot about it that we don't know. There is a lot about it that we, in fact, can measure scientifically. Yet for some reason, there is some commentary going on in America today that we want to muzzle our scientists.

So this amendment is a simple, little, commonsense amendment that says you can't muzzle a Federal agency or a Federal employee, telling them they can't use their First Amendment right of freedom of speech to speak in scientific terms about the oceans, the weather, the atmosphere, and the climate.

Imagine if we were going to muzzle researchers at the National Institutes of Health and censor them, saying they couldn't use medical terms such as asthma or cancer. What if that was off limits? There is not even a question that we would consider that.

Last week, when we got into the matter of climate, a study suggested the massive Antarctic glacier is melting. The water from that melting glacier will impact global sea levels, potentially raising them by 10 feet. This week, researchers tell us the melting of Greenland's ice sheet is slowing the cyclical ocean current that drives the warm gulf stream, which comes right along the southeastern coast of my State and goes out through the middle

of the Atlantic and warms parts of Western Europe. To understand all of that, it is critical we have this information, which has the potential to impact all of us, no matter where we live.

At times of seasonal high tide, the streets of Miami Beach are flooded. The mayor of Miami Beach campaigned paddling in a kayak on Alton Road, which is on the west side of the city of Miami Beach. He campaigned in a kayak at the time of seasonal high flood talking about what the city needed to do because of what NASA's scientists tell us.

This is what NASA has testified to before the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. This was not a forecast, they were not projections, but measurements of the rise of the sea level in south Florida over the course of the last 45 years—6 to 8 inches. Again, this was not a forecast but measurements. Do we want to muzzle that NASA scientist who testified before our committee and who, by the way, in this case is also a NASA astronaut? Do we want to muzzle him?

Scientists simply must have the tools and the ability to tell us what they observe without limitation on the terms they can speak. So let us make clear that public science cannot be muzzled, that we won't support censorship, and that the taxpayers deserve an honest return on their investment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, AND 810 EN BLOC

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, and 810 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] proposes amendments numbered 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, and 810 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 346

(Purpose: To modify the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting jobs in the United States through international trade to include the reauthorization or extension of trade adjustment assistance programs)

On page 58, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(4) reauthorizing or extending trade adjustment assistance programs;

AMENDMENT NO. 425

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING RETIREMENT SECURITY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving retirement security by making it easier for small businesses to provide retirement plans for their employees by easing the administrative burden and by encouraging individuals to increase their savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses)

AMENDMENT NO. 426

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting economic growth and job creation by making it easier for small businesses to plan their capital investments and reducing the uncertainty of taxation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 427

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investment in Alzheimer's disease research)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTMENT IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing sufficient investment in Alzheimer's disease research, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 442

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to restore a sensible definition of full-time employee for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports

related to the employer penalties under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), which may include changes to the definition of "full time employee" under that Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 810

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program, which may include allowing for 1 or more additional payment periods during the same award year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there will be very little time later today when we start voting for there to be full explanations of any of these amendments, which I think is very unfortunate. I do want to let my colleagues know about some of these amendments, and I am proud to say that, for the most part, the amendments I have filed and have now called up are bipartisan amendments that enjoy support on both sides of the aisle.

For example, my amendment No. 427 would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to support sufficient investment in Alzheimer's disease research to achieve the goal set by the national plan to address Alzheimer's disease—of having the means to prevent and effectively treat that disease by the year 2025.

This amendment is cosponsored by Senator MORAN, Senator WARNER, Senator MCCASKILL, Senator TOOMEY, and Senator DONNELLY. It is modeled very much on a bill that Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have introduced to increase funding for Alzheimer's research.

Just yesterday the Special Committee on Aging, which I lead along with Senator MCCASKILL, held an extensive hearing on Alzheimer's disease. We listened to preeminent researchers and individuals such as B. Smith, who unfortunately has been afflicted with early onset Alzheimer's. We listened to a caregiver and to a geriatric physician from Portland, ME. We had testimony

from the Mayo Clinic and testimony from the individual who heads the Institutes of Health. To a person they pointed out that we are spending \$226 billion a year caring for people with Alzheimer's, yet we are investing less than \$600 million in this disease.

The experts tell us that if our investments were at the level of \$2 billion a year, we could explore the promising breakthroughs, the therapeutic targets that are needed to develop a means of prevention or better treatments or, ultimately, even a cure for Alzheimer's. Think of that. That \$2 billion figure that is recommended by the expert advisory council, headed by Dr. Ron Peterson from the Mayo Clinic, is less than 1 percent of what we are spending caring for people with Alzheimer's.

This disease is going to bankrupt the Medicare and the Medicaid Programs. We are currently spending \$154 billion from those two programs for care of patients with Alzheimer's.

That is one of the amendments I will be proposing.

I see the Senator from Illinois is on the floor, and he has been another real leader in this area.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator from Maine yield for a question?

Ms. COLLINS. Yes, I will be happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. First, I want to thank her. I took a look at the 200 pending amendments on this budget resolution, and I think at least 10 relate to biomedical research from both sides of the aisle. This is clearly a bipartisan issue, and I thank my colleague for speaking out on this Alzheimer's issue, because these victims and advocates for research came this week to visit.

It is stunning, just stunning, to think for a moment that we diagnose a person with Alzheimer's in America once every 68 seconds. When staff told me that, I couldn't believe it. I said, that has to be wrong, but it is right. It is an indication of the rapid development and growth of this terrible disease.

So I thank my colleague for putting in perspective the fact we spend over \$200 billion a year already on it, and that doesn't calculate all of the sacrifices of the caregivers in helping members of the family.

It would seem to me that amidst all this budget debate there should be certain areas that are sacred, and I think biomedical research should be one of them. I thank my colleague for speaking up on Alzheimer's and I hope we can continue this dialog on behalf of NIH and the other agencies doing the research.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague and friend from Illinois for his comments. I happened to catch his speech yesterday. There was a sea of purple at our hearing—purple representing the Alzheimer's cause. I hope one day purple will represent Alzheimer's survivors. Wouldn't that be wonderful.

This is a high priority for me. And I agree with the Senator from Illinois, I

believe we should be increasing our investment in biomedical research, particularly for Alzheimer's, but in many other areas as well. The irony is that, ultimately, it will reduce not only human suffering but the cost of health care.

The trajectory of Alzheimer's is such that if we do not develop better treatments, a means of prevention, or a cure, by the year 2050 the estimate is we are going to be spending more than \$1 trillion taking care of people with Alzheimer's.

For all of us in the baby boomer generation, the estimates are that by age 85, nearly 1 out of 2 of us will be afflicted with Alzheimer's, if the current trajectory is unchanged. Frankly, we are going to be spending our golden years either with Alzheimer's or taking care of someone with Alzheimer's. So this is a crisis, and it deserves our attention.

I know Senator MORAN also has a broader amendment on biomedical research, which I am proud to be a sponsor of, and this is an area where I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way, as my colleague has suggested.

Mr. President, there are other amendments I would like to briefly discuss, seeing no one seeking the floor immediately, I don't believe. I will have my staff check on that.

I am also going to offer an amendment to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell grant program, including an innovative idea that I am very interested in, and that the chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, is very interested in, which would allow for year-round Pell grants so that individuals could complete their education more quickly.

Before I was elected to the Senate, I worked at a college in Maine—Hudson University in Bangor, ME—and I saw firsthand the difference that Pell grants made in the lives of these students. Indeed, on my staff today there are highly talented individuals who were able to go to college solely because of the existence of Pell grants. Their families did not have experience with higher education and could not afford higher education. Pell grants made possible a bright future for these two women on my staff.

This is the kind of opportunity that should unite us and that all of us should rally behind. Allowing year-round Pell grants would allow students to complete their education more quickly and join the workforce more quickly, which would help them financially as well. So I hope this is something we can pursue and that will be adopted as well.

Another of my bipartisan amendments, No. 442, would establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to change the definition of full-time employee under ObamaCare so a worker could work for

more than 30 hours per week before the employer mandate penalty would be triggered. This, too, is bipartisan. Senator DONNELLY, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator MANCHIN, and I have all been working on this.

I hear from workers who are telling me their hours have been cut to 29 hours a week because of these penalties their employers simply cannot afford. It is not just in the for-profit hospitality industry, it is also in school systems, community colleges. So that is yet another of my amendments that I hope will enjoy support later today.

Mr. President, I see a number of my colleagues on the floor, so I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold her request?

Ms. COLLINS. I am happy to withhold the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 877 AND 878 EN BLOC

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up two of my amendments en bloc: Hirono amendments Nos. 877 and 878.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Ms. HIRONO] proposes amendments numbered 877 and 878 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 877

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING COLLEGE COMPLETION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Federal Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 878

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in clean energy and preserving the environment)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the reduction of the dependence of the United States on imported energy and the investment of receipts from domestic energy production, or energy efficiency and renewable energy development, or new or existing approaches to clean energy financing, or reducing greenhouse gas emissions levels, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, before I briefly outline my amendments, I need to say a few words about the budget before us.

The vision outlined in the budget before us is truly a disaster for the middle class and our economy. This budget lays out priorities that would undermine the gains that millions have made in getting affordable health insurance. It would undermine the ability of millions of students to get a college education. It puts tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of giving even a modest wage boost to those who are working hard to get ahead. This budget would give big corporations the opportunity to write their own rules while reducing the opportunity for the disabled veterans and children to live a decent life.

Democrats have tried to improve this budget. We tried to eliminate the sequester in a fair way. Republicans said no. We tried to make sure our commitments to those on Social Security and Medicare remain ironclad. The Republicans said no. We tried to close a few loopholes to invest in our communities and create jobs. The Republicans said no. We tried to give students the opportunity to get an affordable college education. The Republicans said no.

Given all these problems, I cannot support this budget. This budget favors the wealthy and special interests on the backs of middle-class families, seniors, and students in Hawaii and across the Nation, but I want to offer two ideas that I hope can improve this budget just a little bit.

Amendment No. 877 would restore year-round Pell grants without increasing the deficit. Many college students juggle work and family schedules. To balance these commitments they need to attend college year-round. But Pell grants can only be used in two semesters, currently.

My amendment would allow students to access Pell grants year-round, as they could from 2008 to 2011. This has been a bipartisan idea in the past. In fact, Senator COLLINS just now offered her similar amendment, amendment No. 810, that I also support. We should adopt this commonsense, bipartisan policy.

I thank Senator COLLINS for her work in enabling students to complete their college education in a way that would allow them to do so without disruptions and additional costs. I look forward to working with her as we move forward on this bipartisan-supported idea.

The second amendment I am offering, amendment No. 878, is very simple as well. The budget resolution allows for energy legislation, provided it is paid for only with cuts. It also lays out what I think is a very limited view of our Nation's energy priorities, particularly the heavy focus on fossil fuel development. My amendment would provide a broader, more forward-looking view of our Nation's energy priorities. My amendment allows for energy legislation that reduces our dependence on foreign oil, increases energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment and innovation, and addresses carbon pollution.

Hawaii relies on imported oil for energy. The U.S. military recognizes that overreliance on fossil fuel is a national security risk. We have to recognize our future can't be based on fossil fuels.

Hawaii and other States are leading the way in transitioning to a clean energy economy. My amendment would ensure that Congress's priorities are more in line with where Hawaii and our Nation are heading in the future. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these two amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 445, 448, AND 449 EN BLOC

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Gardner amendments Nos. 445, 448, and 449.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. GARDNER] proposes amendments numbered 445, 448, and 449 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 445

(Purpose: To prevent labor disputes at seaports in the United States from causing national economic disruptions and crippling businesses across the United States)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS AT SEAPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing economic disruptions at ports in the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those pur-

poses, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 448

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging expedited approval of liquefied natural gas export applications at the Department of Energy)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS EXPORT APPLICATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging approval of liquefied natural gas export applications, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 449

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING EFFICIENT RESOURCING FOR THE ASIA REBALANCE POLICY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding related to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENT NO. 523

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendment: Stabenow amendment No. 523.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW], for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 523.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prevent United States companies from getting tax benefits for moving jobs overseas, to end offshore tax loopholes including inversions, and to provide incentives for United States companies to relocate overseas jobs to the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BRINGING JOBS BACK TO AMERICA.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to tax provisions to encourage United States enterprises to relocate operations from overseas to within the United States, closing offshore tax loopholes (including those relating to inversions), or discouraging United States enterprises from relocating United States operations to other countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I believe every worker, every business deserves a fair shot to get ahead. A basic American principle is creating opportunity. We all know our workers are the best in the world, and when we have a fair fight we can work hard and we can win, but part of that fair fight is making sure we can do something about the broken Tax Code and the system we have. My amendment would address that, the Bring Jobs Home amendment.

We all know there are companies that, unfortunately, are able to game the system to avoid paying their taxes. They move on paper in order to be able to register in another country while still having the benefits of our country or they move overseas and, through the Tax Code, we as communities and their workers pay the cost of the move.

It is important to recognize the revenue that is being given up helps pay for our American way of life—our roads, airports, clean water, clean air, opportunities for education, innovation, medical research, science—all of the things that create the wonderful quality of life we have in our country that everyone contributes toward, those things that we need to do together.

Unfortunately, the Tax Code is rewarding too many companies to be able to take advantage of not doing their fair share. That is what my amendment addresses.

As I indicated, moving their business on paper around to different countries to avoid contributing to our American way of life, our American quality of life, they invert, costing Americans tens of billions of dollars in revenue that could go to support our veterans, our national defense, rebuilding America's roads and bridges, and water and sewer systems.

I believe it is particularly offensive to Americans when people find out

that, in fact, a company can decide to pick up and move, and the cost of the move—the cost of packing up and leaving our country—is a cost they can write off on their taxes, which means we all pay the price; the workers who are packing people up, the communities that are losing the jobs, our country, in terms of the lost revenue, and we pay for it.

Over the last 10 years, 2.4 million jobs were shipped overseas, and American taxpayers were asked to foot the bill. It makes no sense. Surely, we can come together on a bipartisan basis and agree to stop that—to stop that right off. That is what this amendment does.

Over 20 million more jobs are at risk of being shipped overseas today. In fact, in Michigan we have lost more than 700,000 jobs to offshoring. Now, I understand we are in a global economy. I understand there are a lot of decisions being made around the globe as to where companies will locate, but our Tax Code should not have loopholes in it that incentivize companies to actually continue to either get the benefits of America while pretending to be someplace else or moving and having us help pay for it.

This is a very serious part of tax reform. As we debate a budget resolution that has over \$400 billion in cuts to Medicare for seniors in it, that has over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid—80 percent of the dollars in Medicaid going for low-income seniors and people in nursing homes—when we look at the fact that we have been trying to pass a bill to create millions of good-paying American jobs by rebuilding America, by rebuilding our roads, by rebuilding our infrastructure, we can't get support to do that. People say we can't afford to pay for it.

This is the opportunity to create the revenue to pay for it, to create the revenue to lower the cost of student loans so more people have a fair shot to go to college, have an opportunity for the American dream, so they are not coming out of college being riddled with all kinds of debt, mounds of debt. It means they can't buy a house, they can't buy a car, they can't get started in life with a family because they are buried in debt. When we raise these issues on the floor, we hear we cannot afford, as a country, to fix those things that affect every family—people struggling to get into the middle class and stay in the middle class.

I think this budget ought to be about the middle class. I think we ought to be saying this is a middle-class budget, and I think if we are going to do that, we have to come together on fair ways to be able to fund those things that benefit everyone, that grow the economy by creating and expanding the middle class. We will not have an economy unless we expand the middle class. That means good-paying jobs here—here. I am all about export. I just want to export our products, not our jobs, and we have a Tax Code that is encouraging the export of our jobs.

So I hope we come together around the Bring Jobs Home amendment, agree there is one area of the Tax Code that everybody ought to support fixing; that is, where folks are using loopholes and games and gimmicks, frankly, to avoid contributing to the quality of life in our country.

We can create opportunities without adding one more dollar to the costs of middle-class families or small businesses or those who stay in our country and decide they want to continue to be a part of our great American economy. This is about closing for the tax cheaters who are avoiding stepping up and being a part of solving America's problems.

My amendment No. 523 will bring jobs home and invest in the middle class of our country. I hope this is an area we can come together on, and I urge support for my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 781, 565, 562, 552, AND 590 EN BLOC

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments en bloc: amendments Nos. 781, 565, 562, 552, and 590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. RUBIO] proposes amendments numbered 781, 565, 562, 552 and 590 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 781

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority and certain United Nations agencies and increasing foreign assistance for Israel)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REDUCING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND CERTAIN UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND INCREASING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing assistance for the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, and the Palestinian Authority because of these entities' anti-Israel behavior, and increasing foreign assistance for missile defense programs in Israel, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 565

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Medicare is not raided to bailout insurance companies under the President's health care overhaul)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT MEDICARE IS NOT RAIDED TO BAILOUT INSURANCE COMPANIES UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Medicare funds are not used to bailout insurance companies, which may include through the risk corridor program or other programs established in the President's health care law, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 562

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a new outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A NEW OUTCOMES-BASED PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZING INNOVATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a new outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 552

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding for United States embassies, which may include the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legisla-

tion would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 590

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the Medicare Advantage program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the Medicare Advantage program, which may include reversing the cuts to the Medicare Advantage program that were enacted under the President's health care law, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. RUBIO. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 991, 636, AND 638 EN BLOC

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up three Warner amendments en bloc: amendments Nos. 991, 636, and 638.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] proposes amendments numbered 991, 636, and 638 en bloc.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in my amendment No. 991 reported in that bloc as well?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 991

(Purpose: To restore program integrity funding to combat waste, fraud, and abuse)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

AMENDMENT NO. 636

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CONSUMERS FROM DATA BREACHES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports

relating protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches, which may include providing notification to affected consumers or enhancing data security programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 638

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-reduction reserve fund reserve fund for Government reform and efficiency)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-REDUCTION RESERVE FUND FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM AND EFFICIENCY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving savings through the use of performance data or scientifically rigorous evaluation methodologies for the elimination, consolidation, or reform of Federal programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives, or the sale of Federal property, and reduce the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the deficit reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to speak to these amendments for a couple of moments.

The first amendment, No. 991, targets improper payments and fraud in our largest entitlement programs. It is remarkable—every elected official I have ever met at any level of government often rallies against waste and fraud in government, and that means it so unusual that this budget we have before us leaves out critical funding to fight fraud and abuse in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and disability programs.

The amendment I am offering today would restore all program integrity funding to the Republican budget to the levels allowed in the Budget Control Act. Program integrity activities have a proven track record of saving money. When we invest in programs that track and eliminate overpayments and fraudulent claims, we end up reducing costs and lowering budget deficits.

For example, according to the Social Security actuaries, program integrity efforts to conduct "continuing disability reviews"—specifically to weed out beneficiaries who have recovered and are no longer defined as "disabled"—saves taxpayers \$10 for every \$1 spent on program integrity efforts.

I am introducing this amendment because this is a good use of taxpayer dollars and a critical way to ensure that the money we invest in important programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security disability goes directly to the beneficiaries who rely on

them. Any elected official who has ever said that we ought to root out waste and fraud in entitlement programs should obviously be supporting restoring these critical funds.

The second amendment I wish to raise is a bipartisan measure, No. 636, filed along with Senators CRAPO and KING, dealing with consumer data security.

Recently, we have seen major data breaches that have affected hundreds of millions of American consumers, those who have shopped at Target and Home Depot, have accounts at JPMorgan Chase, or have received health care from Anthem. In the aftermath of the Target breach, working with Senator KIRK, we recommended that various industry groups in the private sector cooperate on information sharing to ward off data thieves.

With continuous advances in technology, it is vitally important that we continue to strengthen our efforts to protect consumers from cyber crime by enacting smart, targeted protections. Our bipartisan amendment simply recognizes that we need to provide reasonable notification to consumers when their personal information is compromised and encourage greater cooperation and enhanced data security programs in the private sector to safeguard that data. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

Finally, I would like to introduce a third amendment, No. 638, along with my colleague Senator AYOTTE, that mirrors language included in the chairman's mark of our last budget resolution. This amendment encourages Congress to act on the recommendations from GAO to improve Federal Government efficiency by reducing fragmentation, overlap, and duplication. The Senate has a bipartisan history of working on these issues, and I think it is important that our budget resolution this year include our continuing commitment to this work.

In 2010, Congress passed the bipartisan Government Performance and Results Modernization Act, or GPRA, which required Federal agencies to report how their money was being spent, as well as top priorities and possible avenues of consolidation within the agency. Last year, we passed the DATA Act, which works in concert with GPRA to further track how agencies are spending money.

It is important that the savings from these actions go toward reducing our deficit. That is why the Warner-Ayotte amendment is actually a deficit-reduction reserve fund.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

I yield to my good friend, the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Virginia for yielding to me.

First of all, I would like to talk for a moment about the budget. I am pleased

that the Senate is debating a budget. We are required by law to pass one by April 15. It has been a while since we have been able to accomplish that. I am hopeful that the budget will be reconciled with the House-passed budget, giving us the opportunity to develop 12 appropriations bills within this budgetary outline.

It is unfortunate that by the nature of a budget, it is a partisan endeavor. The expectation is that no Democrat will vote for the budget that ultimately will pass the Senate today. I hope that doesn't continue to be true in another issue that I am encouraging and am encouraged to know will be considered by the Senate, and that is the sustainable growth rate fix, the so-called SGR fix.

Back in 1997, a budget act was passed that created a formula by which physicians are reimbursed under Medicare. That formula has been very damaging to the practice of medicine—the ability to sustain a practice of medicine—particularly in areas of the country in which the population is elderly and patients are generally on Medicare and most of the physicians' income is then derived from reimbursement from the Medicare system.

The SGR has created a series of problems. At least annually, there has been a problem we have had to fix. Over a decade, we have spent millions of dollars—in fact, \$150 billion in short-term so-called doc fixes.

What I hope happens after consideration of the budget today, tonight, in the morning, is that there will be unanimous consent and agreement that we take a vote on finally permanently fixing the problems created by this SGR, the formula.

In my State of Kansas, there are 127 community hospitals across our State that care for patients every day, every hour. Most of those hospitals have a significant volume of Medicare patients. The physicians who admit patients to those hospitals and see patients on an ongoing basis in those communities see a significant portion of their patients, and their bills are paid by Medicare.

In the last several years, the reduction in payment for a physician, that Medicare reimbursement, has been in the neighborhood of 20 percent to 30 percent. The reality, I think all of us know—in fact, it is evidenced by the fact that every year we do a patch, we fix this issue—what we know is that in the absence of fixing that formula either on a periodic basis or today potentially permanently, physicians will no longer be able to see Medicare patients. In many of the communities I represent, the physicians are employed by the hospital. So this becomes not just a physician issue, not just a hospital issue—the reality is, it is a patient issue. Will you have a doctor in your community who is willing to see, who is able to see a patient who is of the age at which Medicare is providing Medicare health care benefits?

The opportunity we have today is important. We can do so many things by permanently fixing the SGR. The outcome is that communities across our country and communities across my State of Kansas have a much brighter hope that their hospital doors remain open and physicians continue to practice medicine in their communities.

Our health care providers face tremendous challenges today related to the Affordable Care Act, related to the ever-increasing amount of regulatory burden placed upon hospitals and doctors, upon the costs associated with moving toward computerized medical records. Our health care providers in many instances are hanging on by a thread, and whether or not a community has a doctor, has a hospital determines whether that community has a future.

I know that in my own hometown of Plainville, the ability of my parents—who lived into their nineties—to remain in their hometown was determined by whether there was an active, quality medical community, quality physicians who cared about their patients and hospitals, who were there to admit their patients when that care was needed. Only because that existed in our hometown were my parents, into their nineties, able to continue to live in a community they called home.

The SGR fix is a significant component to make certain that no people have to move, no senior citizens have to move someplace closer to a doctor or a hospital because their hospital no longer is in existence or their physician no longer cares for folks who have Medicare.

The SGR, which I did not support when it was created, has caused a volatile and unsustainable system for both patients and health care providers. The uncertainty of knowing when and if Congress is going to fix by a patch creates problems in and of itself, in addition to the ultimate reimbursement rate that physician receives.

The time to act is now. We are as close to a permanent SGR fix as we have been in my time in Congress. It would be a very sad occurrence if we let this opportunity slip by, and one more time, in a few months, we will be back trying to figure out how to patch the SGR once again. We will spend more money. We will create greater uncertainty. We will hasten the day in which citizens of our country—Medicare recipients—are no longer able to see a physician of their choice or be admitted to the hospital in their community.

I am of the view that we ought not move on to other business. We ought not recess for this April period of time until we make sure that tonight or in the morning the SGR fix is permanently put in place.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 467, 468 EN BLOC

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator BLUNT: amendments Nos. 467 and 468.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follow:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MORAN], for Mr. BLUNT, proposes amendments numbered 467 and 468 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 467

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DIRECT PROVISION OF DEFENSE ARTICLES, DEFENSE SERVICES, AND RELATED TRAINING TO THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 468

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to military aid to Israel)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing grants only in Israel for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services, including research and development to assist Israel in maintaining its qualitative military edge, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 707, 967, 896, 897, AND 573 EN BLOC

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside to call up amendments Nos. 707, 967, 896, 897, and 573 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] proposes amendments numbered 707, 967, 896, 897, and 573 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 707

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reduce overdose deaths)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REDUCING OVERDOSE DEATHS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prevention of prescription drug and opioid overdose deaths, which may include support of opioid overdose prevention activities, increased surveillance and monitoring for opioid prescription drugs and overdoses, expanded access to evidence-based treatments for opioid addiction, or enhanced research for alternatives to opioid pain medication, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 967

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to domestic medical isotope production)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DOMESTIC MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to nuclear medical isotope production facilities used to produce molybdenum-99 (other than facilities that use highly-enriched uranium), and associated radioisotope processing, waste management, and support facilities which may include ensuring that such facilities are included on the list of eligible projects for the receipt of incentives for innovative technologies under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005(42 U.S.C. 16511 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 896

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the safety of offshore oil drilling in the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the safety of offshore oil drilling in the United States, which may include changes to existing law to increase the liability cap with respect to offshore oil spills, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 897

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting consumers in the United States from price increases due to large-scale natural gas exports)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING CONSUMERS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM PRICE INCREASES DUE TO LARGE-SCALE NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting consumers and businesses in the United States from price increases or other impacts of large-scale natural gas exports, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 573

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the repair and replacement of natural gas distribution pipelines and infrastructure no longer fit for service)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO LONGER FIT FOR SERVICE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the repair and replacement of natural gas distribution pipelines and infrastructure no longer fit for service by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. MARKEY. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, a lot of things have happened. We are on the path, I hope, to being able to pass a budget that balances in 10 years. It has some problems, but I think it would be a major change from the course we

have been on, and so I will support it. I hope to be able to support it, although things could happen, I guess, between now and our final vote.

One of the things I wish to share with my colleagues is simply that the proposal to fix the doctors' payments—the so-called doc fix, the SGR—which has been around for a long time is one of my highest priorities. It is, indeed, unreasonable and unjustified to require doctors to be uncertain every year as to whether they are going to get a 21-percent or so reduction in their Medicare payments. They can hardly do the work at that fee level. So we do need to fix it.

However, on the same day that we are now declaring that we want to pass a budget that puts us on a financial path to balance in 10 years by a meager \$3 billion—a balanced budget plan, a responsible plan; an idea and goal to achieve—we are also talking about passing an unpaid-for plan, and in my view it is not responsible, to spend and borrow another \$141 billion, after the proposed offsets, to pay for the doc fix. This is what brings this Congress into disrepute. The same day we assert we want to have a balanced budget, and we lay out a plan that will get us there in 10 years, we are now considering passing an unpaid-for increase in spending that will add \$141 billion to the debt. Colleagues, we just can't do that.

To my physician friends, whom I talked to a lot about this and who are worried about it, let's all work together to lay out a plan that will pay for this expense. We can do that. Maya MacGuineas is at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a well-respected, bipartisan group. They have basically been shocked by this proposal. They submitted papers that said over 20 years it will add \$500 billion to the debt. While, some have said that over 20 years, it will pay for itself. According to Maya MacGuineas' analysis, it won't, and we don't have official data now. So why would we allow this legislation to pass through so fast?

I urge my colleagues, let's do a short-term fix again, but then let's do a permanent fix, one that is responsible, one that is grownup, one that is paid for, and not just one that adds more debt to the credit card of America at a time when we cannot do that anymore.

I am so disappointed that we may not be able to let this legislation clear today because I don't believe it is going to be beneficial to us. We can come back and take action to maintain the appropriate payment levels. Let's do it the right way so we can be proud of it.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 435, 473, 593, AND 993 EN BLOC

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and, on behalf of Senator MENENDEZ, call up amendments Nos. 435, 473, 593, and 993 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes amendments numbered 435, 473, 593, and 993 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 435

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF LETHAL DEFENSIVE ARTICLES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding to support the Government of Ukraine in reestablishing its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 473

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing funding to combat anti-Semitism in Europe)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING FUNDING TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for programs to counter anti-Semitic activity in Europe, which may include efforts to empower civil society, including diverse religious and ethnic groups, civil and human rights organizations, and the business community, to fight anti-Semitism and discrimination and convening regular consultations with Jewish community organizations and non-Jewish civil and human rights organizations to demonstrate visible support, listen to concerns, and solicit recommendations on improving security and supporting victims, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 593

(Purpose: To require consideration of long-term deficits for any legislation relating to repealing or replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010)

Beginning on page 87, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 88, line 4.

AMENDMENT NO. 993

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the national do-not-call registry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to compliance with the national do-not-call registry, which may include adjusting or increasing fines, providing flexibility for the relevant regulatory agency, or modifying the conditions of the safe harbor provisions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, AND 668 EN BLOC

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments en bloc: Nos. 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, and 668.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. FLAKE] proposes amendments numbered 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, and 668 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 665

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS BASED ON AWARDEES ENTERING OR NOT ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition on the awarding of construction contracts on behalf of the Government based upon any solicitations, bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents, that require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations or discriminate against or give preference to such bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors based on their entering or refusing to enter into such agreements by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through

2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 677

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing political targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of individuals and social welfare organizations exercising free-speech rights)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PREVENTING POLITICAL TARGETING BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS EXERCISING FREE-SPEECH RIGHTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing political targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of individuals and social welfare organizations exercising free-speech rights, which may include maintaining current standards and definitions in defining political activity for the purpose of determining the tax status of individuals and social welfare organizations, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 678

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prosecution of first-time illegal border crossers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FIRST-TIME ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSERS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to decreasing the recidivism of illegal border crossers, including removing any prohibition on Federal prosecution of first-time border crossers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 667

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and disability insurance benefits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SOLVENCY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the financial solvency

of the unemployment compensation program and the social security disability insurance program, which may include ensuring that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and social security disability insurance benefits, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 666

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing the level of Federal premium support for crop insurance policies, which may include eliminating premium support for crop insurance for agricultural producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FEDERAL PREMIUM SUPPORT FOR CROP INSURANCE POLICIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing the level of Federal premium support for crop insurance policies, which may include limiting premium support for crop insurance for agricultural producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 668

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to government reform and efficiency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO GOVERNMENT REFORM AND EFFICIENCY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving savings through the use of performance data or scientifically rigorous evaluation methodologies for the elimination, consolidation, or reform of Federal programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives, the sale of Federal property, or the reduction of improper payments by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the spending reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of spending reduction achieved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 504, 505, 506, 1011

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator SULLIVAN: Nos. 504, 505, 506 and 1011.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. SULLIVAN, proposes amendments numbered 504, 505, 506, and 1011 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 504

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to limiting the ability of Environmental Protection Agency personnel to carry guns)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DISARMING THE EPA.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to limiting the ability of Environmental Protection Agency personnel to carry firearms, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 505

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs related to the ground-based midcourse defense and the long-range discrimination radar programs of the Department of Defense)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE AND THE LONG-RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting programs related to the ground-based midcourse defense and the long-range discrimination radar programs of the Department of Defense by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 506

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting vulnerable families from job killing regulations)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING VULNERABLE FAMILIES FROM JOB KILLING REGULATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Federal agencies consider the full cost of regulations, including indirect job losses, prior to enacting or amending any regulation or rule, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1011

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to providing an exemption from certain permitting requirements for routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing, for certain routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure, an exemption from certain requirements, which may include an exemption from the permitting requirements of section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1012

(Purpose: To strike more than \$1.2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, preserving a critical source of comprehensive, affordable health and long-term care coverage for millions of otherwise uninsured low-income adults, parents, and seniors, including millions of nonelderly low-income adults in States that expanded Medicaid as part of health reform)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, on behalf of Senator WYDEN, to call up amendment No. 1012.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], Mr. WYDEN, for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE, proposes an amendment numbered 1012.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SHAHEEN and Senator ISAKSON be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes in order to call up our amendments.

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 321, 611, AND 839 EN BLOC

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendments Nos. 321, 611, and 839 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. ISAKSON] proposes amendments numbered 321, 611, and 839 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 321

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget and appropriations process)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a biennial budget and appropriations process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 611

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to subject all fees collected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to the annual appropriations process)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUBJECTING ALL FEES COLLECTED BY U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the use of fees collected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which may include prohibiting the expenditure of any such fees unless such expenditure has been approved through the annual appropriations process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 839

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, IRAN, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 3, 1979, AND JANUARY 20, 1981.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am glad to join the Senator from New Hampshire on a very important piece of legislation that is being proposed as an amendment to the budget today. It is called the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act which 2 years ago passed this Senate with 68 votes. It has bipartisan support this year. It is the right way to solve our biggest problem, which is responsible spending in Washington.

The Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act assumes the following: What we have been doing has been broken for years. Every President since Ronald Reagan has endorsed the biennial budget. Twenty of the fifty States in the United States of America have a biennial budget. It is time we did budgeting and oversight and allowed time for both.

What this bill basically says is that in odd-numbered years we will do our appropriating and in even-numbered years we will do oversight of appropriations.

Wouldn't it be great to change the paradigm in America to where during election years and even years, instead of saying how much bacon we are going to bring home, to instead say how much savings we are going to find in the appropriations process. We can find new money to fund new programs without raising taxes or raising revenues of the Federal Government.

It is a responsible way to run our country, it is a way we ought to run

our country, and it is a responsible way for America to return to fiscal accountability.

With an \$18.1 trillion deficit and with spending going haywire and us not being able to do budgeting or appropriating at all, it is time we call time out, fix our problem, and move forward.

I yield to the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, who as Governor of New Hampshire for 6 years did biennial budgeting and has great experience in that effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, in supporting the biennial budgeting amendment. This is legislation we have been working on—this will be the third session of Congress now—and it is a response to what I think we would all agree is a broken budget process here in Washington.

Since 1980, we have only had two budget processes that have been finished on time, according to established process. In that timeframe, since 1980 when, as Senator ISAKSON pointed out, every President has endorsed biennial budgeting, Congress has resorted to more than 150 short-term funding bills or continuing resolutions. That is no way to govern. While we have made progress in recent years to reduce our deficits, we need reform of our budget process.

Senator ISAKSON pointed out very eloquently how this proposal would work. In New Hampshire, where I served three terms as Governor, I had a legislature of members of the other party and yet we were able to pass biennial budgets 3 years, on time, that were balanced. It worked in New Hampshire. It works in 19 other States. It can work here.

This is an opportunity for us to begin to reform our budget process. It won't fix everything, but it will go a long way in addressing our opportunity to provide oversight in the second year of the budget process.

I hope our colleagues will join us, and that we will again, as we did in 2013, have a majority to support biennial budgeting in this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from New Hampshire for her remarks and thank her for her commitment.

The definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result. It is time we get a different result in Washington, which is balanced budgets, fiscal accountability, and balanced spending, and a biennial budget will do that.

In our remaining time, with the permission of the Senator from New Hampshire, I wish to address one other amendment we have called up to be pending, which is amendment No. 839, which has already been reported.

Amendment No. 839 is very simply an amendment that recognizes the fact that 52 Americans were taken captive in 1979 in Iran at our Embassy. Forty-four of them are still alive. They remain the only American hostages ever taken who were never compensated for their time. We have revenue accumulating because of the Iranian sanctions. Everybody on the Foreign Relations Committee is supportive, and I think the State Department is too, of seeing to it we take a portion of those sanctions and compensate the American hostages of the Iranian Government from 1979 to 1980.

As the Presiding Officer will remember, it was the day Ronald Reagan was sworn in that Jimmy Carter finally made arrangements to get those hostages out of Tehran. They suffered torture, physical abuse, and terror for 444 days. They deserve to be compensated. We deserve to take the money the Iranians have been paid for sanctions and see to it these Americans are compensated for what they suffered in 1979 and 1980.

I appreciate the time from the Chair and I yield back the remainder of our time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 750, 855, 749, 856, AND 759 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator LEE: Amendments Nos. 750, 855, 749, 856, and 759.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. LEE, proposes amendments numbered 750, 855, 749, 856, and 759 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 750

(Purpose: To modify the spending-neutral reserve fund reauthorizing funding for payments to counties and other units of local government to ensure payment at levels roughly equivalent to property tax revenues lost due to the presence of Federal land)

On page 64, lines 10 and 11, strike "Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)" and insert "funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land".

AMENDMENT NO. 855

(Purpose: To prohibit increasing the public debt limit under reconciliation)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 202. LIMIT ON SENATE CONSIDERATION OF RECONCILIATION.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution reported pursuant to section 201, or an amendment to, conference report on, or amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, which would increase the public debt limit under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(c) APPEALS.—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on the point of order raised under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 749

(Purpose: To ensure that the reserve fund relating to affordable healthcare choices for all is used to repeal and not further empower the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)

On page 50, line 17, strike "or reforming".

AMENDMENT NO. 856

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to support legislation preventing the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband providers as common carriers under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and from implementing other "net neutrality" provisions)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROHIBIT THE RECLASSIFICATION OF BROADBAND PROVIDERS AS COMMON CARRIERS UNDER TITLE II OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the openness of the Internet, which may include prohibiting the reclassification of broadband providers as common carriers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 759

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to clarifying Federal jurisdiction with respect to intrastate species)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CLARIFYING FEDERAL JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO INTRASTATE SPECIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to limiting the Federal regulation of species found entirely within the borders of a single State by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal

years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 925 AND 926 EN BLOC

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 925 and 926 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. TILLIS] proposes amendments numbered 925 and 926 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 925

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the United States civil courts system)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES CIVIL COURTS SYSTEM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the United States civil courts system, including improvements to civil discovery rules that will contribute to the speedy and efficient resolution of disputes while protecting the rights of all litigants to a trial by jury, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 926

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENSURE THAT VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ARE NOT DENIED OR ABRIDGED ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, OR PREVIOUS CONDITION OF SERVITUDE.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any

State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, amendment No. 925 recognizes the work that has been done by the Judicial Conference to make discovery in civil cases less cumbersome and costly.

Amendment No. 926 incorporates language from the 15th Amendment—no denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race—into our budget instructions.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 729, 342, AND 588 EN BLOC

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: amendment No. 729, amendment No. 342, and amendment No. 588.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] proposes amendments numbered 729, 342, and 588 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 729

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in surface transportation projects)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTMENTS IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to making changes or providing for the authorization of programs to invest in freight movement, rail, highway, transit, transportation alternatives, and other surface transportation projects, including competitive grant programs, which will drive United States economic competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 342

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Guard State Partnership Program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving theatre security cooperation goals, which may include funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 588

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at air ports of entry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICERS AT AIR PORTS OF ENTRY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at air ports of entry to reduce wait times and otherwise facilitate travel, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 402, 596, 597, AND 865 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up, on behalf of Senator JOHNSON, amendments Nos. 402, 596, 597, and 865 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes amendments numbered 402, 596, 597, and 865 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 402

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO SUBSTANDARD HEALTH CARE, DELAYED AND DENIED HEALTH CARE, PATIENT DEATHS, OTHER FINDINGS THAT DIRECTLY RELATE TO PATIENT CARE, AND OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 596

(Purpose: To convey clear information in graphic form about projected deficits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TO CONVEY CLEAR INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED DEFICITS.

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required by section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), the Congressional Budget Office shall—

(1) include a projection of Federal revenues, outlays, and deficits for a 30-year period beginning with the budget year, expressed in terms of dollars and as a percent of gross domestic product; and

(2) publish a graph depicting the magnitude of projected deficits in the Federal budget on a unified basis under current policy, expressed in terms of billions of dollars, arranged appropriately to show—

(A) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the budget year and the 9 subsequent fiscal years;

(B) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the 10th through 19th subsequent fiscal years;

(C) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the 20th through 29th fiscal years; and

(D) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the entire period that includes the budget year and the 29 subsequent fiscal years.

AMENDMENT NO. 597

(Purpose: To convey clear information to Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenues, surpluses, and deficits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TO CONVEY CLEAR INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED FEDERAL OUTLAYS, REVENUES, AND DEFICITS.

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required by section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), and at any other time the Congressional Budget Office releases projections of Federal deficits over any term of years, the Congressional Budget Office shall publish with its projection a 1-page statement—

(1) summarizing and categorizing total outlays, receipts, surpluses, and deficits of the Federal Government on a unified basis for that same prospective time period;

(2) categorizing and subtotaling separately—

(A) outlays for mandatory programs and for discretionary programs;

(B) outlays, payroll tax revenue, and offsetting receipts for Social Security and for Medicare;

(C) the surplus or deficit of revenues over outlays for Social Security and for Medicare; and

(D) revenues.

AMENDMENT NO. 865

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to accommodate legislation that would stop the Federal government from forcing States to pay unemployment compensation benefits to millionaires)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STOP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM FORCING STATES TO PAY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO MILLIONAIRES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to high-income individuals by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 12 noon today be equally divided between the managers or their designees, and that at 12 noon, the Senate vote in relation to the following amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes but with side-by-side amendments allowed to be offered by Senator SANDERS, or his designee, on the Scott amendment No. 692 and the Vitter amendment No. 515, and that the vote occur on the listed amendment second; so that the order then would be Sanders No. 881, Kirk No. 545, Stabenow No. 523, Rubio No. 423, Wyden No. 1012, Paul No. 940, Murray No. 798, Moran No. 356, Baldwin No. 432, Collins No. 810, Franken No. 828, Scott No. 692, Coons No. 966, Blunt No. 928, Durbin No. 817, Vitter No. 515, Bennet No. 947, Murkowski No. 838, and Inhofe No. 649.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to each vote and that all votes after the first in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. For the information of all Senators, this will be the first series of votes today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 932

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 932.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 932.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget resolution process)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET RESOLUTION PROCESS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a biennial budget resolution process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I urge the Senate to support this amendment. The amendment I am offering along with the Senator from Maryland, the vice chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes the creation of a biennial budget resolution process.

Having a two-year budget could enable the annual appropriations process to run more smoothly, and it might also benefit other committees. The appropriations process often bogs down due to the failure of the budget resolution process. If there is no budget resolution in place, there is no framework to facilitate consideration of appropriations bills.

Establishing a biennial budget process does merit serious consideration, but biennial appropriations are another matter.

Proponents of biennial appropriations argue that having an “off year” in which there are no appropriations bills will mean more oversight during the off year. Well, this ignores the close relationship between oversight and the appropriations process itself. Within each year’s appropriations process, in the hearings before the committee, informal meetings, committee

reports, and the bills themselves, Congress provides guidance—admonitions sometimes—and funding adjustments based on program performance and changing priorities. The appropriations process is one of the best tools Congress has to reform, improve, eliminate, and modernize programs under its jurisdiction.

Having an off year would not translate into more oversight. It might well have the opposite effect, as Congress would not possess any hammer or useful tool of the year's appropriations bill to modify agency actions. So you're yielding more power to the executive branch to spend money, borrow money, and try new programs without having proper oversight of the appropriations and the authorizations process.

Writing and debating annual appropriations is an essential part of the Congressional oversight responsibility that was contemplated by the Framers of the Constitution. It does not detract from the power of, or minimize or infringe on, authorizing committees' ability to perform additional oversight. There is no limitation under this process of a legislative committee's prerogatives. It provides the money, though, as the Constitution contemplates, through an appropriation of funds approved by the people's representatives—not the Executive's, not the people who run the Departments, and not the President himself.

We changed things with the King of England during the colonial era. The people recognized they wanted the people in charge. "Here, sir, the people govern" became a watchword of the Revolution and the establishment of the United States of America.

So under this suggestion, which we are criticizing at this moment, Congress would be compelled to do one of two things: either adjust appropriations in the off year through supplemental appropriations, or give agencies themselves greater flexibility to move money around among different programs and activities that are part of the government spending process.

The first defeats the purpose of the biennial appropriations proposal. The second is a further expansion of Executive power. You're building up the Executive with more tools to do its will without respect to what the people's representatives in the Congress might prefer. The second is the further expansion of Executive power, generally, that we should be wary of granting. The Executive has an enormous amount of power, but under our system, we should seek an equally powerful role for the people's representatives, and for the direct election of Members of the U.S. Senate whose responsibility includes the power to help ensure that the States have the funds they need to carry out their responsibilities.

Congress can improve its performance in budgeting, but it does not have to abandon the annual review of the Federal appropriations process. It doesn't have to be part of the answer to the question.

So I hope Senators will carefully review what is at stake and what is being suggested and consider that before you vote. I hope the Senate will support my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, while waiting for the Senator from New Jersey to arrive in his seat, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Mississippi, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. COCHRAN.

I want to be sure we understand that this idea of biennial budgeting is really a bad idea—well intentioned but a bad idea.

The Isakson amendment goes beyond a 2-year budget resolution and calls for establishing 2-year appropriations of bills. The power of the purse is one of Congress's most powerful holds. We shouldn't give it up. What would happen, if we go with the Isakson and Shaheen amendment and not follow Cochran-Mikulski, we need to know we would be putting too much power in the hands of the executive branch, unelected bureaucrats, and OMB. So proponents of biennial appropriating will not approve congressional oversight—just the opposite.

Without annual appropriations bills, agencies will have little incentive to be candid in their testimony and responsive to congressional will and congressional directives. We sacrifice our most important tool.

The other consideration is the practicality. Under biennial appropriations, the timeline between the initial forecast and the actual budget could be 30 months; then, we can't also respond to emergencies. Threats change every day—ISIS, security, the crisis that just happened to our allies in Germany. We have to be able to respond.

Congress should not tie its own hands and limit its ability. Support Cochran-Mikulski, defeat Isakson-Shaheen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 881

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 881, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for himself and Mrs. Murray, proposes an amendment numbered 881.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting a substantial increase in the minimum wage)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions,

amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to labor reform, which may include a substantial increase in the minimum wage by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 720, 721, AND 722 EN BLOC

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 720, 721, and 722 en bloc.

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

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BOOKER], proposes amendments numbered 720, 721, and 722 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 720

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting workforce development through apprenticeship programs)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funds for programs that support workforce development through apprenticeships, and providing additional funds to the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor to expand apprenticeship programs nationally, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 721

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation, including rail, waterways, ports, and highways to promote national connectivity)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING FREIGHT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT THAT INCORPORATES ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING RAIL, WATERWAYS, PORTS, AND HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation including rail, waterways, ports

and highways, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 722

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting payments for conversion therapy or treatments that purport to change the gender identity or sexual orientation of an individual under the Medicare and Medicaid programs)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING PAYMENTS FOR HARMFUL AND FRAUDULENT TREATMENTS UNDER MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting payments for harmful and fraudulent treatments under the Medicare or Medicaid programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I hope to have the opportunity to speak about amendments Nos. 720 and 722 later, but I would like to speak now about No. 721, which is a freight rail amendment.

I am very happy to see the Presiding Officer, Senator RUBIO, whom I have worked with on other legislation. Having bipartisan work on important critical issues is essential. I am happy to join with Senator FISCHER on this important amendment.

It focuses on the urgency to improve the movement of freight and strengthen our competitiveness by investing in a comprehensive multimodal national network that includes not just our major highways but our rails, seaports, local roads, and intermodal facilities.

I am happy to see Senator SANDERS, who has the courage to stand and speak about the infrastructure deficit in our country and calls for bold, fiscally sound investment. I want to make sure, as we move forward, that freight planning and investment as seen by this amendment is prioritized. Along with Senator FISCHER, I support broadening our approach to freight policy that would promote greater national productivity. Why is this important? Hundreds of millions of tons of freight are annually shipped through our ports, rails, and highway networks.

The Great Corridor runs from my State of New Jersey to New York, to Philadelphia, moving over \$55 billion in goods each year, and is one of the most significant chokepoints in the U.S. transportation network that moves \$17 trillion of goods between metropolitan areas each year.

The incredible freight network drives our economy, boosts economic com-

petitiveness, and creates jobs in America, thousands and thousands of jobs. With a slight adjustment of our priorities and a strong national commitment to investing in our infrastructure, we can dramatically reduce congestion, improve the health of our American communities and make sure goods get where they need to go faster, cheaper, all while strengthening our economy and creating jobs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important amendment and look forward to continuing to work on critical transportation and infrastructure priorities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for debate has expired.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and ask for consideration of amendment No. 1024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I object. The vote is set aside for 12 noon. We could have 50 more people coming down and offering additional amendments. They will have an opportunity to offer those amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

AMENDMENT NO. 881

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sanders amendment No. 881.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this is a very simple, straightforward amendment. It calls for a substantial increase in the minimum wage. The simple truth is that in America, people working full time should not be living in poverty. Since 1968, the real value of the Federal minimum wage has fallen by close to 30 percent. People all over this country and in State after State on their own have voted to raise the minimum wage.

By the way, in State after State where the minimum wage has gone up, more jobs have been created. Let us stand today with the tens of millions of workers who are struggling to put food on the table, to take care of their families. Let us raise the minimum wage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no." This is not the proper place for this. It can be handled as regular legislation at any time. This budget resolution is focused on balancing the budget in 10 years. That is important in and of itself, because balancing the budget renews job growth and expands opportunity for hard-working families.

CBO analyzed our budget for its economic growth impact. That report makes it clear that the economy grows as the government slows its spending rate. With that growth comes new jobs. Building on CBO's analysis, it is clear that over 1 million new jobs could be created if our budget took full effect. That will create competition for employees. That will increase wages.

The minimum wage was designed to be a training wage that teaches people how to show up for work on time and how to learn a job before transitioning to new jobs, and those that do get advanced really quickly.

I would ask there be a "no" vote on this amendment. It does not belong in this budget.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1024

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 1024.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. HEINRICH], for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BENNET proposes an amendment numbered 1024.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To create a point of order against legislation that would provide for the sale of Federal land to reduce the Federal deficit)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST THE SALE OF FEDERAL LAND TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide for the sale of any Federal land (other than as part of a program that acquires land that is of comparable value or contains exceptional resources or that is conducted under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.)) that uses the proceeds of the sale to reduce the Federal deficit.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 881

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sanders amendment No. 881.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeben	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 881) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I understand there is a bipartisan agreement in the works to modify the Kirk amendment No. 545 and, therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on amendment No. 545 occur after the vote on Inhofe amendment No. 649.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 523

There are now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Stabenow amendment No. 523.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I would hope we could all come together and agree that we want to bring jobs back to America. This is about saying if you are a business in America and you want to pretend to move offshore on paper but have the benefits of clean air and clean water and roads and all of the benefits of our American way of life, you ought to be contributing to that way of life. So this closes tax loopholes being used by companies right now to avoid paying their fair share.

Small businesses are here paying their fair share; individuals are, workers are. Yet we have a code where you can pack up and move overseas and American taxpayers have to foot the bill for the move. The workers losing their jobs have to foot the bill for the move. It makes no sense.

We want to bring jobs back to America. This simply closes egregious loopholes to make sure everybody is a part of America and that everybody is contributing to our quality of life and our way of life in America. I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. Some of Senator STABENOW's tax reform ideas might have merit, but they should be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than as a stand-alone proposal. Otherwise, we would have a whole bunch of these stand-alone proposals that would become part of the budget, instead of empowering committees of jurisdiction to handle them as regular legislation, which they still would have to do.

The U.S. Tax Code is overly complicated. It is inefficient, and it is archaic. The current structure hurts economic growth, frustrates working Americans, and pushes American businesses overseas. Any discussion of international or corporate tax reform should take place in the context of comprehensive tax reform to simplify the whole system.

The budget resolution assumes the tax-writing committees will adopt a tax reform proposal that reduces marginal rates but broadens the tax base to create a fair, efficient, competitive, pro-growth tax regime, and that the revenue is neutral. We look forward to working on that in the Committee on Finance.

I oppose the amendment, and I ask for a "no" vote. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. STABENOW. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Crapo	Isakson
Ayotte	Cruz	Johnson
Barrasso	Daines	Kirk
Blunt	Enzi	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Burr	Fischer	McCain
Capito	Flake	McConnell
Cassidy	Gardner	Moran
Coats	Graham	Murkowski
Cochran	Grassley	Paul
Collins	Hatch	Perdue
Corker	Heller	Portman
Cornyn	Hoeben	Risch
Cotton	Inhofe	Roberts

Rounds	Sessions	Tillis
Rubio	Shelby	Toomey
Sasse	Sullivan	Vitter
Scott	Thune	Wicker

The amendment (No. 523) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on Wyden amendment No. 1012 occur after the vote on the Stabenow amendment No. 523, and that amendment No. 940 be modified with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 940), as modified, is as follows:

On page 14, line 2, increase the amount by \$76,513,000,000.

On page 14, line 3, increase the amount by \$48,578,000,000.

On page 14, line 6, increase the amount by \$112,990,000,000.

On page 14, line 7, increase the amount by \$87,604,000,000.

On page 14, line 11, increase the amount by \$29,603,000,000.

On page 14, line 15, increase the amount by \$11,863,000,000.

On page 14, line 19, increase the amount by \$6,396,000,000.

On page 14, line 23, increase the amount by \$3,274,000,000.

On page 15, line 19, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000,000.

On page 15, line 20, decrease the amount by \$6,300,000,000.

On page 15, line 23, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000,000.

On page 15, line 24, decrease the amount by \$16,800,000,000.

On page 16, line 3, decrease the amount by \$13,020,000,000.

On page 16, line 7, decrease the amount by \$3,570,000,000.

On page 16, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,050,000,000.

On page 17, line 12, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000,000.

On page 17, line 13, decrease the amount by \$9,100,000,000.

On page 17, line 16, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000,000.

On page 17, line 17, decrease the amount by \$11,900,000,000.

On page 17, line 21, decrease the amount by \$4,200,000,000.

On page 17, line 25, decrease the amount by \$2,100,000,000.

On page 18, line 4, decrease the amount by \$700,000,000.

On page 20, line 13, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 14, decrease the amount by \$6,500,000,000.

On page 20, line 17, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 18, decrease the amount by \$8,500,000,000.

On page 20, line 22, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 1, decrease the amount by \$1,500,000,000.

On page 21, line 5, decrease the amount by \$500,000,000.

On page 28, line 20, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 21, decrease the amount by \$16,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 24, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 25, decrease the amount by \$19,600,000,000.

On page 29, line 4, decrease the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 8, decrease the amount by \$400,000,000.

On page 33, line 19, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 20, decrease the amount by \$29,520,000,000.

On page 33, line 23, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 24, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 34, line 3, decrease the amount by \$11,480,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1012

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Wyden amendment No. 1012.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier in this week I was encouraged when Republicans voted with Democrats to approve an amendment I introduced with Senator SANDERS that would protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts under the budget. But when we actually look at the Republican budget on Medicaid, it is impossible to square that budget, which has \$1.2 trillion in cuts, with the vote that was held earlier this week to protect Medicaid. And we can't get those savings without cutting reimbursements for nursing homes and long-term care services. Medicaid pays 40 percent of all nursing home care.

Colleagues, let us be consistent with our Medicaid vote that was cast earlier this week, and support my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no." The budget before us suggests we modernize the Medicaid program based on the successful and bipartisan model of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The Senate budget strengthens and improves Medicaid and protects the most vulnerable among us who rely on the program. The budget does not cut Medicaid. It slows its rate of growth. The Senate Finance Committee will of course determine the details of any Medicaid reform should legislation on that matter come before this body. And it would require legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this budget makes massive cuts in Medicaid and will throw women, men, and children off of that vitally important program.

I strongly support the Wyden amendment. Let's protect Medicaid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining before the vote.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WYDEN. 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 result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	

NAYS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 1012) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 423

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Rubio amendment No. 423.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, this is a pretty straightforward amendment. It funds defense fully based on the Gates budget, which was the last defense budget that was put together based solely on the assessment of threats we face and the requisite military needs to deal with those threats. The national security of our country is the predominant obligation of the Federal branch of government. It is the one thing that only the Federal Government can do, and it is the first thing it is tasked with doing. If it cannot protect us from foreign threats and protect our national security, all the other issues we are contemplating become elementary. This is a critical component, given the fact that around the world today there is an increase in threats from radical jihadists and nonstate actors to rogue states such as Iran and North Korea, to massive military buildup on behalf of the Chinese and the Asia-Pacific region, to the challenges faced by NATO and our allies in Europe as Vladimir Putin tries to redraw the post-Soviet order in Europe.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this. It does, once again, put us at the Gates' budget number which was the last number we arrived at, that was presented to us, and that fully funds the needs of our military based truly on the threats of the modern era.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. This is truly a remarkable amendment because it runs directly in opposition to everything the Republicans have been talking about. They say we have to cut Medicare and Medicaid and education because of the terrible deficit. Do you know why we have a deficit and large debt? Because we went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan and we forgot to pay for it.

Now Senator RUBIO says, hey, let's continue spending more money on war but just put it on the credit card. We don't have to pay for it. Enough is enough. If you want to go to war, start paying for that war. Let the American people know what the cost of war is.

Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of my amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 32, nays 68, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Ayotte	Enzi	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Coats	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	McCain	Thune
Crapo	McCaskill	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	

NAYS—68

Alexander	Franken	Perdue
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Heller	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Scott
Carper	Klobuchar	Sessions
Casey	Lankford	Shaheen
Cochran	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Vitter
Durbin	Mikulski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Nelson	Wyden
Flake	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 32, the nays are 68.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the

affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I wish to remind everyone that these are supposed to be 10-minute votes. I am asking for a little bit closer timing on this. We have hundreds of them to go yet today, so we need to be more responsive in voting. It is a 10-minute vote.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 940, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Paul amendment No. 940, as modified.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, national defense is the No. 1 priority of the Federal Government. My amendment increases defense spending, but pays for it with spending cuts. It is irresponsible and dangerous to continue to put America further into debt, even for something we need. We need national defense, but we should pay for it.

America does not project power from bankruptcy court. We need a strong national defense, but we should be honest with the American people and pay for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the Republican budget throws 27 million people off of health care. It denies nutrition programs for hungry kids and pregnant women. It cuts \$90 billion from the Pell program, making it harder for young people to get a college education, and it raises the price of prescription drugs for the elderly. For Senator PAUL, that is apparently not enough. He wants, over a 2-year period, \$189 billion in cuts to discretionary programs, which will be devastating to the working families of this country.

Stop the war against working families. Vote no on the Paul amendment.

I make a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of my amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 4, nays 96, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Leg.]

YEAS—4

Enzi
McConnell

Paul
Vitter

NAYS—96

Alexander
Ayotte
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Boozman
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Coons
Corker
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Donnelly
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein

Fischer
Flake
Franken
Gardner
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Moran
Murkowski

Murphy
Murray
Nelson
Perdue
Peters
Portman
Reed
Reid
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 4, the nays are 96.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained and the amendment, as modified, falls.

The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 798

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the amendment I am offering today would simply expand access to paid sick days and give our families some much needed economic stability.

Working families should not have to sacrifice a day's pay or sacrifice their job altogether just to take care of themselves or a sick child, but today in this country, 43 million of our Nation's workers do not have access to paid sick days. This amendment would allow workers to earn up to 7 paid sick days over the course of a year.

It will not only help our families, it will be good for business. Paid sick days boost productivity, and in cities and States that already have paid sick leave laws, many employers state that this policy has not affected their revenue.

Allowing workers to earn paid sick days would take us a step closer to having an economy that works for all of our families, and I urge its support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. Under the current law, the Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 work weeks of job-protected unpaid leave for employees following the birth of a child, to care for a seriously ill family member, or for their own serious health issues.

Voluntary paid leave programs work precisely because they are voluntary,

thereby offering flexibility to both employees and employers. The one-size-fits-all approach does not permit the flexibility needed to help all kinds of businesses and all kinds of workers. Employers, not the Federal Government, are best situated to know the benefits compensation that should be provided.

This, again, is a bill that should go through committee. It might be very successful if it goes through the committee process, but regardless it ought to, and so I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murray amendment No. 798.

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Alexander
Ayotte
Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Boxer
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Corker
Donnelly
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken

Gillibrand
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Hirono
Hoeven
Isakson
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murkowski
Murphy

Murray
Nelson
Peters
Portman
Reed
Reid
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Thune
Toomey
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—39

Barrasso
Blunt
Boozman
Capito
Coats
Cochran
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst

Fischer
Flake
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hatch
Heller
Inhofe
Lankford
Lee
McConnell
Moran
Paul

Perdue
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Tillis
Vitter
Wicker

The amendment (No. 798) was agreed to.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 98, I voted nay. I intended to vote yea. Therefore, since it will not affect the outcome of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that I be recorded as voting yea.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 98, I voted nay. I intended to vote yea. Since it will not affect the outcome of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that I be recorded as voting yea.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

AMENDMENT NO. 356

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Moran amendment No. 356.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the Moran amendment is an attempt to address the issue—in fact it is addressing the issue—of the 40-mile requirement contained in the choice act that Congress passed in August. Senators may recall that in August we were successful in coming together and passing legislation to give veterans greater options if they live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or if they cannot get the services within 30 days, the VA should provide those services, if they choose, at home.

This amendment makes clear that the VA should provide those services in the circumstance where there is a VA facility within 40 miles, but it does not provide—if it does not provide the service the veteran needs, it does not count against the 40 miles. This is a commonsense, very bipartisan amendment. I ask that it be adopted.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator MORAN raising this issue. Last year we wrote the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. We included language to allow veterans living at least 40 miles from a VA facility to access care in the community.

Like Senator MORAN, I represent a rural State. I am the first to understand the unique needs of rural veterans. I have spoken with Senator MORAN and understand his intention is to ensure that veterans living at least 40 miles from a facility that provides the care they need can seek care in the community through the Choice Program on a case-by-case basis.

If that is his intention, I think it is a good amendment. I think we should all support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Brown	Collins
Ayotte	Burr	Coons
Baldwin	Cantwell	Corker
Barrasso	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cotton
Blumenthal	Carper	Crapo
Blunt	Casey	Cruz
Booker	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Coats	Donnelly
Boxer	Cochran	Durbin

Enzi	Leahy	Rubio
Ernst	Lee	Sanders
Feinstein	Manchin	Sasse
Fischer	Markey	Schatz
Flake	McCain	Schumer
Franken	McCaskill	Scott
Gardner	McConnell	Sessions
Gillibrand	Menendez	Shaheen
Graham	Merkley	Shelby
Grassley	Mikulski	Stabenow
Hatch	Moran	Sullivan
Heinrich	Murkowski	Tester
Heitkamp	Murphy	Thune
Heller	Murray	Tillis
Hirono	Nelson	Toomey
Hoeven	Paul	Udall
Inhofe	Perdue	Vitter
Isakson	Peters	Warner
Johnson	Portman	Warren
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
King	Reid	Wicker
Kirk	Risch	Wyden
Klobuchar	Roberts	
Lankford	Rounds	

The amendment (No. 356) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 432

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Baldwin amendment No. 432.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, my amendment would create a free community college program, making a bold investment in our Nation's students, its workforce, and the future of our economy.

It pays for this investment in a balanced way, and my amendment would actually reduce the deficit by enacting the Buffett rule, asking millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share of taxes while giving our students a fair shot at the opportunities a higher education brings.

Inspired by programs in Tennessee and Chicago, this spring President Obama proposed a program that would allow students to attend community college for 2 years at no cost. This was a bold step.

Passing my amendment will show that Congress is ready to act to give every student a fair shot at an affordable education. Voting for this amendment means you believe a college education should be a path to the middle class and not a path into debt.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on the Baldwin-Schumer-Sanders-Stabenow amendment to support free community college and invest in our students and our workforce.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the 1 minute in opposition, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. It spends more than \$50 billion and pays for it by raising taxes.

This amendment is again telling the Finance Committee exactly how to do its work. But worse yet, the President's budget proposal for community college tuition free for all is not free for the States.

The Federal Government would pay 75 percent, but the States have to pay

25 percent. That is a 25-percent unfunded mandate. There is no provision for the States to be covered under this thing.

So we are telling them they are going to provide free college, although a lot of them already do. For the poor, the Pell grant is \$5,775, and the average college tuition is \$3,347. But it is not clear exactly what strings the administration would attach to States and community colleges in exchange for a 75-percent match.

Some of Senator BALDWIN's tax reform ideas may have merit, but they should be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than as a stand-alone proposal.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The question is on agreeing to the Baldwin amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—55

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 432) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 810

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Collins amendment No. 810.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I offer this amendment on behalf of myself and Senator HIRONO. Our amendment would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to expand access to higher education for some of our neediest students through the Pell grant program.

The amendment would allow for year-round Pell grants so students who want to accelerate their degrees by taking additional courses, including during the summer, can receive an additional Pell grant when they need it

and complete their education more quickly without having to wait for the next academic year to begin.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I want to thank the Senator from Maine. We should be working to make college more affordable, reducing the crushing burden of student debt, and giving Americans a chance to further their education and training skills.

The underlying budget makes drastic cuts to Pell grants and would increase the average student's debt by thousands of dollars. The amendment of the Senator from Maine would help make college more affordable and accessible by reinstating the year-round Pell grant, which is a much needed investment to improve students' success.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. MURRAY. I urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I think we have an agreement to take this on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 810) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 828

(Purpose: To provide additional resources to save student financial aid and keep college affordable for more than 8,000,000 low- and middle-income students by restoring the \$89,000,000,000 in cuts to Federal Pell Grants in the Republican budget)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Franken amendment No. 828.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, we just voice-voted an amendment to let students use summer Pell grants, but the fact is this budget cuts Pell grants. In Minnesota alone, more than 160,000 students were able to go to college thanks in part to Pell grants, and the same holds for millions around the country.

When my wife Franni and I were in college, a full Pell grant paid for about 80 percent of a public college education. Today it pays for less than 35 percent. Yet this budget would cut this program and make it harder for students to pay for college. My colleagues want to cut it further. We should not be doing that.

That is why I offer this amendment to restore funding for Pell grants.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. FRANKEN. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up his amendment?

Mr. FRANKEN. I would say yes.

I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. FRANKEN], for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 828.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 25, 2015, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

First, this amendment would increase deficits relative to the budget resolution. It increases spending in Function 500, with no offset.

Second, the budget resolution doesn't cut Pell grants, the primary program helping these millions of people.

The budget does encourage restoring the Pell Grant Program to its original status as a discretionary program, subject to annual review by colleagues. The tuition purchasing power of Pell grants is at an all-time low even though Pell grant spending has tripled in the past decade. Since 2008, there has been an effort to maintain and increase the maximum Pell grant, but college tuition increases faster than that.

This is a program that needs to be reviewed by the applicable committee to see what needs to be done. We think there are parameters in the budget to take care of the issue. It provides sufficient funding on the discretionary side to maintain the maximum Pell grant level, which is set to rise to \$5,775 for the upcoming academic year.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no."

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 101 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Burr	Collins
Ayotte	Capito	Corker
Barrasso	Cassidy	Cornyn
Blunt	Coats	Cotton
Boozman	Cochran	Crapo

Cruz	Isakson	Roberts
Daines	Johnson	Rounds
Enzi	Kirk	Rubio
Ernst	Lankford	Sasse
Fischer	Lee	Scott
Flake	McCain	Sessions
Gardner	McConnell	Shelby
Graham	Moran	Sullivan
Grassley	Murkowski	Thune
Hatch	Paul	Toomey
Heller	Perdue	Vitter
Hoeven	Portman	Wicker
Inhofe	Risch	

The amendment (No. 828) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 692.

The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 1026

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside in order to call up my amendment No. 1026.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN], for Mrs. MURRAY, for herself and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 1026.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency health premium billing)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO CONSUMER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) taxes or other provisions in health insurance monthly premium statements, including advance premium tax credits, cost sharing reductions, medical loss ratio rebates and savings, free preventive care, coverage of preexisting conditions and prohibitions on premium rating because of gender, the cost of insurance company administrative expenses, and taxes and fees, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, more than 5 years after being signed into law, the Affordable Care Act is improving the health and well-being of millions of Americans. Many of the Affordable Care Act's greatest successes are getting lost in the noise of political attack ads. The Affordable Care Act has expanded health care coverage to millions of Americans. These people no longer have to go to bed at night worried about the possibility of bankruptcy if they get sick.

Americans who had coverage already are benefiting from new protections.

Women now pay the same premiums as men. Preexisting conditions can no longer be used as an excuse to deny coverage, and health plans no longer put lifetime caps on benefits. This amendment would require insurers to disclose all of the benefits afforded to consumers through the Affordable Care Act.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we don't have any problem with this being taken by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1026.

The amendment (No. 1026) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 692

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Scott amendment No. 692.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up the Scott amendment No. 692 in regard to transparency in health insurance costs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. SCOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 692.

Mr. SCOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 692

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH PREMIUM BILLING.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) tax in health insurance monthly premium statements, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, my amendment is a very simple amendment. It simply seeks to make sure insurance companies increase the transparency on the actual cost of the health insurance tax on monthly premiums.

The bottom line is this: When a single mom goes to the grocery store and she gets her receipt, at the bottom of the receipt it reflects the taxes she has paid. When a father of three buys clothes, at the end of his receipt it reflects the taxes that are being paid.

By the year 2018, this invisible tax not seen by the average insurance purchaser will have raised about \$14.3 billion in costs because of this health insurance tax. My amendment makes it easier to understand and appreciate the actual cost of the health insurance tax.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act is a critical step forward in our efforts to build on our progress to put patients first and allows every family to get affordable, quality health care. But the work didn't end when the law passed—far from it. Families across the country are expecting us to keep working to build on that progress and continue to make health care more affordable, accessible, and of higher quality. That is what we are focused on, on this side, and the amendment that just passed did that, but we should not be playing political games in joining to move our health care system backward. It is bad enough that the underlying budget repeals the health care law and cuts patients and families off without proposing an alternative law, but this amendment makes it worse. It means patients and families get skewed, incomplete information about their health care costs. I urge a “no” vote on this amendment.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Cantwell	Donnelly
Blumenthal	Cardin	Durbin
Booker	Carper	Feinstein
Boxer	Casey	Franken
Brown	Coons	Gillibrand

Heinrich	Merkley	Schumer
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Shaheen
Hirono	Murphy	Stabenow
Kaine	Murray	Tester
King	Nelson	Udall
Klobuchar	Peters	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warren
Markey	Reid	Whitehouse
McCaskill	Sanders	Wyden
Menendez	Schatz	

The amendment (No. 692) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the Coons amendment be moved to occur after Kirk amendment No. 545.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 928

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Blunt amendment No. 928.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment, amendment No. 928. It will create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prohibit a fee or tax on carbon emissions. This vote is important to send a clear message to the administration that Americans cannot afford to pay higher utility bills because of bad energy policies.

I thank Senator THUNE for cosponsoring this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up his amendment?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 928.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri, [Mr. BLUNT], for himself and Mr. THUNE, proposes an amendment numbered 928.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the United States from an energy tax)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CARBON EMISSIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to carbon emissions, which may include prohibitions on Federal taxes or fees imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of emissions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield 20 seconds to the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I say to my colleagues that when you put a price on carbon, it works. If you look at my State, we are creating jobs in clean energy. We are balancing our budget better than we ever have before. We have strong support from the people of California. I don't know why on Earth we would say no to something that leads to prosperity, jobs, and a clean and healthy environment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield 20 seconds to the Senator from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the premise of this is that climate change is not real and not urgent, which puts that side of the aisle at odds with NASA, the Department of Defense, every major American scientific society, corporate leaders in their home States, and probably every single State university in their home States.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, climate change—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, 20 plus 20 equals 40 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They spoke for more than 20 seconds.

All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to Blunt amendment No. 928.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Cotton	Heitkamp
Ayotte	Crapo	Heller
Barrasso	Cruz	Hoeven
Blunt	Daines	Inhofe
Boozman	Donnelly	Isakson
Burr	Enzi	Johnson
Capito	Ernst	Kirk
Cassidy	Fischer	Lankford
Coats	Flake	Lee
Cochran	Gardner	Manchin
Collins	Graham	McCain
Corker	Grassley	McCaskill
Cornyn	Hatch	McConnell

Moran	Rounds	Thune
Murkowski	Rubio	Tillis
Paul	Sasse	Toomey
Perdue	Scott	Vitter
Portman	Sessions	Wicker
Risch	Shelby	
Roberts	Sullivan	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Udall
Durbin	Mikulski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Franken	Murray	Whitehouse
	Nelson	Wyden

The amendment (No. 928) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 817

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Durbin amendment No. 817.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have a Tax Code in America which creates incentives and rewards to companies all across the United States.

I am proposing what I call the patriot employers' tax credit. It is a tax credit for those American companies that hire Americans and keep their jobs in the United States, for companies that pay at least half of their employees \$15 an hour—and we picked that number because at that wage, one doesn't qualify for the basic safety net programs—companies that provide good health insurance for their employees, good pension programs for their employees, and companies that give a preference to veterans and to those in the Reserve and National Guard who are serving overseas. I think those companies deserve our encouragement, a reward of a tax credit for patriotic employers.

I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for the companies that stand up for America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, here we go again. I will be asking the Senate to vote "no" on this amendment.

Again, Senator DURBIN has some good tax reform ideas. They probably have merit, but we should deal with these ideas through comprehensive tax reform rather than a stand-alone proposal that tells the Finance Committee how to do its work.

So far, we have resisted every one of these amendments. I assume we will resist the rest of them today. But we can't tell the Finance Committee how to handle comprehensive tax reform if we expect to simplify the whole system.

So I ask for a "no" vote, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there any time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

The question is on agreeing to the Durbin amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 104 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 817) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 515

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Vitter amendment No. 515.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, this amendment, No. 515, the Vitter amendment, is very simple and straightforward but important. It says that the U.S. Department of Education should not be able to bribe or coerce States into any particular set of standards or curriculum or testing, whether it is common core or anything else. That decision should be up to the States. That decision should be up to local education communities, not the Federal Government. The Federal Government, through our Department of Education, should not bribe or coerce States in any direction. That is what the amendment is all about.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I think we all believe that in our country all students should have access to a quality public education regardless of where they live or how they learn or how much money they make. Education is one of the smartest investments we can make.

Chairman ALEXANDER and I are working together on a bipartisan process to fix the broken No Child Left Behind law. I believe we are going to make

progress in the coming weeks. I appreciate his working with me.

The fact is that this amendment is not needed. The common core was not mandated by the Federal Government. Race to the Top did not mandate adoption of common core. ESEA waivers have not mandated the common core. Federal law already prohibits the Federal Government from requiring States to adopt certain standards or curriculum.

By the way, this is a “spending neutral” reserve fund that I think we all should be aware of for the first time in this Republican budget.

For all of those reasons, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 515) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Kirk amendment No. 545 and the Inhofe amendment No. 649 be modified with the changes at the desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that a vote on Whitehouse amendment No. 867 occur after the vote on the Murkowski amendment No. 838.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 545), as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REIMPOSING WAIVED SANCTIONS AND IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION OR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Iran, which may include efforts to immediately reimpose waived sanctions and impose new sanctions against the Government of Iran if the President cannot make a determination and certify that Iran is complying with the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive agreement on Iran’s nuclear program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 947

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Bennet Amendment No. 947.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 947.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. BENNET] proposes an amendment numbered 947.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that small businesses are provided relief as part of tax reform by permanently increasing the maximum amount of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to \$1,000,000 and the investment limitation to \$2,500,000 and indexing them both for inflation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to small business tax relief, which may include a permanent increase of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to \$1,000,000 or an increase in the investment limitation to \$2,500,000, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this is a simple amendment. It increases the amount of money that small businesses can expense in a given year. That

makes it easier for them to purchase new equipment and grow the economy.

It is especially important to places such as the State of Colorado, where small businesses make up 97 percent of the employers in our State. Specifically, the amendment increases the section 179 expensing allowance to \$1 million. Right now, it is at \$25,000.

If we ever manage to pass another extenders bill, it will increase to \$500,000. As we all know, many small businesses are pass-through entities. So they pay the individual tax rate even though they may use business tax credits and deductions. So in tax reform they may lose some of their credits but may not see a corresponding drop in their tax rates.

As we begin the process of reforming our Tax Code, we need to ensure that these types of small businesses can continue to grow, invest, and innovate. This amendment takes an important step in achieving this goal.

I am told that there is an agreement—there may be an agreement—to have a voice vote on this amendment. That would certainly be fine with me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I don’t think there is any objection on our side to a voice vote. I ask for a voice vote.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to Bennet amendment No. 947.

The amendment (No. 947) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 838

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Murkowski amendment No. 838.

The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 838.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is already pending.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Senator SULLIVAN and I have come together to move forward on this amendment. It provides a spending-neutral reserve fund for the sale, transfer or exchange of Federal lands to State and local governments.

I want to make sure that folks understand. This is not selling any land by itself. Only subsequent legislation can do that. It would require us to come back, just as we do now, with exchanges, conveyances, and sales, to move the legislation through.

What we have done is we have made sure that all lands that are included within national parks, national preserves, and national monuments are excluded so there can be no effort to purchase or exchange there.

Our amendment will allow us to craft balanced, bipartisan legislation to empower States, improve conservation systems, and promote economic growth.

That is exactly what we did last year, when we moved through the NDAA with support from 80 Senators for that package.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, Americans have always had a deep connection to the outdoors. In New Mexico, families go back year after year to fish in the Santa Barbara River, to the Santa Fe National Forest to hunt, and to the Gila National Forest.

Our public lands are part of our American heritage. We cherish passing that tradition on to our children and to our grandchildren. Yet this amendment would make it easier to turn our public lands over to State land commissioners and eventually to sell them outright.

Make no mistake. This amendment will mean more locked gates and more "no trespassing" signs in places that families have used for generation.

Colleagues, this land is your land. I urge Senators to vote no on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murkowski amendment.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. SANDERS. Has the 10-minute limit expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is advised that it has.

Mr. SANDERS. Thank you.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, please, a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There shall be no further inquiries during a rollcall vote.

Mrs. BOXER. And what rule is that that governs that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is advised that we are in a rollcall vote.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, you allowed another parliamentary inquiry. Why wouldn't you allow my parliamentary inquiry? All I want to know is how many minutes we have gone over the vote. I hear it is 11 minutes, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The parliamentary inquiries are at the sufferance of the Chair.

Mrs. BOXER. The sufferance of the Chair?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The sufferance of the Senate.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, the Senate is definitely suffering. But, in any event, we

are 11 minutes over. Let's bang the gavel.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Flake	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heller	Rounds
Coats	Hoeben	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Vitter
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker

NAYS—49

Alexander	Gardner	Nelson
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Peters
Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	McCaskill	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Franken	Murray	

The amendment (No. 838) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 867

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Whitehouse amendment No. 867.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this amendment would establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund that would make it more difficult for corporations and billionaires to secretly influence our elections through secret contributions and also to prevent such entities from evading campaign finance law, including by making false statements to Federal authorities and agencies.

I can tell my colleagues, if you are not sick of the secret money floating into our elections, your constituents are. So listen to your constituents. Give this a vote, and let's get started on fixing this grave American disgrace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no." Respectfully, I think we have some skepticism about this proposal, and I want to remind my colleagues this issue was decided by the Supreme Court over 5 years ago. The Citizens United case has nothing to do with corporate-union contributions to campaigns. Those prohibitions remain in place, and the Supreme Court decision reversed what for-profit and not-for-profit corporations can say in elections. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act bans election-related expenditures and communications by American corporations. Proposals like this amendment are not designed to ensure transparency and civility of elec-

tions. They are, as Justice Thomas's concurring opinion in Citizens United correctly described, "specifically calculated to curtail campaign-related activities and prevent the lawful, peaceful exercise of First Amendment rights."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 13 seconds.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The Supreme Court specifically left the disclosure of these sources of these secret contributions to Congress. So the Supreme Court actually has given us this job. I urge that we take it up.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, how much time does our side have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

Mr. ENZI. I ask for a "no" vote.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to Whitehouse amendment No. 867.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Ayotte	Flake	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeben	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Donnelly

The amendment (No. 867) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 649, AS MODIFIED

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 649 be brought up, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], for himself and Mr. MORAN, proposes an amendment numbered 649, as modified.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY PRIOR TO SENATE RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding, which may include prohibiting funding for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat or any international organizations created to support the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 649, as modified.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, everyone in here knows what the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty does. It doesn't infringe upon our Second Amendment rights. We all know that. It also limits our ability to help our allies like Israel in building their weapons system.

President Obama has signed the treaty but has not submitted it for ratification; for one reason, he knows the votes are not there. Two years ago, at 5 a.m. in the morning, 53 Senators, from both parties, voted for my amendment very similar to this. My amendment would prevent funds from going to the treaty Secretariat or any other organization that is working to implement this treaty.

I ask for your support and retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the United States is not a party to the Arms Trade Treaty. It has not even been submitted to the Senate for consideration. Regardless of your position on the treaty itself, prohibiting funding for any international organization anywhere while other countries are implementing a treaty is simply absurd. By the way, the treaty for which we are not a party to ultimately makes the rest of the world live up to the arms export standards of the United States, which is good to prevent proliferation for destabilizing arms that could be used against American soldiers and to help level the playing field for U.S. defense manufacturers. So the amendment actually harms U.S. national security by placing U.S. soldiers at greater risk from armed soldier transfers to our enemies, illegitimately and illegally, without proper oversight by other countries.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 15 seconds.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is very simple. If you are for extreme gun control and against the Second Amendment rights, you ought to vote no on this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Inhofe amendment No. 649, as modified.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heinrich	Rounds
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Rubio
Coats	Heller	Sasse
Cochran	Hoeven	Scott
Collins	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kirk	Tester
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Boxer	Carper
Bennet	Brown	Casey
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coons
Booker	Cardin	Durbin

Feinstein	Menendez	Schatz
Franken	Merkley	Schumer
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Shaheen
Hirono	Murphy	Stabenow
Kaine	Murray	Udall
King	Nelson	Warner
Klobuchar	Peters	Warren
Leahy	Reed	Whitehouse
Markey	Reid	Wyden
McCaskill	Sanders	

The amendment (No. 649), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 545, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Kirk amendment No. 545, as modified.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, the coming amendment is the Kirk-Brown amendment which is the key Iran vote of this session of Congress.

If my colleagues are upset about the intel-sharing arrangement with the State of Israel, if my colleagues feel we should rebalance our policy with regard to the United States potentially voting against Israel in the U.N., this is the time to rebalance our policy with regard to our allies in the State of Israel.

I urge the body to support this Brown-Kirk bipartisan amendment which has been worked out with the other side. I just talked to the senior Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER, who assured me she supports this amendment. So does the senior Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, with whom I have built such a long, bipartisan partnership on the Iran issue.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I will just take 20 seconds and yield the rest.

I hope we all vote for this because it doesn't do anything to cause disarray in negotiations. What it says is if there is a deal and there is a breakout and it is certified that there is a breakout with Iran, we would have a very quick way to restore sanctions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I thank the Senator from Illinois as well as the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from California.

We are united in our goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; we all know that here. I commend the President for trying to resolve the nuclear dispute diplomatically.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kirk-Brown-Boxer-Menendez amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

All in favor say aye, all opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it.

Mr. KIRK. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we voted. Regular order.

Mr. KIRK. I would like to get the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a point of order. Was the vote called?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The vote was not called.

The yeas and nays have been asked for.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Roberts
Boxer	Heller	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Sessions
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Fischer	Murray	

The amendment (No. 545), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMENDMENT NO. 966, AS MODIFIED

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask that my amendment be modified with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up the amendment?

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to call up amendment No. 966, as modified.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Delaware [Mr. COONS], for himself and Mr. SANDERS, proposes an amendment numbered 966, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to offsetting the costs of operations against the Islamic State)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO OFFSETTING THE COSTS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing revenue to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, we need to make sure we pay for our war against ISIS. ISIS is a national security threat. We are just now coming to the end of two long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that have cost trillions of dollars, and we didn't pay for them. It is unacceptable. Our country has a long history of paying for our wars, and we need to return to that tradition. As a democracy, we should go to war as a nation and not put the burden on just the troops and their families.

I am pleased to have the cosponsorship of Senator SANDERS, and I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to raise the revenue necessary to pay for our war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I certainly appreciate the statement of my good friend, and we have talked a good deal about this. I believe we ought to pay for everything we do around here. There are all kinds of ways for paying for things, including reducing spending on things we shouldn't be spending money on. So I would like to work with him in the future. I agree with him 100 percent that the amount of money that goes out the door should be equal to the amount of money that comes in the door, but I oppose this amendment just because of the way it was crafted. I wish he had said it needed to be paid for, and I would agree with that, but the way it is crafted leads me to want to oppose this, and I hope on our side we will do so.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty seconds.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would simply say that I appreciate the sentiment expressed by the Senator from Tennessee. I agree that all wars need to be paid for. I think we need to recognize that revenue is required to do so.

I yield the floor to Senator SANDERS. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. ENZI. I ask my colleagues to vote "no." The Coons amendment is

short and simple, but it claims it will offset the cost of the war against ISIS with the President's budget. We didn't pass the President's budget. This \$8.8 billion is divided between the Department of Defense, which executes Operation Inherent Resolve, and the State Department, which provides—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, what this amendment says is that if Senators vote for another war, this time they will have to raise taxes to pay for it. No more wars on the credit card. Vote yes.

Mr. COONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 966), as modified, was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WICKER). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the information of all my colleagues, it only took us 6 hours 15 minutes to do 17 votes.

The next tranche has 26 votes in it. I need to let you know that you don't have to wait all 10 minutes to turn in your vote. If you vote in 5 minutes, we can finish in 5 minutes.

Otherwise, a 5-minute vote takes us 10 minutes, just like a 10-minute vote

takes us 20 minutes, and a 15-minute vote takes us 30 minutes.

We are going to have to cut down the time, or I am sure people are going to give up before they get to some of their amendments.

I do need to announce that there is dinner in the Mansfield Room. It is courtesy of Senator McCONNELL, and it is for both parties.

You also need to know that Senator REID has agreed to provide dinner tomorrow night in the Mansfield Room. So unless we can speed this up, what we are looking for is a volunteer for breakfast and for lunch tomorrow.

Looking at the list of amendments, I am pretty serious about all of that. We need to speed it up.

To do that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the following amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes, with an exception of a side-by-side to the Nelson amendment No. 944 and the McCain amendment No. 360, and that the listed amendments be voted on second.

The first one is Isakson, No. 839; then Stabenow, 1072; Portman, 689; Casey, 632; Thune, 607; Bennet, 1014; McConnell, 836; Merkley, 842; Gardner, 443; Murray, 951; Graham, 763; Blumenthal, 825; Flake, 665; Sanders, 475; Hatch, 1029; Schatz, 1063; Kirk, 1038; Nelson, 944; McCain, 360; Wyden, 968; Lee, 750, as modified; Reed, 919; Cotton, 659; Menendez, 993; Cotton, 664; Brown, 994.

The amendment (No. 750), as modified is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 750

On page 64, line 11, insert “, which may include funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land” after “Taxes (PILT)”.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that all the amendments on this list not currently pending be made pending en bloc at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nonpending amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk as follows:

Stabenow, 1072; Bennet, 1014; McConnell, 836; Graham, 763; Sanders, 475; Hatch, 1029; Schatz, 1063; Kirk, 1038; Wyden, 968; Reed, 919; Cotton, 659; Cotton, 664; Brown, 994.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1072

(Purpose: To provide additional resources to reject the Senate Republicans’ proposed \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare)

On page 32, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 6, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 7, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 10, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 11, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 14, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 15, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 18, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 19, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 22, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 32, line 23, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 33, line 2, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 3, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 6, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 7, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 10, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 11, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 14, increase the amount by \$84,543,000,000.

On page 33, line 15, increase the amount by \$85,543,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1014

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to responding to the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change, as highlighted by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing human-induced climate change through increased use of clean energy, energy efficiency, and reductions in carbon pollution by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 836

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REGULATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 763

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to subjecting all Federal spending to sequestration)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUBJECTING ALL FEDERAL SPENDING TO SEQUESTRATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to subjecting all Federal spending, except spending relating to Social Security, to sequestration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 475

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, and protecting rural service)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service, which may include imposing a moratorium to prevent mail processing plants from closing, reestablishing overnight delivery standards, recognizing the importance of rural delivery, allowing the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service by the amounts

provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1029

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT AMERICAN JOBS FROM BEING MOVED OVERSEAS BY REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing American jobs from being moved overseas, which may include a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1063

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1038

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE WAGES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reaffirming the ability of States to adopt minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage level commensurate with the cost of living in the State, which

may include the adoption of pro-employment and wage-increasing policies by providing pro-growth tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 968

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enacting middle class tax relief, including extending and expanding refundable tax credits, such as tax provisions and policies included in legislation like the Working Families Tax Relief Act, American Opportunity Tax Credit Permanence and Consolidation Act, Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, or the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, among other legislation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending and expanding refundable tax provisions that benefit working families, childless workers, and the middle class, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 919

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating deductions for corporate compensation in excess of \$1,000,000)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ELIMINATING DEDUCTIONS FOR CORPORATE COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF \$1,000,000.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to excessive subsidization in the tax code of corporate compensation, which may include eliminating deductions for corporate compensation in excess of \$1,000,000, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 659

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting the designation of critical habitat)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING PROPER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION IN DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolu-

tions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to critical habitat designations, which may include requirements that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service examine the cumulative economic effects of the designation, such as on land or property uses or values, regional employment, or revenue impacts on States and units of local government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 664

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities at the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE DETENTION FACILITIES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) FINDING.—The Senate finds that the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are an important tool in the counterterrorism efforts of the United States.

(b) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to construction of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities at the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 994

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to end “too big to fail” bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets))

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END “TOO BIG TO FAIL” BAILOUTS FOR WALL STREET MEGA-BANKS (OVER \$500 BILLION IN TOTAL ASSETS).

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to any bank holding companies with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets to better protect taxpayers, including such measures as capital or leverage requirements, restrictions on the growth, activities, or operations of a company, or divestiture of assets or operations of any company that is unable to present a credible plan to facilitate an orderly bankruptcy or resolution, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of

fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to each vote and that all votes after the first in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 827, 1025, 533, 984, AND 535 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Hatch No. 827, Hatch No. 1025, Hatch No. 533, Hatch No. 984, and Hatch No. 535.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. HATCH, proposes amendments numbered 827, 1025, 533, 984, and 535 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 827

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process by enabling retrospective review of existing regulations, improving the process by which new regulations are created, ensuring fair and effective judicial review, and securing an effective role for Congress in the Federal regulatory process through legislation and oversight)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) creating an effective mechanism for the review of the existing Federal regulatory burden to identify rules for repeal or modification that—

(A) impose paperwork burdens that could be reduced substantially without significantly diminishing regulatory effectiveness;

(B) impose disproportionately high costs on small businesses;

(C) could be strengthened in their effectiveness while reducing regulatory costs;

(D) have been rendered obsolete by technological or market changes;

(E) have achieved their goals and can be repealed without target problems recurring;

(F) impose the greatest opportunity costs in terms of economic growth;

(G) are ineffective;

(H) overlap, duplicate, or conflict with other Federal regulations or with State or local regulations; or

(I) impose costs that are not justified by benefits produced for society within the United States;

(2) reforming the process by which new regulations are made by Federal agencies, in-

cluding independent agencies, for the purposes of—

(A) prioritizing early public outreach in the rulemaking process;

(B) ensuring the use of the best available scientific, economic, and technical data;

(C) preventing the misuse of guidance documents to skirt public input;

(D) ensuring the use of best practices for regulatory analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, into each step of the rulemaking process;

(E) facilitating the adoption by Federal agencies of the least costly regulatory alternative that would achieve the goals of the statutory authorization;

(F) ensuring more careful consideration of proposed high-cost rules;

(G) ensuring effective oversight of the Federal regulatory program, including independent regulatory commissions, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs;

(H) improving the consideration of adverse impacts on small businesses;

(I) providing greater transparency in the rulemaking process; and

(J) improving compliance with section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2736A-153) (commonly known as the “Information Quality Act”), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), and chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”);

(3) enhancing accountability by facilitating fair and effective judicial review of agency actions; and

(4) ensuring that Congress can effectively exercise its appropriate role in the regulatory process through legislation and oversight;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1025

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to H-1B visas)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO H-1B VISAS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to H-1B visas, which may include increasing the annual cap or exempting advanced STEM degree holders from the H-1B cap or recapturing unused green cards or allowing spouses of H-1B visa holders to work or increasing STEM funding in the United States by raising the H-1B fee paid by employers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 533

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEYS COMPLY WITH DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that all Department of Justice attorneys comply with all legal and ethical obligations in criminal prosecutions, which may include legislation that ensures the disclosure to the defendant in a timely manner of all information known to the Government that tends to negate the guilt of the defendant, mitigate the offense charged or the sentence imposed, or impeach the Government's witnesses or evidence, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 984

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that patients, including military members and veterans, have access to new antibacterial drugs that treat serious or life-threatening infections through the creation by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway for antibacterial drugs)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIMITED POPULATION APPROVAL FOR ANTIBACTERIAL DRUGS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the treatment of serious or life-threatening infections for which there is an unmet medical need, and which may include the establishment by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway to bring to market new antibacterial drugs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 535

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to balancing the Federal budget)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to balancing the Federal budget, which may include legislation to ensure that total outlays for any fiscal year do not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year and legislation to ensure that total outlays for any fiscal year do not exceed 18 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States for the calendar year ending before

the beginning of such fiscal year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 1044, 1047, 724, 713, AND 1005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 1044 on behalf of Senators CARDIN and MCCAIN; and amendments Nos. 1047 and 724 on behalf of Senator KAINE; amendment No. 713 on behalf of Senators MURPHY and CASSIDY; and amendment No. 1005 on behalf of Senators MURPHY and GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for other Members, proposes amendments numbered 1044, 1047, 724, 713, and 1005 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1044

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1047

(Purpose: To provide for sequestration replacement)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REVISE OR REPEAL SEQUESTRATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the enforcement procedures under section 251A of that Act to revise or

repeal the discretionary spending limits and enforcement procedures established under those sections, relating to providing relief from sequestration and the reduction in discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between both the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category, and offsetting such relief through targeted changes in mandatory or discretionary spending programs and tax expenditures by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For purposes of determining deficit-neutrality under this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may include the estimated effects of any amendment or amendments to the discretionary spending limits.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEQUESTRATION REPLACEMENT.

(a) MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASE IN DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.—If a measure becomes law that amends the discretionary spending limits established under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), the adjustments to discretionary spending limits under section 251(b) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)), or the enforcement procedures established under section 251A of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure, up to the amounts specified and reserved in subparagraph (b).

(b) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED AND RESERVED.—The amounts specified (and to be reserved from the allocation called for in section 302(a) allocation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate until such time as the conditions specified in subsection (a) are met are—

(1) for fiscal year 2016—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(2) for fiscal year 2017—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom).

AMENDMENT NO. 724

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing United States exports and improving the competitiveness of United States businesses)

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES BUSINESSES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing United States exports and improving the competitiveness of United

States businesses, including through a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 713

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to comprehensive mental health reform)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH REFORM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to comprehensive mental health reform, which may include legislation that provides increased access to individuals suffering from mental illness and greater workforce opportunities for mental health professionals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1005

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding United States counter-propaganda communications to combat misinformation from the Russian Federation or terrorist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for international counter-propaganda communications in order to combat misinformation, undermine ideologies of violence and hatred, and ensure moderate voices are heard, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 839

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Isakson amendment No. 839

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, amendment No. 839 recognizes that on November 4, 1979, 52 brave Americans were taken hostage in Tehran, Iran. They were beaten, they were held in captivity, they were tortured.

Finally, the Algerian accords were negotiated, and they were released in January of 1981. But in the Algerian accords, they were prohibited from ever being compensated by litigation against the nation of Iran.

Now, with the sanction money flowing into the U.S. Treasury and into the State Department, the money is there to compensate these brave individuals, of which there are 44 still remaining alive.

This amendment acknowledges that Congress has the responsibility that the Supreme Court dedicated to make sure these people get compensated for the bravery they exhibited for the United States of America in captivity.

I urge that this amendment be adopted.

I recognize the Senator from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I strongly support Senator ISAKSON's efforts here, which passed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last year, working with the State Department, and moved unanimously to approve this bill.

This is to give 52 Americans, who were held hostage in Iran and denied the opportunity to seek redress for their terrible ordeal, that opportunity. The only way we are going to give them that opportunity for the 444 days that their families were held hostage in Iran, is to have this type of action.

I look forward to working with them, not just today but beyond, to get it passed so we can get these American families their justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this issue. He and I have cosponsored a bill that achieved this goal.

This amendment is vitally important to advance public awareness and make our colleagues more aware of the importance of this very significant issue. I thank him for his leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Isakson amendment.

The amendment (No. 839) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1072

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Stabenow amendment, No. 1072.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to ask support for the Stabenow-Cantwell amendment.

This addresses the cuts to the budget in Medicare. Medicare is a universal health care program, as we know. It is a great American success story. Everybody believes that.

It protects Americans from having their life savings wiped out by a single illness. It guarantees important medical care and quality of life for literally tens of millions of people across our country.

I was very disappointed yesterday that our Republican colleagues voted against providing a point of order that would allow us to object to efforts to privatize Medicare or cut benefits or

raise out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs or preventive services. But as a result of that, we now have in front of us a budget that calls for \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare.

We all know there are ways to work together to create savings through efficiencies and quality measures and other things, but we should not be telling a generation of seniors, and those coming beyond them—who worked hard their whole lives and paid into the programs—that they will not have the health care they need and deserve.

So I ask colleagues to join with us in rejecting the \$435 billion in Medicare cuts that are in this budget resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

In the committee, Senator STABENOW heard several different versions of this amendment. None of them passed muster with the Parliamentarian.

I credit the Senator's instincts to approach the question of Medicare seriously. I am sure she knows we all take Medicare seriously. Why does the budget resolution have the numbers that it has? Because the Republicans and the President agree that we have to act on policies which extend the life of the Medicare trust fund.

The budget does this by adopting the President's goal of extending the life of Medicare's hospital insurance, HI trust fund, by at least 5 years.

While Republicans and the President share the goals of a financially stronger Medicare Program, the Republican budget empowers the Senate Finance Committee, the committee of jurisdiction, to determine how best to extend the life of the trust fund and solve the program's grave financial challenges. Many people have concerns about what the administration has proposed with this new Medicare policy. I do, too, and expect that the Finance Committee, working on a bipartisan basis and in cooperation with the House, can craft a solid, successful legislation to save Medicare from insolvency.

I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Stabenow amendment.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

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.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Coons	King
Bennet	Donnelly	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Durbin	Leahy
Booker	Feinstein	Manchin
Boxer	Franken	Markey
Brown	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Cantwell	Heinrich	Menendez
Cardin	Heitkamp	Merkley
Carper	Hirono	Mikulski
Casey	Kaine	Murphy

Murray	Schatz	Warner
Nelson	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wyden
Reid	Tester	
Sanders	Udall	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 1072) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 689

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Portman amendment No. 689.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this amendment is a commonsense reform that allows the Joint Committee on Taxation to provide an accurate score to those of us in the Senate.

Right now we get a static score only, and everybody knows it is not wise to just have a static score, because it doesn't take into account the effect of tax changes on the economy.

I think everyone in the Chamber would agree there is some impact on the economy. We have to know what it is. This is informational. We will still get the static score, but also get a macroeconomic score.

The Joint Committee on Taxation already does the analysis. So they have the information, they are just not allowed to share it with you. I would think everybody in this Chamber should support this.

In the underlying bill, there is already also a macroeconomic analysis on the spending side, which is something new. So spending and taxes will both be analyzed. We will have the macroeconomic score.

The last time we talked about this a couple years ago on the floor, we got a majority vote—some Democrats, all the Republicans. I hope we will get a bipartisan vote today. I think it only makes sense for us to have the best information possible to be able to do the best tax reform possible, for instance, to be sure it does focus on economic growth, jobs, and rising wages.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, dynamic scoring is nothing more than an accounting gimmick that makes tax cuts appear at least partly pay for themselves. It is an attempt to make it seem like the failed policies of trickle-down economics work, but we know better.

According to the CBO, the Bush tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 are responsible

for more than 13 percent of the increase in our national debt from 2001 to 2011.

Tax cuts did not grow the economy; they just grew our debt. The fuzzy math of dynamic scoring may get to a different answer, but the reality is that tax cuts for large profitable corporations and the wealthiest Americans do not pay for themselves. They just make the rich richer.

Once again, Republicans are opting for accounting gimmicks to cover up their real intentions. Dynamic scoring will rig the scoring process in favor of legislation that benefits those who are already doing very well.

I urge a “no” vote on this amendment.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

The question is on agreeing to the Portman amendment.

Mr. SANDERS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 112 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Capito	Hoeven	Rounds
Cassidy	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Sasse
Cochran	Johnson	Schatz
Collins	Kaine	Scott
Corker	King	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McCaskill	Vitter
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Franken	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Sanders
Boxer	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 689) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 632

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Amendment No. 632.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I am honored to be working on this amendment with Senator SHAHEEN and Senator MURRAY. This amendment will create a

deficit-neutral reserve fund to support efforts to prevent employment discrimination against pregnant workers.

In the United States today, for so many years, we have had a standard set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities. The same should apply to pregnant workers.

We had a Supreme Court case decision just yesterday. Peggy Young was victorious, but the result is that there is no predictable standard for pregnant workers in the workplace. We need a standard so employees know what their rights are and so employers can follow the law.

I yield for my colleague Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, this is about ensuring that women are not discriminated against because they want to have children. This is making sure that women don't have to choose between their jobs and their families. It is about ensuring that all women can be reassured that if they are pregnant, their employer has to provide reasonable accommodations.

I hope my colleagues will vote for this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to declare that Republicans are committed to fair and equal treatment of pregnant women as well. Congress passed the Pregnancy Discrimination Act in 1978 and passed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. Congress may need to enact this specific legislation through committee in order to address this issue. This amendment does confirm the ability of the committee of jurisdiction to draft legislation. We would be happy to accept this on a voice vote.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I request a rollcall vote and ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. ENZI. A rollcall vote has been requested.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the Casey amendment No. 632.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge the Republicans to vote aye.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Brown	Collins
Ayotte	Burr	Coons
Baldwin	Cantwell	Corker
Barrasso	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cotton
Blumenthal	Carper	Crapo
Blunt	Casey	Cruz
Booker	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Coats	Donnelly
Boxer	Cochran	Durbin

Enzi	Leahy	Rubio
Ernst	Lee	Sanders
Feinstein	Manchin	Sasse
Fischer	Markey	Schatz
Flake	McCain	Schumer
Franken	McCaskill	Scott
Gardner	McConnell	Sessions
Gillibrand	Menendez	Shaheen
Graham	Merkley	Shelby
Grassley	Mikulski	Stabenow
Hatch	Moran	Sullivan
Heinrich	Murkowski	Tester
Heitkamp	Murphy	Thune
Heller	Murray	Tillis
Hirono	Nelson	Toomey
Hoeven	Paul	Udall
Inhofe	Perdue	Vitter
Isakson	Peters	Warner
Johnson	Portman	Warren
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
King	Reid	Wicker
Kirk	Risch	Wyden
Klobuchar	Roberts	
Lankford	Rounds	

The amendment (No. 632) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 607

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Thune amendment No. 607.

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise in support of my amendment No. 607, to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to repeal the Federal estate tax, better known as the death tax.

My amendment will put the Senate on record in support of eliminating this destructive and ill-conceived tax on American families in their time of grief. It has often been said but it is worth repeating: A death in the family should not be a taxable event.

I agree wholeheartedly with a piece in the newspaper earlier this week by Harry Alford, president of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, who writes that the death tax “disproportionately hampers minority and women-owned businesses across the country” and “creates an unfair situation for minority businesses which have finally started to accumulate wealth within the last 60 years.”

The death tax also hits farmers particularly hard.

According to USDA statistics on cropland values, a significant percentage of farms in my State of South Dakota and States such as North Dakota, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Minnesota, Florida, and Missouri remain subject to this double tax even at the higher estate tax exception limit.

Incremental relief from this unfair tax is not enough. The time has come for full repeal. I urge support for my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this amendment is not about family farms or small business. This amendment benefits exclusively the wealthiest three-tenths of 1 percent of the families in this country—the very, very wealthiest people—and 99.7 percent of the families in America will not benefit by 1 nickel. By the way, for those concerned about the deficit, this will cost us \$250 billion over a 10-year period.

Ironically, the Republican budget raises taxes for lower income families

who are on the earned-income tax credit program and the children's tax credit program. So what we are doing now is giving tax breaks to billionaires in the same bill that we are raising taxes for low-income working families, and adding significantly to the deficit.

I think this should be a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. THUNE. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Donnelly	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	
Franken	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 607) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate on the Bennet amendment No. 1014.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this amendment is very straightforward. The purpose reads "... responding to the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change, as highlighted by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

The amendment establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing climate change through the increased use of clean energy, the deployment of energy efficiency, and the reduction of carbon pollution.

That is it. That is all it is—simply a statement of all the facts and the suggestions of three common strategies to address the issue.

Climate change is a serious threat to the world, to our country, and to Colorado. Ask anyone whose farm or ranch depends on water from the Colorado River or one of its tributaries.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators time has expired.

Mr. BENNET. I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, just Wednesday of this week, the new annual Gallup poll came out. It said very clearly that among the six environmental concerns the Gallup poll included in its survey, global warming polled at the very bottom, right after the loss of the tropical rainforests, I might add. Gallup also found that a majority believe that the seriousness of global warming is overstated.

The Obama administration and others on this side like to claim 97 percent of the world's scientists believe in manmade global warming. Monday's Wall Street Journal op-ed debunked the 97 percent and the survey represents the views of only 79 respondents out of 3,149. Lastly, the agencies they are talking about that claim that 2014 was the warmest year on record, such as NASA—NASA now has reduced that to 38 percent. They have retreated from that position. So the people have caught on to this hysteria, and I ask colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 1014.

Mr. INHOFE. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Heller	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Kirk	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—47

Alexander	Cassidy	Crapo
Barrasso	Coats	Cruz
Blunt	Cochran	Daines
Boozman	Corker	Enzi
Burr	Cornyn	Ernst
Capito	Cotton	Fischer

Flake	McCain	Scott
Gardner	McConnell	Sessions
Grassley	Moran	Shelby
Hatch	Paul	Sullivan
Hoeven	Perdue	Thune
Inhofe	Risch	Tillis
Isakson	Roberts	Toomey
Johnson	Rounds	Vitter
Lankford	Rubio	Wicker
Lee	Sasse	

The amendment (No. 1014) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 836

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate on McConnell amendment No. 836.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe the next amendment is No. 836.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me just say to my colleagues that this is an amendment which ought to pass 100 to 0. Let me tell you why. The Administrator of EPA just testified within the last couple of weeks that she does not have the authority under the Clean Power Plan to cut off State roads and bridges funds.

So today, with my friends from Kentucky and Oklahoma, I have offered an amendment that is really quite simple. It says that Washington bureaucrats should not be allowed to punish innocent Americans by threatening the roads and bridges they use just because a citizen's State may take a wait-and-see approach—a wait-and-see approach—as courts rule on massive EPA regulations. These are regulations which would threaten the middle class without having a meaningful impact on the global climate.

The legal issues here will resolve themselves eventually. But whatever our party or ideology, we should be able to agree that the Federal Government should not be punishing hard-working families just to score political points as States await legal clarification.

Let me say it again. The Administrator of the EPA does not believe she has the authority to do this. We need to make it clear that the Senate opposes any step in that direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to amendment No. 836, which seeks to undercut the President's Clean Power Plan to address climate change and reduce dangerous carbon pollution.

The year 2014 was the single most dangerous year ever recorded in terms of temperatures, the warmest in history. NOAA and NASA continue to chronicle this ever-worsening warming planet. Not only will the President's power plan reduce greenhouse gasses, but it will also reduce the amount of pollution that leads to dangerous smog-related diseases that are contracted by Americans all across our planet.

Instead of debating this amendment, we should be debating the way to reduce the impacts of dangerous greenhouse gases on our planet.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The question is on agreeing to the McConnell amendment No. 836.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Rounds
Coats	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kirk	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Peters	

The amendment (No. 836) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 842

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Merkley amendment No. 842.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has returned \$5 million to American citizens victimized by predatory scams and unscrupulous practices. If you support ending victimization of our citizens, support this bill. If you support creditors, then vote against it.

I yield to my colleague from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I am proud to join with Senator MERKLEY in advancing this amendment. It is important we continue to have a strong and effective CFPB to protect consumers and ensure transparency and fairness in our financial marketplace.

I urge an "aye" vote by my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amend-

ment. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is, and always has been, an agency with excessive independence. The agency actually steals funding from the Federal Reserve before it goes to the Federal Government, which takes away from our general fund. There is no control over any part of that agency.

Once it had a Director a year ago, we said there needed to be an inspector general taking a look at this problem. But the inspector general said he has no access to the records, even though he works there.

So this is an agency that is out of control. It is time for us to gain control over the agency, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Merkley amendment.

Mr. MERKLEY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 842) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 443

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Gardner amendment No. 443.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, this amendment does a very simple thing. It protects State water rights. It creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund to make sure we are protecting privately held water rights from intrusion by the U.S. Forest Service or the ski area water rule, and it makes sure we are

keeping private water rights held safe from groundwater rules by the U.S. Forest Service.

This is an effort to make sure we are protecting private water rights, preventing bypass flows, and making sure we are doing everything we can to make sure that State water law is the imminent feature of our water in this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the Gardner amendment would radically change the way water is handled on public lands. There are real concerns about how Federal land management agencies deal with water, particularly in the drought-afflicted West. But this amendment is so broad that it is trying to address these problems in a way that will have numerous unintended consequences. It would make even worse some of the water shortages in the areas of the West, particularly in the Lower Colorado Basin. It would also create havoc in our national parks in both the East and the West.

The amendment would call into question the status of water contracts actually signed by the Bureau of Reclamation throughout the West. Uncertainty is the last thing we need. It would have damaging implications for settlements such as the Yakima Basin where people have come to agreement.

I agree we need to continue to work on the drought issues in the West. But saying that Federal management agencies don't have their obligations, such as helping in the national forests with firefighters—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. CANTWELL. I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, once again, this is about water rights. This is about making sure we protect State-held water rights.

It is a very clear contrast. If you believe water rights should be managed by the Federal Government, then vote against the amendment. But if you believe private water rights are under State law, managed by State law, decided by State law, then vote for this amendment.

Let's protect our private water rights. Let's keep our law clear—that this matter belongs in the hands of the States and not in the hands of the Federal Government.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Gardner amendment No. 443.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Tillis
Daines	McCaskill	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 443) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 951

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Murray amendment No. 951.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as a former preschool teacher, I have seen firsthand the kind of transformation that early learning can inspire in a child. I believe we should be investing more in our children, not less. So today I am offering an amendment to expand access to early childhood education so more kids can start kindergarten ready to learn. This amendment would expand high-quality early learning opportunities for low- and moderate-income 3- and 4-year-olds and build on the investments that Governors and legislators across the country, regardless of party affiliation, are already making to improve early learning opportunities through public-private partnerships. It is fully paid for by closing wasteful tax loopholes. I hope our colleagues can support this critical amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. All of us know there is a great value to pre-school, and the Federal Government already spends as much as \$20 billion per year on early childhood programs, including Head Start. This amendment would call for \$66 billion over 10 years, so it is just \$6.6 billion per year. But we already spend \$20 bil-

lion, which is almost as much as we spend on kindergarten through 12th grade. How many programs do we need? We have 45 at the moment.

One year ago, when we reauthorized the child development block grant, I offered an amendment to reduce the number of programs to five and put them all under one agency. That would save enough money to do this. Elementary and secondary education will be marked up, I think, when we get back. That committee process would be the appropriate place to consider this proposal, not in the budget. I would ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murray amendment No. 951.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 951) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 763

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Graham amendment No. 763.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am going to withdraw this amendment, but before I do, I will take a couple of minutes to explain what it would do and what awaits us.

Most Members of the body don't understand, I think, that there are 160 programs which are exempt from sequestration. Our pay is exempt from sequestration, as is Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, food stamps, most all of Medicare, all of Medicaid, and the Veterans' Administration. The military, the intel community, and NIH have had devastating cuts, but we don't in-

clude our own pay. At the end of the day, how can we justify making sure we take care of the veterans, but we are putting those who are serving our country in the fight today at risk?

So I will withdraw this amendment for now because I think we are about to get some reason regarding sequestration, but if we don't, I will have an amendment for each of the 160 programs, starting with our pay. We need to feel the pain we are inflicting on other people.

I will withdraw this amendment for now, hoping we can fix sequestration, but if not, we need to take a look at the entire government and let others feel the pain, not just those who wear the uniform and are doing the work this country needs to have done.

AMENDMENT NO. 763 WITHDRAWN

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 825

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Blumenthal amendment No. 825.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this amendment helps to keep faith with our veterans and to make sure we leave no veteran behind by reflecting and responding to their voices and the message they have given us about the need for more and better health care relating to post-traumatic stress, treatment for military sexual trauma, and an improvement in the delivery of health care for them around the country.

It also improves the job training and rehabilitation programs for our veterans and makes sure, among other provisions, there is greater accountability and more funds and support for the inspector general of the VA so we can avoid the kinds of gaps and egregious shortcomings we have seen in this past year and also improve the Choice Program this Congress passed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this bipartisan amendment.

I thank Senator MORAN and Senator BALDWIN for their support and cosponsorship and urge that we keep faith with our Nation's heroes and leave no veteran behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we are willing to take this on a voice vote.

We yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the Blumenthal amendment No. 825.

The amendment (No. 825) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 665

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Flake amendment No. 665.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, in 2009, the President signed Executive Order 13502, which states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage executive agencies to consider requiring the use of PLAs, or project labor agreements, in connection with large-scale construction projects.

This Executive order did not mandate the use of PLAs. However, some Federal agencies have interpreted that order to require it, and so all this amendment does is take it back to what the law intended—that the Federal Government is neutral with regard to the awarding of contracts, allowing the free market to work its will, and deliver to taxpayers the best possible product at the best possible price.

I urge adoption of the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Flake amendment—and Senator FLAKE is my friend—strikes the project labor agreement option.

What is a project labor agreement? It is only awarded to a company after they win the competitive bid. So they have to come in with a low competitive bill.

What does a project labor agreement contain? How much it is going to cost, what wages will be paid, and how disputes will be settled. The net result is that projects cost less and they are done on time.

Why would we want to eliminate the possibility of saving taxpayers money with project labor agreements? I hope my colleagues will vote no so we can put the money we are going to save from the Flake amendment into some important investments in America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of all Senators. At the rate we are going, we could be here until 5 a.m. in the morning, so I think it is a good time to seek some cooperation.

We have a number of amendments lined up here where sponsors will take a voice vote in the tranche we are working on now. If there are any Senators who are not in the current tranche and would like to be considered, I recommend that those Senators come over here and talk to the budget staff and see if we can't take some of them and do it by a voice vote and see if we can move through this process so we can get out of here at a reasonable hour.

I ask my friend the Democratic leader to give us a view of the status on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from South Carolina set a good example by withdrawing his amendment. That is really what the standard should be. Senator BLUMENTHAL was second best when he said he would take

a voice vote. The only disagreement I would have with my friend the Republican leader is that if we go through all of these amendments that are pending, it will take 33 more hours. That is the math. That is the truth. We need to move on.

Remember, this budget resolution is a statement of policy. It is not the law. We can say "I gotcha" on this one, "we gotcha" on that one, but that is—we have done that now for 8 hours or whatever it is.

I really do agree with the Republican leader. The staff has worked so hard. They haven't worked just today and yesterday and this week; they have been working for weeks to get us to the position where we are tonight. I know the Republican leader bought dinner tonight, and I appreciate that very much. But if we can get finished here by 11:30, I will buy dinner when we get back, and it will be better than that.

So we have had an ample vote-arama. For all the new Members, they see what it is like. The time has come for Senators to show some restraint.

No one's election is going to be determined—I say that to the world. No one's election is going to be determined by what is taking place here tonight—no election. I defy anyone to show me in any of these vote-aramas where a vote has made any difference. And we are witnesses to that, and I can testify to that. One time, to show my colleagues how meaningless these votes are, we voted against prisoners being able to have Viagra in prison. We actually voted on that. No one lost an election. By the way, it was defeated.

So let's—we can go through all of the Viagra amendments and do all of these things to embarrass each other, but that isn't what we should be doing. The time has come to forgo pressing amendments to votes altogether.

It has been very dignified. Earlier today, I said how proud I am of the two managers of this legislation. They have totally different political outlooks, but they have been gentlemen to each other and gentlemen to each of us.

So I hope we can move forward as quickly as possible. The agreement for the dinner was not a Las Vegas bet; it is something I will do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will just add, we will finish tonight, and it might help us move quicker, in addition to having voice votes on a lot of amendments, if we sit at our own desks and see if we can just get through this as rapidly as possible without denying anyone their rights.

So I recommend we go ahead, whatever the next amendment is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Flake amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Heller	Sasse
Coats	Hoeben	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—49

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

The amendment (No. 665) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 475

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sanders Amendment No. 475.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. This amendment establishes a deficit-neutral fund to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. SANDERS. This deficit-neutral reserve fund would prevent the Postal Service from shutting down 82 processing plants in 37 States. It would restore delivery standards which have been slowed down and protect rural postal services.

The Postal Service is vital to the well-being of our Nation and economy. This is especially true in our rural areas. This is an issue that has had bipartisan support for the last number of years.

Senator COLLINS is a cosponsor of this amendment. She has been very active on this issue, and I would hope we could pass it with a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I want to thank Senator COLLINS for all of her efforts in this area and Senator SANDERS for making this a bipartisan amendment, and I would ask to accept this on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sanders amendment No. 475.

The amendment (No. 475) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1029

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Hatch amendment No. 1029.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1029 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, no one believes in tax policy that has the effect of shipping jobs overseas.

My amendment, which is cosponsored by Senator WYDEN—a true bipartisan amendment—goes right to the heart of what amendment No. 523 of my friend from Michigan and amendment No. 817 of my friend from Illinois claimed to be doing.

Tax policy leaders of all ideological stripes agree on a key point. The U.S. corporate tax rate is the highest among our trading partners and is making American firms less competitive, thereby hurting American workers.

My amendment would put in place a deficit-neutral reserve fund to bring the corporate rate down and to prevent the bleeding of U.S. jobs. Vote for it to preserve and grow U.S. jobs.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the purpose of this amendment, as I understand it, is to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas. I think if we are serious about this, we may want to change our disastrous trade policies, which have led to the shutdown of thousands of factories in this country and millions of decent-paying jobs. In my view, at a time when we have an \$18 trillion national debt, the last thing we need to do is to cut corporate taxes on profitable corporations that in many cases pay little or nothing in Federal taxes.

We have major corporation after major corporation making billions of dollars. They pay zero in Federal income taxes. I don't quite know how you can lower their taxes below zero. We need real tax reform in this country that ends corporate loopholes that is costing us well over \$100 billion a year.

So I would urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think the Senator, through the Chair, would yield to me for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator from Oregon be given 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I support this amendment.

President Obama favors lowering this tax rate, and I believe the reason he does is because he thinks this will provide another opportunity to reduce offshoring. I support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Since this is bipartisan, I would hope we would take this by voice vote. And it is the chairman and ranking member of the committees who have to do the work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 1029.

The amendment (No. 1029) was agreed to.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, yesterday, I corrected the record on the matter of tax expenditures. That statement focused on individual income tax expenditures. According to 2014 Congressional Budget Office data, the individual income tax accounts for 47.1 percent of federal revenue. By contrast, the corporate income tax accounts for 11.9 percent of federal revenue. Today I am going to discuss corporate tax expenditures.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, Congress's nonpartisan official tax scorekeeper, provides scoring and analysis of corporate tax expenditures. What are corporate tax expenditures? In a general sense, they are departures from a regular income tax. A regular income tax records income and provides deductions for expenses related to producing income to arrive at net income. Tax benefits in the form of exclusions, deductions, and credits not connected to the generation of business income are generally treated as corporate tax expenditures. As the tax-writing committee hearings have shown, our business tax system is overloaded with subsidies and other complex special provisions. Those deviations from basic measures of net income can result in economic inefficiencies, slow growth, and an economy that produces fewer jobs than it otherwise would. From a revenue-neutral standpoint, the flip side of that narrower, less-efficient tax base is a higher than optimal tax rate. It is a matter of broad-based consensus of senior tax policymakers from the left to the right that there is a "two-fer" in broadening the tax base and lowering the rate. This applies to both corporate businesses and noncorporate businesses.

To the extent Congress delays translating the bipartisan goal of a broader business base and lower rates into concrete policy, the dangers of further inversion transactions and foreign takeovers looms on the economic horizon. My friends on the left side of the political spectrum should be the most concerned. Why? The reason is the local economies most vulnerable to inversions and foreign takeovers of U.S.-based businesses are in business sectors that dominate in the high cost-of-living, high-tax so-called "Blue States." I am referring to the high-tech, pharmaceutical, and other cutting-edge intel-

lectual property producing business sectors. Those business sectors tend to be based in high-cost, high-tax blue States. My friends on the other side should be very sensitive to threats to their local economies.

For that reason, I continue to be stunned to see many of most liberal friends on the other side take positions on this budget resolution that are at odds with the goal of tax reform. Cherry-picking corporate tax expenditures to use for new spending, if it were to become viable policy, would starve the resources for tax reform. If my friends on the other side were to prevail on this strategy, you could forget about the bipartisan goal of broadening the business tax base and lowering tax rates. Their policy positions, if enacted, would leave tax policymakers with no resources to engage in reform. In fact, a broader U.S. tax base with rates that are already too high would make U.S.-based businesses less competitive. The tax baggage of being a U.S.-based business would grow, further tipping the balance toward foreign control by inversions and takeovers.

The debate on corporate tax expenditures isn't about the merits of those policies. That debate on the merits of corporate tax expenditures could, should, and will be joined in legislating tax reform. That is a bipartisan goal for a bipartisan policy result that is necessary to build a stronger American economy.

AMENDMENT NO. 1063

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Schatz amendment No. 1063.

The Senator from Hawaii.

AMENDMENT NO. 1063, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 1063 be modified with the changes at the desk.

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

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM AND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse and to benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SCHATZ. All legally married, same-sex couples deserve equal treatment under the law, regardless of

where they live. But right now, eligibility for spousal benefits provided under the Social Security Act and by the Department of Veterans Affairs is determined by a place-of-residence standard. That means that legally married same-sex couples who move to a State that doesn't recognize same-sex marriage could be denied Social Security and veterans survivor benefits.

Plain and simple, this is wrong, and this doesn't reflect our American values. This amendment will fix this and provide equal protection under the law and the Social Security and veterans benefits that gay Americans have earned. I would be happy to entertain a voice vote in support of this amendment if the majority is amenable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that is not going to be possible on this amendment.

Again, this is a statement that has to be handled by the committee of jurisdiction and has no real effect. So I would ask that everybody vote "no" on this one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Schatz amendment No. 1063, as modified.

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Ayotte	Franken	Murphy
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Heller	Portman
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Johnson	Reid
Burr	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Corker	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Risch
Barrasso	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Rounds
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

The amendment (No. 1063), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1038

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). There is 2 minutes of debate

prior to a vote on Kirk amendment No. 1038.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Illinois, we are offering an alternative to the Sanders amendment that failed earlier today. The Sanders amendment called for a substantial increase in the minimum wage, an action that the Congressional Budget Office has told us could kill up to 1 million jobs.

The Kirk amendment takes a different approach. It reaffirms the ability of the individual States to raise the minimum wage above the Federal level, but only if they choose to do so at their own volition.

It also calls for policies that will result in higher wages for all Americans, progrowth tax relief and the elimination of burdensome mandates such as ObamaCare.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kirk amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Frankly, I don't quite understand this amendment. This is what it says: This amendment would "establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund" to reaffirm that States can raise minimum wage while providing tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates.

States do not need permission from the Federal Government to raise the minimum wage. In fact, 29 States have already raised the minimum wage. And in the last election, when that question was on the ballot in four States, all four of those States voted to raise the minimum wage.

People all over this country want us to raise the Federal minimum wage, which is now a starvation wage of \$7.25 an hour.

So this amendment, quite frankly, does not make a whole lot of sense to me. I would hope it will be defeated.

States are looking to the Federal Government to raise the minimum wage. We don't have to tell them what to do. They are doing just fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this amendment is a reaffirmation of the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

I ask for the support of our colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Manchin	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Peters	

The amendment (No. 1038) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 944

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

There is 2 minutes of debate on the amendment.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this is an amendment to call a point of order on any legislation that would attempt to muzzle Federal employees in using any scientific language that calls a change—scientific language that would apply to oceans, to weather, to the climate, and to atmospheres.

This is an attempt to make clear that we do not agree with muzzling or censoring Federal agencies or Federal employees when it comes to employing their scientific knowledge.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this amendment is not germane to the budget resolution. It creates a point of order concerning subject matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget, prohibiting Federal employees or agencies from exercising their freedom of speech by prohibiting using terms from atmospheric scientific literature.

While I know many of my colleagues have strong opinions on this topic, it is not appropriate for inclusion in a budget resolution. In fact, this amendment is corrosive. It damages the privilege of the budget. Therefore, when debate time expires I will raise a point of order that this amendment is not germane to the budget resolution and I encourage my colleagues to sustain it.

I guess that probably concludes the debate.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida has 7 seconds remaining.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this is an issue of freedom of speech, First Amendment rights. This is in fact—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, amendment No. 944 is not germane to the budget resolution now before the Senate. Therefore, I raise a point of order against the amendment under section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I move to waive, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rubio
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Corker	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—49

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 49.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained and the amendment fails.

AMENDMENT NO. 360

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the McCain amendment No. 360.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this amendment is simple. It says that children who show up at our border will not be allowed to stay. They will be returned to the country they came from.

Right now they are being transported up by the lowest form of life that ever existed on the Earth. Young women are being raped, people are being killed, people are being molested, and the drug cartels are the ones that are bringing them up. This has got to stop. They can go to the consulate and the embassies in their countries—I am talking about the three Central American countries, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. But to have the drug cartels and parents paying thousands of dollars to have them transported up, many of the young women being raped on the way, is unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 360, AS MODIFIED

Mr. President, I have a modification at the desk and ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . . . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETERING THE MIGRATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FROM EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to deterring the attempted migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in the United States, which may include the expedited removal of unlawful entrants from non-contiguous countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I did raise an objection to the change, although I appreciate the fact that the Senator made that change.

I rise to oppose amendment No. 360 which would roll back critical antitrafficking and humanitarian protections for children from Central America. Last summer I led a congressional delegation to the Rio Grande Valley border to view the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Clearly, concrete cells at Border Patrol stations are no place for children, which is where they likely would be under the expedited deportation proceedings allowed under this amendment. These young children are fleeing danger and violence in their own home countries. It is also no answer to require these children to seek asylum in their home countries while being exposed to the very violence they are trying to escape in the first place.

This is the portion of the amendment the Senator has eliminated. It still

doesn't leave out the part about expedited deportation. So let's keep the current law in place that—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. HIRONO. We voted for this law unanimously, signed by President Bush. I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Coons	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden

The amendment (No. 360), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 968

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Wyden amendment No. 968.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 968, and I urge Senators to support this amendment because it will cut taxes on the middle class and give millions of Americans a new ladder of economic opportunity. This amendment rewards hard work, makes college more affordable, and helps parents who have a tough time making ends meet. Let's create a new path upward for the middle class and those who want to be middle class. Support this amendment.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, once again I have to ask my colleagues to vote “no.” This is a tax reform idea that has some merit, but it has to be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than a stand-alone proposal. I know that he and his Finance Committee chairman, Senator HATCH, are working on changing the Tax Code to eliminate some of the overcomplicated, inefficient, and archaic language, so we should address it in the committee of jurisdiction, not in the budget.

Even though the amendment is deficit neutral, it is, again, telling a committee what to do and how to do it, and it is even by the person who has the capability to do that. So I would ask for a “no” vote.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the Wyden amendment No. 968.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Ayotte	Grassley	Reed
Baldwin	Heinrich	Reid
Bennet	Heitkamp	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Roberts
Booker	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Scott
Cardin	Lee	Sessions
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Shelby
Coats	McCain	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Sullivan
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Corker	Merkley	Thune
Crapo	Mikulski	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Udall
Donnelly	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden
Gardner	Peters	
Gillibrand	Portman	

NAYS—27

Alexander	Daines	Inhofe
Barrasso	Enzi	Isakson
Blunt	Ernst	Kirk
Burr	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Flake	McConnell
Cochran	Graham	
Cornyn	Hatch	
Cotton	Heller	

Paul	Rounds	Vitter
Perdue	Tillis	Wicker

The amendment (No. 968) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 750, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Lee amendment No. 750, as modified.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Federal Government owns almost two-thirds of the land in Utah and almost half of the land in the 11 coterminous States in the Western United States. But unlike other property owners, the Federal Government does not pay property tax. As a result, areas with high concentrations of Federal land, such as most of Utah and most of the Western United States, face budget shortfalls that affect the ability of those States to fund critical education, transportation infrastructure, and emergency services.

To help compensate local governments for this loss of property tax revenue, the Federal Government created the PILT Program—PILT stands for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program—to provide some funding for these revenue shortfalls.

Historically, PILT payments tend to represent just a tiny fraction, just pennies on the dollar for what these jurisdictions could otherwise collect in property tax revenue.

Now to correct the damage caused by this unfair system—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. LEE. I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment which would allow us to bring PILT into conformity with what these jurisdictions would otherwise receive from taxation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. While there are many of us who support full funding for PILT, this amendment is impractical. In fact, the Congressional Research Service reports indicate that attempts to set up tax equivalency for PILT would be wrought with errors and gamesmanship. That is because counties routinely tax different land uses at different rates.

Second, my colleagues should note that this may increase PILT payments more than 350 percent of today’s authorized level, and that would raise the

cost of this program from \$4 to \$5 billion, to \$15 to \$20 billion.

Because the amendment creates a spending-neutral reserve fund, only cuts to other mandatory spending programs could be used to fund the 350 percent rise in payments.

So, Mr. President, I cannot support this amendment. It is unsustainable and unworkable, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

Ms. CANTWELL. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeben	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Feinstein

The amendment (No. 750), as modified, was agreed to.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Today’s Senate proceedings will be continued in Book II.