

and they employ about 54 percent of the state's workforce. This does not include the estimated 135,000 self-employed people in my state. I find myself wondering what small business owners think of all of the news reports about these big, sophisticated corporations and their crooked accounting?

Small business owners work hard to keep clean books. They do not have a team of creative accountants that turn losses into gains. The small business does not create sham, off-book partnerships to hide losses. I have never heard of a small business being forced to restate its earnings. Small business grow by playing by the rules. Many small business owners dream of taking the honest approach to turning their ideas and dreams into big businesses. How disheartening must it be for them to see that in the world of big corporate business the way to get ahead is by cheating.

The bill before us today will help restore faith in the free market. It creates a strong oversight board that will set auditing standards for public companies backed up with the power to investigate abuses. It gets rid of the inherent conflict of interest faced by accounting firms that provide management consulting services to their auditing clients. Here on the floor we have added tough criminal penalties to this bill and given greater protections to whistle blowers. The whistle blower protections are an especially needed reform. We want the honest people in business to know that there is still a place for them.

We must take this opportunity to restore confidence in the free market. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation and I want to commend the chairman of the Committee, Mr. SARBANES, for bringing this legislation to the floor.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, due to a longstanding commitment I was necessarily absent for the vote on cloture on the Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002 (S. 2673). Although my vote would not have affected the outcome, had I been present, I would have voted for cloture on the bill.●

#### ANDEAN TRADE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 3009.

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

The Presiding Officer (Mr. BAUCUS) laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the House insist upon its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3009) entitled "An Act to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes", and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

*Ordered*, That the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House amendment and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Crane, and Mr. Rangel.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of section 603 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Boehner, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, and Mr. George Miller of California.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of section 603 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Tauzin, Mr. Bili-rakis, and Mr. Dingell.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate disagree to the House amendment, agree to the request for a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with the ratio being 3 to 2.

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

#### TO AMEND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND THE GLOBAL AIDS AND TUBERCULOSIS RELIEF ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2069 and the Senate proceed now to that matter.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2069) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance to prevent, treat, and monitor HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the immediate consideration of the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4297

(Purpose: To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for foreign countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the authority of the Department of Health and Human Services to act internationally with respect to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and for other purposes)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. KERRY, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HELMS, proposes an amendment numbered 4297.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent 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".)

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4298

Mr. REID. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. KERRY, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HELMS, proposes an amendment numbered 4298.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: "An Act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for foreign countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the authority of the Department of Health and Human Services to act internationally with respect to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and for other purposes."

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent both amendments at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all with no intervening action or debate; and any statements be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

Mr. SANTORUM. Reserving the right to object—and I will not object—this is a very important piece of legislation for the continent of Africa and has to do with AIDS relief, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases. There is a provision in this legislation that Senator BIDEN and I have offered on debt relief for Third World countries. This is a vitally important piece of legislation that dovetails very well with the President's initiative in trying to stem the scourge of AIDS in Africa and provide some hope for some of these heavily debt ridden countries.

I am very pleased we were able to do this in wrap-up today. I will not object.

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

The amendment (No. 4297) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4298) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 2069), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am very pleased that we have just passed a bill that will give the President and his team the tools they will need to back up their words about fighting the scourge of HIV and AIDS with action.

The omnibus HIV, AIDS, TB, and malaria authorization bill vastly increases our focus on treatment, giving hope to the millions of people already infected with this virus. It intensifies our ongoing prevention efforts. And it makes a new commitment to training local health care workers so that underdeveloped nations can create modern health infrastructures.

The bill also authorizes nearly \$5 billion over 2 years so that this commitment is matched with the resources to get it done. But unless we work in a bipartisan fashion to see that money appropriated, this bill offers little more