

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of Social Security or other Federal benefits.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 364

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,420,590 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas more than 27.1 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13.6 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools saved the United States \$19,000,000,000 in educational funding during fiscal year 2005;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NO UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IF ANY REPRESENTATIVE POLITICAL PARTY HOLDING A MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY MAINTAINS A POSITION CALLING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BROWBACK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2701. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . PROTECTION FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO ENROLL IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING 2006.

(a) EXTENDED PERIOD OF OPEN ENROLLMENT DURING ALL OF 2006 WITHOUT LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY.—Section 1851(e)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking "May 15, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2006"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence:

"An individual making an election during the period beginning on November 15, 2006, and ending on December 15, 2006, shall specify whether the election is to be effective with respect to 2006 or with respect to 2007 (or both)."

(b) ONE-TIME CHANGE OF PLAN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING ALL OF 2006.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS";

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "the first 6 months of 2006," and all that follows through "is a Medicare+Choice eligible individual," and inserting "2006,"; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by inserting "(other than during 2006)" after "paragraph (3)"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "2006" and inserting "2007" each place it appears.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking "subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (2)(C)".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173).

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-4(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) FORMULARY TRANSITION.—The sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to provide at least a 30-day supply of any drug that a new enrollee in the plan was taking prior to enrolling in such plan. For individuals residing in a long-term care setting, the sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to

provide at least a 90-day supply of any drug such individual was taking prior to enrolling in such plan. A formulary transition supply provided under this section shall be made by the sponsor of a prescription drug plan without imposing any prior authorization requirements or other access restrictions for individuals stabilized on a course of treatment and at the dosage previously prescribed by a physician or recommended by a physician going forward.

“(5) CUSTOMER SERVICE.—The sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to provide—

“(A) accessible and trained customer service representatives available for full business hours from coast to coast to provide knowledgeable assistance to individuals seeking help with Medicare Part D including, but not limited to, beneficiaries, caseworkers, SHIP counselors, pharmacists, doctors, and caregivers;

“(B) at least one dedicated phone line for pharmacists with sufficient staff to reduce wait times for pharmacists seeking Medicare Part D assistance to no more than 20 minutes; and

“(C) sufficient staff to reduce wait times for all Medicare Part D-related calls to plan phone lines to no more than 20 minutes.”

(2) APPLICATION.—The requirements under paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 1860D-4(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(b)), as added by subsection (a), shall apply to the plan serving as the national point of sale contractor under part D of title XVIII of such Act.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may impose a civil monetary penalty in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for conduct that a sponsor of a prescription drug plan or an organization offering an MA-PD plan knows or should know is a violation of the provisions of paragraph (4) or (5) of section 1860D-4(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(b)), as added by subsection (a). The provisions of section 1128A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. a-7a), other than subsections (a) and (b) and the second sentence of subsection (f), shall apply to a civil monetary penalty under the previous sentence in the same manner as such provisions apply to a penalty or proceeding under subsection (a) of such section 1128A(a).

SEC. ____ . FEDERAL FALLBACK FOR FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS FOR 2006.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a full-benefit dual eligible individual (as defined in section 1935(c)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-5(c)(6))), or an individual who is presumed to be such an individual pursuant to subsection (b), presents a prescription for a covered part D drug (as defined in section 1860D-2(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e))) at a pharmacy in 2006 and the pharmacy is unable to locate or verify the individual's enrollment through a reasonable effort, including the use of the pharmacy billing system or by calling an official Medicare hotline, or to bill for the prescription through the plan serving as the national point of sale contractor, the pharmacy may provide a 30-day supply of the drug to the individual.

(2) REFILL.—The pharmacy may provide an additional 30-day supply of a drug if the pharmacy continues to be unable to locate the individual's enrollment through such reasonable efforts or to bill for the prescription through the plan serving as the national point of sale contractor when a prescription is presented on or after the date that a pre-

scription refill is appropriate, but in no case after December 31, 2006.

(3) COST-SHARING.—The cost-sharing for a prescription filled pursuant to this subsection shall be cost-sharing provided for under section 1860D-14(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-114(a)).

(b) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.—An individual shall be presumed to be a full-benefit dual eligible individual (as so defined) if the individual presents at the pharmacy with—

(1) a government issued picture identification card;

(2) reliable evidence of Medicaid enrollment, such as a Medicaid card, recent history of Medicaid billing in the pharmacy patient profile, or a copy of a current Medicaid award letter; and

(3) reliable evidence of Medicare enrollment, such as a Medicare identification card, a Medicare enrollment approval letter, a Medicare Summary Notice, or confirmation from an official Medicare hotline.

(c) PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall reimburse pharmacists, to the extent that such pharmacists are not otherwise reimbursed by States or plans, for the costs incurred in complying with the requirements under subsection (a), including acquisition costs, dispensing costs, and other overhead costs. Such payments shall be made in a timely manner from the Medicare Prescription Drug Account under section 1860D-16 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-116) and shall be deemed to be payments from such Account under subsection (b) of such section.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION TO BEGINNING OF 2006.—The costs incurred by a pharmacy which may be reimbursed under paragraph (1) shall include costs incurred during the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and before the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) RECOVERY OF COSTS FROM PLANS BY SECRETARY NOT PHARMACIES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish a process for recovering the costs described in subsection (c)(1) from prescription drug plans (as defined in section 1860D-1(a)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1394w-101(a)(3)(C))) and MA-PD plans (as defined in section 1860D-41(a)(14) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-151(a)(14))) if the Secretary determines that such plans should have incurred such costs. Amounts recovered pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be deposited in the Medicare Prescription Drug Account described in subsection (c)(1).

SEC. ____ . ENSURING THAT FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT OVERCHARGED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-114) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) ENSURING FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT OVERCHARGED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, as soon as possible after the date of enactment of this subsection, establish processes for the following:

“(A) TRACKING INAPPROPRIATE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall track full-benefit dual eligible individuals enrolled in a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan to determine whether such individuals were inappropriately subject under the plan to a deductible or cost-sharing that is greater than is required under section 1860D-14.

“(B) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS TO PLANS AND REFUNDS TO INDIVIDUALS.—If the Secretary determines under subparagraph (A) that an individual was overcharged, the Secretary shall—

“(i) reduce payments to the sponsor of the prescription drug plan under section 1860D-15 or to the organization offering the MA-PD plan under section 1853 that inappropriately charged the individual by an amount equal to the inappropriate charges; and

“(ii) refund such amount to the individual within 60 days of the determination that the individual was inappropriately charged.

If the Secretary does not provide for the refund under clause (i) within the 60 days provided for under such clause, interest at the rate established under section 6621(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be payable from the end of such 60-day period until the date of the refund.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The processes established under paragraph (1) shall provide for the ability of an individual to notify the Secretary if the individual believes that they were inappropriately subject under the plan to a deductible or cost-sharing that is greater than is required under section 1860D-14.”

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 1, 2007, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to Congress on the implementation of the processes established under subsection (d) of section 1860D-14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-114), as added by subsection (a).

SEC. ____ . REIMBURSEMENT OF STATES FOR 2006 TRANSITION COSTS.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1935(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-5(d) or any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall reimburse States for 100 percent of the costs incurred by the State during 2006 for covered part D drugs (as defined in section 1860D-2(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e))) for part D eligible individuals (as defined in section 1860D-1(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1394w-101(a)(3)(A))) which the State reasonably expected would have been covered under such part but were not because the individual was unable to access on a timely basis prescription drug benefits to which they were entitled under such part. Such payments shall be made from the Medicare Prescription Drug Account under section 1860D-16 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-116) and shall be deemed to be payments from such Account under subsection (b) of such section.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION TO BEGINNING OF 2006.—The costs incurred by a State which may be reimbursed under paragraph (1) shall include costs incurred during the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) RECOVERY OF COSTS FROM PLANS BY SECRETARY NOT STATES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish a process for recovering the costs described in subsection (a)(1) from prescription drug plans (as defined in section 1860D-1(a)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1394w-101(a)(3)(C))) and MA-PD plans (as defined in section 1860D-41(a)(14) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-151(a)(14))) if the Secretary determines that such plans should have incurred such costs. Amounts recovered pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be deposited in the Medicare Prescription Drug Account described in subsection (a)(1).

(c) STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia.

SEC. ____ . FACILITATION OF IDENTIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT THROUGH PHARMACIES OF FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN THE MEDICARE PART D DRUG PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for outreach and education to every pharmacy that has participated in the Medicaid program

under title XIV of the Social Security Act, particularly independent pharmacies, on the following:

(1) The needs of full-benefit dual eligible individuals and the challenges of meeting those needs.

(2) The processes for the transition from Medicaid prescription drug coverage to coverage under such part D for such individuals.

(3) The processes established by the Secretary to facilitate, at point of sale, identification of drug plan assignment of such population or enrollment of previously unidentified or new full-benefit dual eligible individuals into Medicare part D prescription drug coverage, including how pharmacies can use such processes to help ensure that such population makes a successful transition to Medicare part D without a lapse in prescription drug coverage.

(b) HOLDING PHARMACIES HARMLESS FOR CERTAIN COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for such payments to pharmacies as may be necessary to reimburse pharmacies fully for—

(A) transaction fees associated with the point-of-sale facilitated identification and enrollment processes referred to in subsection (a)(3); and

(B) costs associated with technology or software upgrades necessary to make any identification and enrollment inquiries as part of the processes under subsection (a)(3).

(2) TIME.—Payments under paragraph (1) shall be made with respect to fees and costs incurred during the period beginning on December 1, 2005, and ending on June 1, 2006.

(3) PAYMENTS FROM ACCOUNT.—Payments under paragraph (1) shall be made from the Medicare Prescription Drug Account under section 1860D-16 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-116) and shall be deemed to be payments from such Account under subsection (b) of such section.

SEC. ____ . STATE COVERAGE OF NON-FORMULARY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS DURING 2006.

(a) STATE COVERAGE OF NON-FORMULARY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR FULL-BENEFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS DURING 2006.—For prescriptions filled during 2006, notwithstanding section 1935(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396v(d)), a State (as defined for purposes of title XIX of such Act) may provide (and receive Federal financial participation for) medical assistance under such title with respect to prescription drugs provided to a full-benefit dual eligible individual (as defined in section 1935(c)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396v(c)(6))) that are not on the formulary of the prescription drug plan under part D or the MA-PD plan under part C of title XVIII of such Act in which such individual is enrolled.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) MEDICARE AS PRIMARY PAYER.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed as changing or affecting the primary payer status of a prescription drug plan under part D or an MA-PD plan under part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to prescription drugs furnished to any full-benefit dual eligible individual (as defined in section 1935(c)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396v(c)(6))) during 2006.

(2) THIRD PARTY LIABILITY.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed as limiting the authority or responsibility of a State under section 1902(a)(25) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(25)) to seek reimbursement from a prescription drug plan, an MA-PD plan, or any other third party, of the costs incurred by the State in providing prescription drug coverage during 2006.

SA 2699. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be

proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REQUIREMENT OF SIGNED CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO PLAN ENROLLMENT UNDER PART D.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR PLANS WITH AN INITIAL COVERAGE LIMIT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The process for enrollment established under subparagraph (A) shall include, in the case of a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan that has an initial coverage limit (as described in section 1860D-2(b)(3)), a requirement that, prior to enrolling a part D eligible individual in the plan, the plan must obtain a certification signed by the enrollee or the legal guardian of the enrollee that meets the requirements described in clause (ii) and includes the following text: ‘I understand that the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or MA-PD Plan that I am signing up for may result in a gap in coverage during a given year. I understand that if subject to this gap in coverage, I will be responsible for paying 100 percent of the cost of my prescription drugs and will continue to be responsible for paying the plan’s monthly premium while subject to this gap in coverage. For specific information on the potential coverage gap under this plan, I understand that I should contact (insert name of the sponsor of the prescription drug plan or the sponsor of the MA-PD plan) at (insert toll free phone number for such sponsor of such plan).’

“(ii) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED.—The certification required under clause (i) shall meet the following requirements:

“(I) The certification shall be printed in a typeface of not less than 18 points.

“(II) The certification shall be printed on a single piece of paper separate from any matter not related to the certification.

“(III) The certification shall have a heading printed at the top of the page in all capital letters and bold face type that states the following: ‘WARNING: POTENTIAL MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE GAP.’”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2700. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . REPEAL OF STATE OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE PREMIUMS AND COST SHARING AND FLEXIBILITY IN BENEFIT PACKAGES UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL OF STATE OPTION FOR ALTERNATIVE PREMIUMS AND COST SHARING.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1916A of the Social Security Act, as added by sections 6041(a), 6042(a), and 6043(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subsection (y) of section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b), as added

by section 6043(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is repealed.

(B) Section 1916 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o) is amended—

(i) in subsection (f), by striking “and section 1916A” after “(b)(3)”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (h).

(C) Section 1938(c) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 6082 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking “and 1916A”; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “sections 1916 and 1916A” and inserting “section 1916”.

(b) REPEAL OF STATE OPTION OF PROVIDING BENCHMARK BENEFIT PACKAGES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1937 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 6044(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Sections 1938 and 1939 of the Social Security Act, as added and redesignated, respectively, by section 6082 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, are redesignated as sections 1937 and 1938, respectively, of the Social Security Act.

(B) 1937(b)(3) of the Social Security Act, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by inserting “(as added by section 6044(a) of S. 1932 of the 109th Congress, as passed by the Senate on December 21, 2005)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeals and amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

SEC. ____ . ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE STATE CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking “\$4,050,000,000” and inserting “\$6,550,000,000”; and

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking “\$5,000,000,000” and inserting “\$7,500,000,000”.

(b) FUNDS IN ADDITION TO FUNDS PROVIDED TO ELIMINATE FISCAL YEAR 2006 SHORTFALLS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out subsection (d) of section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(d)), as added by section 6101(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, (including the determination of a State’s allotment for fiscal year 2006 under paragraph (2)(C) of that subsection), without regard to the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) providing increased funding for State allotments for fiscal year 2006.

SEC. ____ . REPEAL OF THE SCHEDULED PHASE-OUT OF THE LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS AND ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (F) of section 151(d)(3), and

(2) by striking subsections (f) and (g) of section 68.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

(c) APPLICATION OF EGTRRA SUNSET.—The amendments made by this section shall be subject to title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 to the same extent and in the same manner as the provision of such Act to which such amendment relates.

SA 2701. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, strike lines 19 through 22 and insert the following:

SEC. 203. ELIGIBILITY OF ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN FOR SCHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2110(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—
(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and
(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B);

(2) in paragraph (2)—
(A) by striking “include” and all that follows through “a child who is an” and inserting “include a child who is an”; and

(B) by striking the semicolon and all that follows through the period and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (4).
(b) NO EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-COST COVERAGE.—Section 2110(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “RULE” and inserting “RULES”;

(2) by striking “A child shall not be considered to be described in paragraph (1)(C)” and inserting the following:

“(A) CERTAIN NON FEDERALLY FUNDED COVERAGE.—A child shall not be considered to be described in paragraph (1)(C)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) NO EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-COST COVERAGE.—A State may include a child as a targeted vulnerable child if the child has access to coverage under a group health plan or health insurance coverage and the total annual aggregate cost for premiums, deductibles, cost sharing, and similar charges imposed under the group health plan or health insurance coverage with respect to all targeted vulnerable children in the child’s family exceeds 5 percent of such family’s income for the year involved.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.; 1397aa et seq.) are amended by striking “targeted low-income” each place it appears and inserting “targeted vulnerable”.

(2) Section 2101(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa(a)) is amended by striking “uninsured, low-income” and inserting “low-income”.

(3) Section 2102(b)(3)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(3)(C)) is amended by inserting “, particularly with respect to children whose family income exceeds 200 percent of the poverty line” before the semicolon.

(4) Section 2102(b)(3)(E), section 2105(a)(1)(D)(ii), paragraphs (1)(C) and (2) of section 2107, and subsections (a)(1) and (d)(1)(B) of section 2108 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(3)(E); 1397ee(a)(1)(D)(ii); 1397gg; 1397hh) are amended by striking “low-income” each place it appears.

(5) Section 2110(a)(27) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397j(a)(27)) is amended by striking “eligible low-income individuals” and inserting “targeted vulnerable individuals”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

SEC. 203A. INCREASE IN FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION UNDER SCHIP AND MEDICAID FOR STATES WITH SIMPLIFIED ENROLLMENT AND RENEWAL PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN.

(a) SCHIP.—Section 2105(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) NONAPPLICATION OF LIMITATION AND INCREASE IN FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR STATES WITH SIMPLIFIED ENROLLMENT AND RENEWAL PROCEDURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1) and subparagraph (A)—

“(I) the limitation under subparagraph (A) on expenditures for items described in subsection (a)(1)(D) shall not apply with respect to expenditures incurred to carry out any of the outreach strategies described in clause (ii), but only if the State carries out the same outreach strategies for children under title XIX; and

“(II) the enhanced FMAP for a State for a fiscal year otherwise determined under subsection (b) shall be increased by 5 percentage points (without regard to the application of the 85 percent limitation under that subsection) with respect to such expenditures.

“(ii) OUTREACH STRATEGIES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of clause (i), the outreach strategies described in this clause are the following:

“(I) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.—The State provides for presumptive eligibility for children under this title and under title XIX.

“(II) ADOPTION OF 12-MONTH CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY.—The State provides that eligibility for children shall not be redetermined more often than once every year under this title or under title XIX.

“(III) ELIMINATION OF ASSET TEST.—The State does not apply any asset test for eligibility under this title or title XIX with respect to children.

“(IV) PASSIVE RENEWAL.—The State provides for the automatic renewal of the eligibility of children for assistance under this title and under title XIX if the family of which such a child is a member does not report any changes to family income or other relevant circumstances, subject to verification of information from State databases.”.

(b) MEDICAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting “subject to paragraph (5)”, after “Notwithstanding subsection (a)(17)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) Notwithstanding the first sentence of section 1905(b), with respect to expenditures incurred to carry out any of the outreach strategies described in subparagraph (B) for individuals under 19 years of age who are eligible for medical assistance under subsection (a)(10)(A), the Federal medical assistance percentage is equal to the enhanced FMAP described in section 2105(b) and increased under section 2105(c)(2)(C)(i)(II), but only if the State carries out the same outreach strategies for children under title XXI.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the outreach strategies described in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.—The State provides for presumptive eligibility for such individuals under this title and title XXI.

“(ii) ADOPTION OF 12-MONTH CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY.—The State provides that eligibility for such individuals shall not be redetermined more often than once every year under this title or under title XXI.

“(iii) ELIMINATION OF ASSET TEST.—The State does not apply any asset test for eligibility under this title or title XXI with respect to such individuals.

“(iv) PASSIVE RENEWAL.—The State provides for the automatic renewal of the eligibility of such individuals for assistance under this title and under title XXI if the family of which such an individual is a member does not report any changes to family income or other relevant circumstances, subject to verification of information from State databases.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The first sentence of section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)) is amended by striking “section 1933(d)” and inserting “sections 1902(1)(5) and 1933(d)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

SEC. 203B. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS TO STATES THAT HAVE AN ENROLLMENT CAP BUT HAVE NOT EXHAUSTED THE STATE’S AVAILABLE ALLOTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2105 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS TO STATES THAT HAVE AN ENROLLMENT CAP BUT HAVE NOT EXHAUSTED THE STATE’S AVAILABLE ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, payment shall not be made to a State under this section if the State has an enrollment freeze, enrollment cap, procedures to delay consideration of, or not to consider, submitted applications for child health assistance, or a waiting list for the submission or consideration of such applications or for such assistance, and the State has not fully expended the amount of all allotments available with respect to a fiscal year for expenditure by the State, including allotments for prior fiscal years that remain available for expenditure during the fiscal year under subsection (c) or (g) of section 2104 or that were redistributed to the State under subsection (f) or (g) of section 2104.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as prohibiting a State from establishing regular open enrollment periods for the submission of applications for child health assistance.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

SEC. 203C. ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENT TO FMAP TO PROMOTE EXPANSION OF COVERAGE TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN UNDER MEDICAID AND SCHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXI (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

“(4) MONITORING AND ADJUSTMENT OF PERIOD REQUIRED TO BE UNINSURED.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) monitor the availability and retention of employer-sponsored health insurance coverage of dependent children; and

“(B) adjust the period determined under paragraph (1) as needed for the purpose of promoting the retention of private or employer-sponsored health insurance coverage of dependent children and timely access to health care services for such children.”

(b) COST-SHARING FOR CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH HIGH FAMILY INCOME.—Section 2103(e)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(e)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH HIGH FAMILY INCOME.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For children not described in subparagraph (A) whose family income exceeds 400 percent of the poverty line for a family of the size involved, subject to paragraphs (1)(B) and (2), the State shall impose a premium that is not less than the cost of providing child health assistance to children in such families, and deductibles, cost sharing, or similar charges shall be imposed under the State child health plan (without regard to a sliding scale based on income), except that the total annual aggregate cost-sharing with respect to all such children in a family under this title may not exceed 5 percent of such family’s income for the year involved.

“(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—The dollar amount specified in clause (i) shall be increased, beginning with fiscal year 2008, from year to year based on the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average). Any dollar amount established under this clause that is not a multiple of \$100 shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.”

(c) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR STATES PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE STATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR STATES PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE STATE.—

“(1) APPROPRIATION; TOTAL ALLOTMENT.—For the purpose of providing additional allotments to States to provide coverage of all uninsured children (as defined in section 2111(b)) in the State under the State child health plan, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

“(A) for fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, \$3,000,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2010, \$5,000,000,000; and

“(C) for fiscal year 2011, \$7,000,000,000.

“(2) STATE AND TERRITORIAL ALLOTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the allotments provided under subsections (b) and (c), subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraphs (3) and (4), of the amount available for the additional allotments under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State with a State child health plan that provides coverage of all uninsured children (as so defined) in the State approved under this title—

“(i) in the case of such a State other than a commonwealth or territory described in subsection (ii), the same proportion as the proportion of the State’s allotment under subsection (b) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to 98.95 percent of the total amount of the allotments under such section for such States eligible for an allotment under this subparagraph for such fiscal year; and

“(ii) in the case of a commonwealth or territory described in subsection (c)(3), the same proportion as the proportion of the commonwealth’s or territory’s allotment under subsection (c) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to 1.05 percent of the total amount of the allotments under such section for commonwealths and territories eligible for an allotment under this subparagraph for such fiscal year.

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—No allotment to a State for a fiscal year under this subsection shall be less than 50 percent of the amount of the allotment to the State determined under subsections (b) and (c) for the preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) PRO RATA REDUCTIONS.—The Secretary shall make such pro rata reductions to the allotments determined under this subsection as are necessary to comply with the requirements of clause (i).

“(C) AVAILABILITY AND REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED ALLOTMENTS.—In applying subsections (e) and (f) with respect to additional allotments made available under this subsection, the procedures established under such subsections shall ensure such additional allotments are only made available to States which have elected to provide coverage under section 2111.

“(3) USE OF ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT.—Additional allotments provided under this subsection are not available for amounts expended before October 1, 2005. Such amounts are available for amounts expended on or after such date for child health assistance for uninsured children (as defined in section 2111(b)).

“(4) REQUIRING ELECTION TO PROVIDE COVERAGE.—No payments may be made to a State under this title from an allotment provided under this subsection unless the State has made an election to provide child health assistance for all uninsured children (as so defined) in the State, including such children whose family income exceeds 200 percent of the poverty line.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “under this section,”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and subsection (d)” after “Subject to paragraph (4);” and

(C) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “for a fiscal year.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

SA 2702. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, strike lines 19 through 22 and insert the following:

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF RESEARCH CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 41(h)(1) (relating to termination), as amended by section 113 of this Act, is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (D) of section 45C(b)(1) (relating to special rule), as amended by section 113 of this Act, is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2005.

(b) EXPANSION OF CREDIT TO EXPENSES OF GENERAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CONSORTIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 41 is amended—

(A) by striking “an energy research consortium” in subsections (a)(3) and (b)(3)(C)(i) and inserting “a research consortium”;

(B) by striking “energy” each place it appears in subsection (f)(6)(A);

(C) by inserting “or 501(c)(6)” after “section 501(c)(3)” in subsection (f)(6)(A)(i)(I), and

(D) by striking “ENERGY RESEARCH” in the heading for subsection (f)(6) and inserting “RESEARCH”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2005.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the Bureau of Reclamation’s Reuse and Recycling Program, title XVI of P.L. 102-575.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Kellie Donnelly, 202-224-9360 or Shannon Ewan at 202-224-7555.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Women in Sports.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, “Hurricane Katrina: Managing the Crisis and Evacuating New Orleans.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized