

bill, but I ask the President to listen to us, to sit down in the way we are supposed to here in Congress, and work with us to find agreement so we can move this bill forward. That is my hope for us here, and it is my hope for Americans across this country.

I am proud of the bill we have put forward in addressing the critical infrastructure investments here at home, and I hope as we move forward in this process in a few weeks we will be able to have a conference committee bill that will be sent to the President and that he will agree to so we can then move on to the other issues facing this Nation.

I also take this opportunity to thank a number of people who worked on this bill, but particularly Chairman BYRD, who led us throughout this debate. I thank Senator COCHRAN, my ranking member, who has been out here on the floor late nights working with us to help keep an orderly process.

I also thank all of our full committee staff, Terry Sauvain and Bruce Evans, all of their staff, who have worked countless hours. I am not sure they even went home last night before they came in this morning to help us get to the point we are today, and I thank all the staff of all the Appropriations subcommittees, who have worked very hard on this bill.

I also thank our floor staff, because without their work and their support, none of us would be able to complete the work we do. They are the silent workers who sit in front of us and who have done such a tremendous job to help us get through this process.

At the end of the day, I want my colleagues and I want America to know we in the majority here in the Senate believe an emergency spending bill should be just that. There are numerous emergencies across this country, investing in Americans who have suffered tremendously, and we are working hard to make sure their issues are finally addressed. Importantly, we are telling the President that our veterans and those who serve us in Iraq and Afghanistan, when they come home, their issues are going to be addressed as part of the cost of the war and as part of this emergency supplemental.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, the emergency supplemental appropriations legislation which passed the Senate today, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, provides \$625 million in security funding to better protect the millions of Americans who ride public transportation. I thank Senator SHELBY, who as both the ranking member on the Banking Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee has been a tireless advocate on behalf of mass transit and specifically on the issue of transit security. I commend Senators BYRD and COCHRAN who serve, respectively, as both chairman and ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee and the Homeland Security Subcommittee. They were instru-

mental in deciding to increase our investment in securing our public transportation systems. The issue of transit security requires coordination between both homeland security agencies and committees and those transportation agencies and committees. Thus, I also commend Senators MURRAY and BOND who serve as chair and ranking member on the Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Our Nation's public transit systems are inadequately prepared to minimize the threat and impact of potential terrorist attacks. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Federal Government has invested nearly \$24 billion in aviation security—protecting the 1.8 million people who fly on an average day. At the same time, our National Government has invested only \$386 million, before the 110th Congress began, in transit security to protect the 14 million people who ride transit on an average workday. Put another way, since 2001, our Nation has spent over \$7.50 per passenger on aviation security, but less than one penny per transit rider on transit security. I am not suggesting that we ought to be investing equally, but clearly this is not the appropriate balance.

As chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, I have made improving our national security a top priority. The very first hearing that I held as chairman focused on increasing the security of our Nation's 14 million daily transit passengers. The very first legislation that the committee considered during my Chairmanship was the Public Transit Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007, which was passed by the Banking Committee unanimously on February 8. The legislation authorizes the distribution of \$3.5 billion in security funds, over the next 3 fiscal years, on the basis of risk directly to transit agencies.

The Public Transit Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007 was included as title XV of the 9/11 bill, which the Senate passed on March 13. Senator SHELBY and I worked with Senator BYRD and Senator COCHRAN to include language in the legislation to allow for such sums as necessary to be appropriated in this fiscal year to address the critical needs of our Nation's transit systems. The \$625 million included in this appropriations act is a significant investment towards our goal of better securing our Nation's rail and transit systems. This investment builds on the \$175 million that was included in the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution. Combined, these investments are greater than all of the investments that were made between the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the beginning of this new Congress.

We must make sure that we use these funds wisely. It is my desire that the Congress quickly reconcile both the transit security legislation and the

supplemental funding that has passed each Chamber so that this supplemental funding will be distributed in accordance with the new authorization. I once again thank all of the members of the Banking and Appropriations Committees who have worked so hard to advance us to where we are today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— S. 1022 AND S. 1023

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to delineate exactly why I voted against this supplemental. We are in some very difficult and complex times in the world today, and certainly the situation in Iraq is right at the forefront.

Americans have always stood tall when someone tries to interrupt our ability to exercise our rights of freedom, and right now we are fighting a global war on terrorism, with Iraq being at the center of it. For individuals in this body to think we can micromanage a military conflict from the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives is simply wrong.

We have military leadership on the ground in Iraq. That leadership is recommending against imposing timelines. We have civilian leaders who have significant military experience, both from the State Department level as well as the Pentagon level. These leaders have testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, and every single one of those individuals, whether they were Republican or Democrat, has said imposing timelines is not the way to go. Every military officer who has come to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee has said imposing timelines for withdrawal from Iraq will simply embolden the enemy. The enemy will lay in wait until we remove ourselves from Iraq and then all genocide will break loose in Iraq.

The Baker-Hamilton commission—which so many people have relied upon—clearly stated that imposing timelines for withdrawal from Iraq is not the way to go. This vote today is simply the wrong signal to send to an enemy. The message needs to be that we are going to take you out; that we are not going to let you impose yourself on freedom and democracy. This vote today simply does not do that.

I very strongly disagree with the provisions in this supplemental relative to the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, and that is the reason I did vote against this supplemental we so desperately need to fund our troops, to fund the operation in Iraq, as well as to take care of some other measures. One of those other measures included in this supplemental is critically important to my State, and it has to do with the SCHIP program, the State Children's Health

Insurance Program, which was designed to help uninsured children across America.

Unfortunately, it has gotten into the arena now of not only providing coverage for children but also coverage for some adults. Frankly, I don't agree with that, but I don't have a problem with it in this supplemental. We will deal with that issue in the reauthorization of this program. We do have a provision in the supplemental that would cover the shortfall for the SCHIP program, which in Georgia we refer to as PeachCare. It would have provided the money to fund a shortfall in SCHIP between now and the end of the fiscal year for States such as mine that are going to experience this shortfall. Georgia happens to be the first of 14 States that is going to have this shortfall, and we have had to take measures—and our legislature, thank goodness, has done that—to make up this shortfall. In the interim, between now and the time this bill is going to come back to this body for reconsideration after being vetoed by the President, Georgia's taxpayers are going to have to fund a greater portion of the SCHIP program than they should have to. So I have filed a bill today that is going to take care of that. It is going to provide immediate funding for the shortfall in Georgia, as well as all of the other shortfall States in the country today that, while they may not experience a shortfall as we speak, it is coming within the next 30 to 60 to 90 days to 13 other States.

On behalf of Senator ISAKSON and myself, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1022, introduced earlier today; that the bill be read a third time and passed; that 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. Is there objection?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, unfortunately, I must object to the Senator's request. We passed money for the shortfall in the supplemental and we should not extend the program at the expense of the current coverage.

I look forward to working with the Senator from Georgia on reauthorization that preserves the program and the coverage that is needed, and toward that end, I ask unanimous consent that my bill dealing with SCHIP, introduced earlier today, S. 1023, be considered, read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. First, the Chair notes the objection of the Senator from New Jersey.

Is there objection to the motion of the Senator from New Jersey?

Mr. DEMINT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection of the Senator from South Carolina is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. RES. 123

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, earlier this year the Senate worked together to change the way we appropriate money in Congress. One of the big showdowns that we had earlier in the year with the new majority was the discussion of earmarks and how we would disclose them and be more transparent to the American people. We worked hard. I introduced an amendment that would provide disclosure at the committee level and asked that the committee put any earmarks on the Internet and tell who offered the earmark and what it would go for, to make sure there is no conflict of interest.

Originally, the majority tried to table that motion, but once we worked together on language and worked out every detail, that amendment was agreed to 98 to 0. It was unanimous that we should stop earmarking the way we are today and use common-sense disclosure rules for America to know how we are spending its money.

Unfortunately, that amendment is part of the lobbying reform, ethics reform bill that has gone to conference with the House that apparently is not going to act on it at all. My proposal has been that we take what we passed in the Senate. We are beginning the appropriations process again. Unless we impose these rules on ourselves, rules that we all agreed on, we are going to go through the same thing we did last year where we put all these bills together, with thousands of earmarks, and at the end of the year some of us are going to be forced to try to stop the whole process, which, hopefully, we will not do.

What I would like to do today to fix this problem is take the amendment we have passed unanimously before and bring it up and pass it in the Senate as a Senate rule so we would operate under the rules that we have all agreed to during this appropriations season. The resolution number is 123, so fixing the current appropriations problem and earmark problem is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 123; further, that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I believe there is an appropriate process to consider the Senator's request, but at this time I object.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I am certainly disappointed. This is something to which we have agreed. We worked out the language with the majority. Certainly, we should be operating under the rules that we have agreed to during this appropriations season.

It is very unfortunate. I am very disappointed. I guess I have no choice, if the majority is going to object.

I would and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the fiscal year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, just approved by the Senate, includes over \$96 billion for the troops. It includes increases above the President's request for the Department of Defense, including increases of \$1.3 billion for defense health, \$1 billion for equipping the National Guard and Reserve, and \$1.1 billion for military housing.

The bill includes \$6.7 billion for rebuilding the gulf coast region following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. It includes \$4.2 billion for agricultural disaster relief. It includes nearly \$1.8 billion for the VA to make sure that we meet our moral obligation to provide first-class health care to our wounded veterans.

Most importantly, with passage of this bill, the Senate sends a clear message to the President that we must take the war in Iraq in a new direction. Setting a goal for getting most of our troops out of Iraq is not cutting and running. The new direction provides incentives to the Iraqi people to settle their differences, to end their civil war, and to pursue reconciliation. One fact is plainly clear: The President wants to run his war his way, without anyone asking any questions or requiring any standards of progress.

That is the kind of attitude that has resulted in the chaos we see in Iraq each day. President Bush does not want anyone to hold him accountable for the failures in Iraq. He does not want anyone to hold him responsible for our troops remaining caught in the escalating Iraqi civil war. The President has his eyes closed to the truth in Iraq.

Let me read excerpts from a letter I recently received from soldiers serving in and around Baghdad:

We write you this letter. . . . Senator Byrd, because of your prominent role as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and because of your documented observation of the alarming lack of debate within the Senate over the Iraq War.

So much of the controversy surrounding the proposed surge strategy has hinged on "support for our troops." Yet, the voice of the individual trooper is not heard. As volunteer members of the military, we waive certain civil rights. We cannot quit. We have a legal and moral responsibility to carry out