

I am a cosponsor of legislation sponsored by Senator PRYOR that would reauthorize and strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Its budget is half what it was when it began in the 1970s in real dollars. The staff has dwindled over the years from 1,000, including inspectors, to 420. We must instead increase funding and staff at the Consumer Product Safety Commission. We must increase coordination between the CPSC and Customs officials. We must give the Commission the authority to examine and approve other nations' regulatory systems before imports from a country get onto our store shelves.

When we buy tens of billions of dollars of toys, tires, and other consumer products from a country that has weak environmental laws, weak food safety laws, weak consumer protection laws and, at the same time, when our companies that import from other countries push subcontractors in those countries to cut costs, this is what we end up with. That is why we must give the CPSC the authority to examine and approve other nations' regulatory systems.

Unfortunately, as imports from China and other trading nations rise and the recall of toxic products at home increases, the Bush administration continues to call for more Consumer Product Safety Commission cuts.

Yesterday, the Times reported that Chairwoman Nord of the CPSC plans to actively work to kill the Pryor legislation. That is unacceptable. This administration's apathy for policies that protect our families is at best shameful and at worst potentially deadly.

One thing I am sure of: It is time for Nancy Nord of the Consumer Product Safety Commission chair to step aside. She is the acting chairperson but, unfortunately, we have seen a lot more inaction than we have action. It is time to put a chairperson in place who is not satisfied with "we are doing the best we can." We need a chairperson who fights for the authority and the resources the Commission needs to do the job it is supposed to.

Her response to the wave of product recalls has been, to put it charitably, underwhelming. She is fighting efforts to make more information available to the public about product hazards. She opposes protections for whistleblowers who identify shoddy products, and, most importantly, in the face of recall after recall, she has offered no plan to equip the CPSC to fulfill its role in product safety. She spends most of her time trying to make sure her agency isn't scrutinized or held accountable for doing its job. We need a permanent chairperson dedicated to doing the most important thing the CPSC is to do—protecting families and our children, not protecting corporate interests.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3963, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 3963) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the children's health insurance bill, H.R. 3963, occur at 3:45 p.m. today, and that if cloture is invoked it be considered invoked as if the vote had occurred at 6:30 p.m. today and concluded at 6:50 p.m., with the time following the conclusion of morning business prior to the vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to yield to myself 30 minutes, and I also ask unanimous consent that Senator KENNEDY be yielded 30 minutes of the majority's time.

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

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to talk about a couple subjects this afternoon. I am going to begin, however, talking about the issue of children's health insurance.

The Children's Health Insurance Program will be the subject of the cloture vote later this afternoon, and it is a very important issue. We have a lot of children in this country who do not have health insurance coverage. Ten years ago, we put together a piece of legislation called the Children's Health Insurance Program. It has worked. It has been very successful. Millions of children who otherwise would not have had health insurance coverage now have health insurance coverage.

The President, when he campaigned for office a couple of years ago, said he supported and wanted to expand the

Children's Health Insurance Program to cover more children. The Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has now passed the Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization that would provide additional coverage for nearly 4 million additional children in this country—3.8 million additional children, to be exact. The President vetoed it—this after he campaigned saying he supported expanding the program. In fact, not only did he veto the expansion of the program—that was done on a bipartisan basis in the Congress, and fully paid for, I might say—but he sent Congress a budget that left 21 States without enough money to continue to cover the existing kids in the program.

So this administration has it wrong. That is not just me saying it, it is a bipartisan group of Members of Congress who believe very strongly we need to do what is right to try to get health insurance to children. We should try to make sure every American has health insurance. That is very important. But it seems to me if you do not have legislation that does that, at least start with the children.

I have said before, I do not know what is in second or third or fourth place in most people's lives in terms of what is important, but I know what is in first place in the lives of most people. It is their children and their children's health. If this is not a priority, if it is not a priority at the White House—it passed the Senate with a wide margin, passed the House with a wide margin, but we did not have 67 percent of the votes in the House to override the veto—if it is not a priority at the White House, I ask what is a priority? If providing health care for an additional 3.8 million children is not a priority, what are the priorities at the White House? What is more important?

Once again, this may be unfamiliar territory to the President because this is a piece of legislation that is fully paid for, unlike much of what we get from the White House these days. I am going to talk about that in a bit. But before us here in Congress, the President has two requests. In addition to his regular budget, the President has said to us: I want another \$196 billion for the purposes of continuing the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. And he said: I want the \$196 billion declared an emergency. I do not propose we pay for it. I propose we put it all on top of the debt. That will take us to almost two-thirds of a trillion dollars the President has asked for—none of it paid for, all of it requested by the President as an emergency.

Contrast that, by the way, a \$196 billion emergency request—none of it paid for—with a bipartisan group in the Congress that says: We believe the priority is our children. We propose to cover 3.8 million additional kids with health insurance coverage, and we fully pay for it. That is a very significant departure from what we hear at the White House these days.

Now the President gasses up Air Force One, flies all over the country, and flew