

Administration stated that the economic model would not be available until FY 2004. After exhaustive negotiations with the senior White House staff, I was able to secure an agreement to accelerate their use of the model retroactive to October 1, 2002, the beginning of FY 2003. The bill before us today is designed to waive a key provision of the Federal Credit Reform Act that prohibits the Congress from changing a credit subsidy rate estimate once it has been transmitted to the Congress as part of the President's annual budget submission. This may be the first time this provision has been waived since implementation of the Act in FY 1992.

We would not be where we are today resolving this important matter without the tireless efforts of my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Mr. MANZULLO, Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, fought for this change every step of the way. The Ranking Member, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, was especially vigilant in her efforts. In the Senate, my colleague from Massachusetts and Chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, JOHN KERRY, has kept the Committee focused on resolving this issue for the past year and has insisted that we resolve the credit subsidy rate controversy for FY 2003.

Resolving the 7(a) credit subsidy rate issue is good for small businesses. It will mean more jobs and economic fuel to grow start-up and growing small businesses. I urge each of my colleagues to vote a resounding "Aye" for this important bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 3172) was read three times and passed, as follows:

S. 3172

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SUBSIDY RATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.

Notwithstanding section 502(5)(F) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and section 254(j) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in calculating the Federal cost for guaranteeing loans during fiscal year 2003 under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) may use the most recently approved subsidy cost model and methodology in conjunction with the program and economic assumptions, and historical data which were included in the fiscal year 2003 budget. After written notification to Congress, the Small Business Administration shall implement the validated, OMB-approved subsidy rate for fiscal year 2003, using this model and methodology. Such rate shall be deemed to have been effective on October 1, 2002.

SEC. 2. USE OF EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.

Chapter 2 of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 is amended by striking "For emergency expenses" after "BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT" and inserting the following: "For loan guarantee subsidies under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) or for emergency expenses".

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 358 submitted earlier today by Senator BIDEN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 358) congratulating the people of Mozambique on their successful efforts to establish, build, and maintain peace in their country for the past ten years, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements in relation to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 358) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 358

Whereas, on October 4, 1992, having overcome the hardships of a colonial struggle, decolonization, and armed regional and national conflict, the people of Mozambique, the parties to the civil war in Mozambique, and the leadership of Mozambique reached a peaceful settlement to the devastating 16-year civil war;

Whereas this peace was facilitated by the good offices of the Comunita di Sant' Egidio in Rome and supported by regional friends and the international community;

Whereas in 1994 and 1999 Mozambique held multi-party elections deemed free and fair by the international community;

Whereas this peace has been consolidated and strengthened by Mozambique civil society, helping to keep the Government of Mozambique on a course of political and economic reforms despite the challenges currently presented by HIV/AIDS, floods, droughts, and regional instability;

Whereas the Government of Mozambique has initiated sound economic reforms, including the privatization of state-run enterprises, the reduction and simplification of import tariffs, and the liberalization of agricultural markets, resulting in extraordinary economic growth;

Whereas the resources that have become available by Mozambique's participation in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have been responsibly channeled by the Government of Mozambique into anti-poverty programs;

Whereas, despite the progress that Mozambique has made, more than one-half of the

people of Mozambique over 15 years of age are illiterate, twenty-eight percent of the children under five are malnourished, infant mortality stands at more than 12 percent, and life expectancy is only 42 years;

Whereas the United States values democratic principles, the rule of law, peace, and stability in all nations that comprise the community of states; and

Whereas Mozambique has been transformed from a war-torn country to one where political disputes are settled through peaceful means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Mozambique on ten years of continued peace and growing democracy and commends the Government of Mozambique for continued economic and political reforms;

(2) salutes the Comunita di Sant' Egidio for using its good offices to facilitate and mediate the peace process that led to the October 4, 1992, agreement;

(3) recognizes the indispensable role that civil society in Mozambique has played in both achieving peace and deepening democratic reforms; and

(4) stands ready to assist the Government of Mozambique on a variety of programs, including humanitarian and development assistance, HIV/AIDS prevention, and technical assistance to fight corruption.

MENTAL HEALTH EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to H.R. 5716, which is now at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5716) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements in relation thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5716) was read the third time and passed.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we have passed tonight a bill to extend for one year the current provisions of the 1986 Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act which provides limited parity for insurance coverage of mental illness.

But today is not a day to celebrate. Instead, it is a call to arms—a call to pass the full and meaningful mental health parity bill that Paul Wellstone and PETE DOMENICI have fought for so tirelessly. It is a day to sound the battle cry for finally ensuring that no American is discriminated against because they suffer from a mental illness.

Mental illness is a pervasive problem in our society, and too often it is a problem that is swept under the rug