

proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6198, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6198) to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6198) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THIRD HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6138, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6138) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6138) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TO EXTEND THE WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6106, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6106) to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under title IV, section 105, Public Law 109-148.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, a motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6106) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6197 which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6197) to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and for other purposes.

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

FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I would like to talk about a very important piece of legislation sent over by the House of Representatives to the Senate last night. The Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006 will reauthorize the vital programs to assist the quickly growing elder population. During the reauthorization it became apparent that the elderly population is growing more quickly in certain areas than others. This was highlighted in newspaper articles this week and has been a key issue for my colleague from North Carolina.

In light of this, I propose that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions hold hearings during the coming Congress to review formulas for federal programs and how those formulas are developed to determine the fair and equitable distribution of funds. The committee will focus its attention on how funds must follow the people and the need. In other words, how do we make sure that federal monies are going to the areas of greatest need which are in many instances the fast growing areas of our country and how do we eliminate inequities in funding that exist under current formulas and which in many instances disadvantage high-growth states. Finally, I propose that the committee begin its reauthorization of the Older Americans Act no later than 3 years after the passage of this bill.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the HELP Committee and strongly support his proposals to focus the attention of the committee on how formulas for federal programs, like the Older Americans Act, are developed. The money should follow the people and their need. With respect to the Older Americans Act, I represent the seventh fastest growing state in the Nation and among that growing population is a quickly growing elderly population. The funds from this act are vital to supporting the services and infrastructure to assist North Carolina to serve our elderly population today and in the future. I also thank the chairman for addressing the next reau-

thorization within the 3 years after we pass this bill before us.

Mr. ENZI. I would like to thank my colleague from North Carolina for his support of our bill. He was very important in the drafting of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support us in this important legislation for our growing elderly population and to work with Senator BURR and me, in the coming Congress, to ensure that federal funds follow the need and their intended recipients.

Mr. President, I rise today in support of the passage of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006. I am pleased at the support that this bill has received in the Senate and in the House. I especially want to thank Senator KENNEDY, the ranking member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. In particular, I thank Senator DEWINE, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging. Senator DEWINE provided immeasurable leadership in the passage of these amendments, as did Senator MIKULSKI, the subcommittee ranking member. In addition, I thank the members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for their diligence in moving forward with this legislation: Representative BUCK MCKEON, Chairman; Representative GEORGE MILLER, ranking member; Representative PATRICK J. TIBERI, chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Education; and Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA, subcommittee ranking member.

The Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006 is the primary source for the delivery of social and nutrition services for older individuals. Enacted in 1965, the act's programs include supportive services, congregate and home-delivered nutrition services, community service employment, the long-term care ombudsman program, and services to prevent the abuse, neglect and exploitation of older individuals. The act also provides grants to Native Americans and research, training, and demonstration activities.

Title I of the Older Americans Act sets broad social policy objectives to improve the lives of all older Americans. It recognizes the need for an adequate income in retirement, and the importance of physical and mental health, employment in community services for older individuals and long-term care services.

Title II establishes the Administration on Aging, AOA, within the Department of Health and Human Services to be the primary Federal advocate for older individuals and to administer the provision of the Older Americans Act. It also establishes the National Eldercare Locator Service to provide nationwide information with regard to resources for older individuals; the National Long-term Care Ombudsman Resource Center; the National Center on Elder Abuse; the National Aging Information Center; and the Pension Counseling and Information Program. The

2006 amendments authorize the designation of a person to have responsibility for elder abuse prevention to develop a long-term plan and national response to elder abuse prevention, detection, treatment, and intervention. It also authorizes the Assistant Secretary to designate an individual to be responsible for administration of mental health services and authorizes Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Further, the 2006 Amendments strengthen the leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services through an interagency coordinating committee to guide policy and program development across the Federal Government with respect to aging and demographic changes.

Title III authorizes grants to fund 655 area agencies on aging and more than 29,000 service providers nationwide. Title III services are targeted to those with the greatest economic and social need, particularly low-income minority persons and older individuals residing in rural communities. The 2006 amendments will authorize organizations with experience in providing volunteer opportunities for older individuals to be eligible to enter cooperative arrangements; require state agencies to promote the development and implementation of state systems that enable older individuals to receive long-term care and community-based settings in accordance with needs and preferences; encourage both States and area agencies on aging to plan for population changes; improve access to supportive services that help foster independence; require nutrition projects to prepare meals that comply with the most recent Dietary Guidelines; and reauthorize the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

Title IV supports a wide range of ongoing research and demonstration activities that will enhance innovation, identify best practices and provide technical assistance for older individuals. The 2006 Amendments will permit competitive grants for planning activities that will benefit the aging population; assessment of technology-based models to aid in remote health monitoring systems, communication devices and assistive technologies. Further, it includes Hispanic serving institutions among those eligible to compete for grants to provide education and training in the field of aging; reauthorizes grants to improve transportation services for older individuals; ensures increased awareness of mental health disorders among older individuals; and authorizes development of innovative models of service delivery to ensure older individuals may age in place, as they are able and as they choose.

Title V authorizes the community service employment program for older Americans—known as the Senior Community Service Employment, or SCSEP—to promote part-time opportunities in community service for unemployed, low-income persons who are 55 years or older and who have poor em-

ployment prospects. It is administered by the Department of Labor. This program represents approximately one-quarter of Older Americans Act funds—\$432 million out of \$1.78 billion in fiscal year 2006. This program is operated by States and national grantees awarded competitive grants and supported 61,050 jobs and served approximately 91,500 individuals in fiscal year 2005. The 2006 amendments establish 4-year grant cycles for the competitive program and prohibit poor performing grantees from competing during the next grant cycle. It expands participation for eligible individuals who are underemployed and establishes a 48-month time limit for participation in the program with a waiver for particularly hard-to-serve individuals. It establishes an overall grantee average participation cap of up to 27 months and authorizes a waiver of up to 36 months.

Title VI provides funds for supportive and nutrition services for older Native Americans. The 2006 amendments will provide increase the Native American caregiver support program through 2011. Also, Title VII authorizes programs for the long-term care ombudsman, elder abuse, neglect and exploitation prevention, legal service developers and vulnerable Native American elder rights. The 2006 amendments will enhance the elder abuse prevention activities by awarding grants to States and Indian tribes to enable them to strengthen long-term care and provide assistance for elder justice and elder abuse prevention programs. It will create grants for prevention, detection, assessment, treatment of, intervention in, investigation of, and response to elder abuse; safe havens demonstrations for older individuals; volunteer programs; multidisciplinary activities; elder fatality and serious injury review teams; programs for underserved populations; incentives for longterm care facilities to train and retain employees; and other collaborative and innovative approaches.

Finally, the National Resource Center for Women and Retirement is a highly successful program run by the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement—WISER—a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the security of women's retirement income through outreach, partnerships, and policy development. We know that many older Americans lack financial knowledge, and that financial education is needed. This program provides a helpful service and should continue to be funded so as to expand its various programs for older Americans, including financial literacy.

The proportion of the population aged 60 and over will increase dramatically over the next 30 years as more than 78 million baby boomers approach, or have already reached, retirement. It is essential that in the coming years Congress and the Federal Government take a leadership role in assisting the States in addressing the needs of older Americans. The bill we

offer today will ensure that our Nation's older Americans are healthy, fed, housed, able to get where they need to go and safe from abuse and scams. The number one resolution of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging called upon Congress to reauthorize the Older Americans Act during the 109th Congress. I am pleased that the Senate and the House are accomplishing this goal on behalf of one of our Nation's greatest resources—our older Americans.

Before closing, I want to thank certain staff of the committee for their hard work and long hours in making this reauthorization a reality. I would especially like to thank the following staff members: Katherine McGuire, Ilyse Schuman, Greg Dean, Lindsay Morris, Karla Carpenter, Kori Forster, Lauren Fuller, Michelle Dirst, Brittany Moore and Will Green. Also, I would like to thank the many others who have supported this effort, including Carol O'Shaughnessy and Richard Rimkunas of the Congressional Research Service, and most notably the work of Liz King in the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel in supporting the drafting of this legislation. Also, I thank the work of the many staff on the other side of the aisle for their contributions toward passage of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in light of the growing needs of our population to ensure that the services they need in the coming years are available to them.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend Chairman ENZI, Senator DEWINE, Senator MIKULSKI, Chairman MCKEON, Representative TIBERI, Representative MILLER, and Representative HINOJOSA for their bipartisan leadership in reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. It's been a lifeline for senior citizens across the country for 40 years, and all of us want it to continue to fulfill its important mission in the years ahead.

Like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act is part of our commitment to care for the Nation's seniors in their golden years.

Last year, 1,200 bi-partisan delegates were chosen by the Governors of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Territories to attend the first White House Conference on Aging since 1985. Over the years these conferences have served as catalysts for change, and this conference was no different. The delegates called for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act as their No. 1 priority and I'm pleased that Congress has answered their call.

As we all know, the baby boomer generation is retiring. One in nine Americans are over age 65 today, but by the year 2030, the number will be one in five.

Our authorization bill is designed to take some of the necessary steps to put the infrastructure in place to provide