

Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each issue guidelines to carry out subsections (l) and (m), and the amendments made thereby, which guidelines shall become effective on the date of their issuance.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate regulations specifying the method for determining a significant increase in the price of kerosene under section 7(b)(7)(A)(iii)(II) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), as added by subsection (1).

(o) EMERGENCY SPENDING.—Appropriations under this section are emergency spending, as provided under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (108th Congress).

**SA 1680.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, beginning on line 24, strike “duties;” and insert the following: “duties: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative shall make a determination as to whether the distribution of funds pursuant to section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675c) is inconsistent with the obligations of the United States as a Member of the World Trade Organization and report that determination to Congress and if the determination of the United States Trade Representative is that the distribution of funds pursuant to such section 754 is inconsistent with the obligations of the United States as a Member of the World Trade Organization, the United States Trade Representative shall continue to monitor and assess whether the distribution of such funds is inconsistent with such obligations and if at any time, the United States Trade Representative determines that there has been a change in circumstances, and as a result of such changed circumstances, the distribution of funds pursuant to such section 754 is not inconsistent with the obligations of the United States as a Member of the World Trade Organization, the United States Trade Representative shall, within 30 days of that determination, report the determination to Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be made available, obligated, or distributed pursuant to such section 754 until the date that is 30 days after the date on which the United States Trade Representative reports a determination to Congress pursuant to the preceding proviso that the distribution of funds pursuant to such section 754 is not inconsistent with the obligations of the United States as a Member of the World Trade Organization:” .

**SA 1681.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 144, beginning on line 20, strike the following: “Provided further, That nego-

tiations shall be conducted within the World Trade Organization to recognize the right of members to distribute monies collected from antidumping and countervailing duties:” .

**SA 1682.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 145, beginning on line 12, strike “Provided further,” and all that follows through line 15.

**SA 1683.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 154, strike lines 7 through 13.

**SA 1684.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, beginning on line 18, strike “Provided further, that not less than \$2,000,000 provided under this heading shall be for expenses authorized by 19 U.S.C. 2451 and 1677b(c):” .

**SA 1685.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, beginning on line 21, strike the following: “Provided further, That negotiations shall be conducted within the World Trade Organization to recognize the right of members to distribute monies collected from antidumping and countervailing duties:” .

**SA 1686.** Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, beginning on line 25, strike the following: “Provided further, That negotiations shall be conducted within the World Trade Organization consistent with the negotiating objectives contained in the Trade Act of 2002, Public Law 107-210.” .

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—CONTINUED

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we return to the pending matter and that the pending amendments be set aside so I may introduce another amendment.

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

##### AMENDMENT NO. 1678

(Purpose: To provide financial relief for individuals and entities affected by Hurricane Katrina)

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I have an amendment which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 1678.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. 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.”)

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this amendment is an attempt to make sure, to the best of our ability, that people, families, individuals already devastated personally, psychologically, and physically by Hurricane Katrina are not lastingly devastated financially as well.

Where hundreds of thousands of people were forced out of their homes, forced out of their neighborhoods, forced out of their communities, forced out of work, our Government, it seems to me, must do everything it can to help them rebuild their lives from whatever they can salvage from this enormously powerful and destructive storm.

This amendment that I propose this morning is based on title IV of the Katrina Emergency Relief Act of 2005, which has been introduced by my colleagues Senator REID of Nevada and Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana.

This amendment has seven main provisions, all of which are aimed at enabling the Federal Government to extend a hand—not a handout—to the people who have been so shaken from their normal lives by this storm and give them the help to rebuild those lives in the best tradition of American community responsibility for one another, and individual opportunities.

There are seven parts. Let me quickly enumerate them.

First, this amendment will waive the caps and cost sharing under the Stanford Act, Individuals and Household

Program, that provides aid to those whose needs cannot be met through insurance or other assistance. Presently, these grants may not exceed \$26,200 per individual or household. This provision would waive those caps on home repair, rent, temporary housing, or home replacement.

“Other Needs” assistance under this IHP, so-called Individuals and Households Program, also addresses medical, dental, and even funeral expenses. The States are required to provide 25 percent of the amount provided for some of these grants. Given the overwhelming nature of this episode and the terrible financial impact on the States, this provision would also waive the State contribution.

This is an opportunity to take care of some basic human needs, get some help for dental, medical, funeral, and household needs.

Second, this amendment will temporarily reinstate the Mortgage and Rental Payments Program, or coverage for rental or mortgage payments for those in danger of defaulting on their mortgage and losing their homes resulting from the financial hardship resulting from the disaster. The program had been eliminated in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 because FEMA said the program was difficult to administer. But it was revived after September 11, with good cause, and it should be revived again with, unfortunately, a similarly good cause in the wake of Katrina.

Three, the amendment calls for a 6-month moratorium on the imposition of any penalties or additional accrued interest for people whose lives have been shaken by Hurricane Katrina and who fail to make timely payments for student loans, Small Business loans, or other loans made, subsidized, or guaranteed by the Federal Government. This will allow a breather for these people whose lives have been totally altered, removed from their homes, from their workplaces, their neighborhoods, and it will give them a 6-month breather on any penalties or accrued interest if they can't make payments for that period of time. This amendment also authorizes the President to extend that moratorium for an additional 6 months.

Four, this amendment eases bankruptcy provisions that otherwise are scheduled to take effect about a month and a half from now. History shows that bankruptcies often double in the wake of a disaster. This easing will go simply to people affected by Hurricane Katrina in the three Gulf States that were hit. Without this provision, many families hurt by this hurricane could wind up without access—not just hurt but devastated financially—to the bankruptcy laws under the new law.

Fifth, this amendment would extend and expand benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program. It would extend the application period from 30 to 90 days. I know the Department of Labor and State officials are

trying very hard to tell people they have a right to apply for this special form of unemployment assistance, to get some money coming in to support their families. There is a 30-day period because everybody is spread so far apart. Normally in a disaster, the disaster occurs and people go back basically to where they were. Now they are spread all over the country. This would extend the application period from 30 to 90 days.

In addition, it would expand the program to include individuals eligible for State unemployment insurance and those who suffer from the secondary economic effects of the disaster.

Finally, it would extend the duration of benefits for victims who otherwise qualify from 26 to 52 weeks and create an enhanced minimum benefit level.

We have been reading stories that an amazing number of the people who were dislocated by Hurricane Katrina and now are in other States are already out looking for work and finding it. This is for the people who haven't been able to find it, and it will give them some assistance for their families.

Estimates suggest that as many as a half million workers will be left jobless by Hurricane Katrina, and that unemployment may soar to 25 percent or more in some of the regions affected as a result. The families, therefore, will desperately need this extended lifeline this amendment will provide.

Six, the amendment would suspend the tax and penalties on withdrawals from qualified retirement plans so that those who have suffered losses as a result of Hurricane Katrina can use money that otherwise would be in their retirement plans and for which they would be penalized for early withdrawal. They can now rebuild their lives and not suffer adverse tax consequences. Individuals who access funds in these accounts would have 5 years to repay the money to the account.

In addition, the amendment calls on the Secretary of the Treasury to suspend tax payment, return filing, and other time-limited actions required of taxpayers for a period of not less than 6 months. In other words, it would give these people not a free pass but a little bit of space before they have to go back to fulfilling all the obligations required, without diminishing those obligations.

I know by administrative action the Treasury Secretary has already said for people in these areas who would be paying estimated tax payments—I believe on September 15—they will not have to pay until the end of October.

Seven, we must feed the victims. It is as elemental as that.

We all saw the devastation this hurricane wreaked in terms of displaced families, destroyed livelihoods, and flooded homes. We also know how it affected the fundamental need for water and food. Across Connecticut and across America, I am sure the power of this act of nature was stunning. Of

course, loss of life filled us with grief. But what really angered and in some sense embarrassed a lot of people across this country was to see our fellow human beings and fellow Americans trapped by this disaster without adequate access to food or water.

This amendment provides additional funding to purchase and distribute food and temporarily suspend food stamp requirements that, frankly, don't make sense in the wake of this disaster. I am thinking of a requirement that says a victim has to show proof that his or her car was worth less than \$4,600. It is probably hard for a lot of people who would otherwise qualify for food stamps to be able to make that showing. We ought to suspend it.

Those are the seven parts of this proposal in this amendment. When all is said and done, the first step in rebuilding for most of these people will be to get back on a firm financial footing again. That is exactly the intent of this proposal. It is to give these people a breather, to give them a little temporary help. It is our Nation's way and our Federal Government's way of doing what neighbors and individuals are doing all over America, which is to reach out. I think it is the most generous expression of caring for one another I have ever seen in the history of this country, and it is our Government's way of trying to do the same so that people, once back on their feet, can begin to walk and then run to a better life.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

#### FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, so many Members of this Chamber have stood on the floor this past week to speak about the victims of the disaster, the catastrophe down in the gulf region, to speak of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This morning I would like to spend a few brief moments to talk about some other victims, some very young victims, victims of a disease that is absolutely entirely preventable. This morning I speak very briefly about those young children who are born with a fetal alcohol disorder.

The ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month having arrived today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a very brief moment of reflection to remind women who are pregnant or those who may soon become pregnant that no amount of alcohol—none at all—is safe to consume during the 9 months of pregnancy.