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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth, open our minds to the call of love that we may measure our attitudes and responses by this standard. Deliver us from the delusion that we are self-made and increase our dependence upon You.

Bless our Senators. May they give attention to their personal health and family relationships, as they seek to be Your instruments for good. Remind them that You alone, O Lord, have the wisdom and power needed at this critical hour. Assure them of Your presence, love, and grace in their labors. Give them fresh strength and vision, as You renew them by the power of Your spirit.

We pray in the Name of him in whom is all power in heaven and on Earth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL, if he chooses to make some, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the highway bill.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY SMITH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, amidst a great war that threatened to tear apart the fabric of our Nation, Abraham Lincoln gazed upon a battlefield and was moved to say:

My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope on earth.

Mr. President, on Monday, April 7, U.S. Army SGT Timothy Smith gave his life in pursuit of that dream. Sergeant Smith was 25 years old.

While serving in Iraq with the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th

Mountain Division, Sergeant Smith was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the armored vehicle in which he was riding with SGT Brandon Lords.

Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were brothers in arms, and they had made a pact that if one was lost in combat, the other would escort his body home. Sergeant Lords will honor that promise by accompanying his fallen comrade's body to South Lake Tahoe, where he will be received by his beloved family and friends before he is laid to rest.

Both Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were emblematic of the courageous young men and women who serve in the U.S. military. My words are certainly insufficient to fully express our gratitude for their valor. Our hearts and prayers are with Tim's family.

Thursday night, at about 7 o'clock Washington time, I called and spoke to Michael, Tim's father. We had a very nice visit. I expressed my sympathy, and I said to Michael: You know, I have four boys, and I cannot comprehend what you are going through at this time. We talked for quite a long time, and he said, "Before you hang up, would you talk to Timmy's brother Tommy?" I said that I would be happy to. He was right there. So I talked to him for quite a long time. I told Tommy that I could appreciate what he was going through because I was one of four brothers. My brother Dale died unexpectedly in his midforties. I expressed to Tommy how, even today—on that Thursday night—I would like to be able to talk to my brother Dale, even though it has been more than two decades ago that he died. I can see in one of my boys my brother Dale's smile and the way he walks. So I could empathize much better with Tommy than I could with his dad.

We talked for quite a long time and he said, "Would you talk to Jackie?" That is their sister. We had a wonderful visit, talking about how sorry they

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S2955

felt, how they will miss their brother. When I was getting ready to end the conversation with Jackie, she said, "Will you call Mom?" Her mother was visiting with Tim's wife in North or South Carolina—I forget which. So I called her when I hung up. We had another nice visit.

I told Michael, when I first called—and these calls are really hard to make. I have made a few of them, and they are difficult to make. This call was no easier than the others. It was sure a nice visit we had, in effect, crying on each other's shoulder. I think that is what these times are for, to be able to reflect on our loved and lost. So I indicated to each of those four to make sure they expressed to Tim's wife Shayna and their son Riley how our thoughts and prayers go out to her and the little boy.

Tim graduated in 2001 from South Tahoe High School. He joined the Army in April 2004—about 4 years ago. He is remembered by all as having a special sense of humor, for making people laugh, and really for his warmth. He was opinionated and strong, even from a young age. He was determined, courageous, and caring.

Tim married Shayna on the Fourth of July 2007. Their son Riley must now grow up to be a man without a father but with the gift of knowing his father was a real live American hero who gave his life for his country.

Honoring SGT Timothy Smith on the floor of the Senate is no more than a modest tribute to his great sacrifice. I hope it is some small comfort to those his life and courage touched that the Senate and the American people share the pain of their grief and the burden of their sacrifice.

In SGT Timothy Smith's memory, as I told his parents and brother and sister, we pray that every man and woman serving in Iraq will come home safely and soon.

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune, earlier today, to have the first visit in a long time to the new Capitol Visitor Center.

When I first came to Washington many years ago and served as a Capitol policeman, every evening in the summer part of my duty was to go out on the east front of the Capitol and watch things. I can remember having many fond memories, such as watching Carl Hayden in his wheelchair watching those concerts. Even back then, I thought, gee, this is such a beautiful place.

The east front of the Capitol is so much easier for visitors coming to the Capitol to see than the west front because there are not those big steps. Before, it didn't look very nice. The blacktop covered that place. That just didn't look right—with cars parked there and oil spilled from the cars.

I had the good fortune, in the third year that I was a Senator, to become

chairman of the Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee. Back then, the reason I was able to do it was Senator Bumpers simply didn't want to do it. It was a great experience for me. I started working to do something to make the east front of the Capitol a little more visually nice. We did a number of things. First, we got the cars off.

With the help of many other Senators, we were able to finally get legislative permission to do something about it in a big way. The culmination of our being able to do that was when two police officers were killed on the House side, on the east front of the Capitol. That gave us the impetus to fund the project the way it should be funded. We did that. Now that is just great. It is so wonderful.

The Capitol Visitor Center is the eighth major expansion of the Capitol in its 214-year history. The last one was out here on the east front of the Capitol for the rooms we have there for holding meetings. This facility out here is almost 600,000 square feet of space. It is equivalent in size to the current footprint of the Capitol. It consists of beautiful sandstone, granite, and marble from 14 different States. The Capitol Visitor Center project conforms to "Buy American" standards. I saw a lot of beautiful things but probably the most beautiful on the tour this morning were the historic Olmstead fountains and lanterns. They have been beautifully restored and are going to be the centerpiece over there.

Mr. President, if someone wants to visit the Capitol today, there is no place for them to gather. It used to be on the east front, and now it is on the west front. The people who work here joke about it, saying: You can always tell when it is summertime because you can smell the visitors. The visitors stand out in the high humidity, heat, and they sweat. There is no place for them to go. The bathrooms in this facility are almost nonexistent. There is one on each side, and they are very small. This visitors center can hold 4,000 visitors at one time, and, with 8 magnetometers, they can process 2,000 people an hour. It will make this place vastly more secure than it is. We expect as many as 3 million visitors a year under the new process we will have here.

When visitors come here now, there is no place for them to eat, no place to go to the bathroom, and there are limited places to buy souvenirs. With our new facility, there will be a 550-seat cafeteria, with a beautiful kitchen that will be as good as anyplace there is in our country.

There is an 18,000-foot exhibition hall that will feature many never-seen-before historic documents, such as Madison's notes from the drafting of the Constitution.

There are two 250-seat orientation theaters. When people come to the Capitol, they will see an 11-minute film that is done so beautifully, and it will

tell them what they are going to see in the Capitol. That is as it should be. Now people walk in and don't know what to expect. There is a film they will see called "Out Of Many, One." It will be played every 11 minutes.

There are two beautiful gift shops—one on the House side and one on the Senate side—and 26 restaurants. There are meeting rooms for constituent meetings. The cost is a lot, about \$650 million. But in comparison, the Newseum, which was opened this past Friday, cost roughly \$550 million. It took 7 years to complete, and it did not have all the security problems we have had here.

I congratulate the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. They did a wonderful job. Everyone has cooperated. It is a facility of which we can all be proud. I enjoyed my visit through it. It will be an added feature of this beautiful building, and it will make it so people can come here safely and securely and all the many people who work in this Capitol and work in these office buildings will also certainly be more safe because there is a way to come in and there is adequate security.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Utah.

TAXES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, tomorrow is April 15, the day tax returns are due to the IRS for most citizens. It is a day most Americans meet with fear and loathing. Even though most taxpayers will not file their returns tomorrow because they have already done so or because they have filed for an extension, April 15 remains a symbol of a burdensome tax liability and an even more burdensome tax compliance system for millions of Americans.

April 15 is met with apprehension and dread for many reasons. The primary one is understandable. People do not like paying taxes. Who can blame them? Under the best of circumstances, if you owe Uncle Sam, a day spent with your tax return is worse than a day spent with the dentist. Yes, the IRS has become one of the most despised institutions in American life. However, a good share of this agency's reputation is undeserved. In fact, considering all we require the Internal Revenue Service to do and the resources we give them, the folks who work there do a pretty darn good job.

Paying taxes is never going to be popular, nor is it ever going to be fun. However, we all know it does not have to be as bad as it is. A great deal of the aggravation, a good share of the complexity, and much of the confusion is probably unnecessary.

I could spend many hours speaking about what is wrong with our tax system. It is, in military parlance, a target-rich environment. In fact, I expect we will hear a fair number of our colleagues speaking today and tomorrow on the Senate floor deploring the tax system. But amid all this denouncement of the IRS and the Tax Code, we in Congress should recognize an ugly truth; that is, a great deal of the blame for our far less than first-rate tax system lies right here with us, the Members of Congress who created it and who have the power to improve it.

I wish to focus on a disturbing trend we have seen growing much worse in recent years that is adding a great deal of stress to our already troubled tax system. This is the increasing tendency of the Congress to create temporary tax provisions and then allow them to expire while leaving taxpayers in limbo as to what the rules are going to be.

If we take a look at over the past dozen or so years, we see a growing proclivity on the part of Congress to enact tax provisions on a temporary basis rather than permanently. This has mostly been done to satisfy the often perverse demands of our budget rules.

But whatever the reasons, the effect of not extending these provisions before they expire has been greatly damaging to the tax system and to taxpayers' ability to understand and rely on the law. The effect has been to weaken this country economically and competitively.

Let us consider the research credit as an example. This is an important provision that has been in the law since the early 1980s, and it enjoys wide and bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

The research credit provides a strong incentive for businesses to increase their research and development activities in the United States. It probably is universally accepted that R&D investment is the lifeblood of high technology and is vital to the future of our economic leadership.

We all know this, and almost to a person, the Members in this body would say they support a strong, vibrant, effective, and permanent research system. Why then have we allowed this credit to expire 13 times?

Here we are, once again, in mid-April and our research credit has been expired since the end of last year. The worst part is, while we all believe it will be extended eventually, everyone knows the credit will not be made permanent, and the likelihood it will be allowed to expire again is very high.

In the meantime, many of our global trading partners have developed stronger and more permanent research

incentives in an attempt to lure away research from our shores. They perceive a weakness in our incentive system, and they are moving to capitalize on this very weakness. It appears these actions are working because we are seeing the amount of research activity in the United States growing much more slowly than it is overseas. We simply cannot afford to lose to other countries our research and the jobs that research brings.

Unfortunately, this problem goes way beyond the research credit. Each year, the Joint Committee on Taxation releases a list of expired and expiring tax provisions. The list for 2008 was 28 pages long and included an unbelievable 145 provisions. By contrast, the list released in 2003 was 13 pages and featured 71 provisions. Fifteen years ago, there would not have been much of a list at all.

Our habit of adding new expiring provisions in the tax law is out of control and, worse, our refusal to deal with extending these provisions on a timely basis well before they expire is inexcusable.

It is the obligation of the majority party in Congress to operate the legislative trains so they run on time and produce laws on which our people can at least rely, if not be proud of. While there is blame to spread between both parties in this area of expired tax provisions, which have such a degenerating effect on our already shaky tax system, we all know who is at fault for the current fiasco.

I do not think anyone in this body will have trouble recalling the weeks-long standoff that occurred late last year over the so-called AMT patch. All of us, though, would probably prefer to forget it if we could.

Instead of addressing the issue of alternative minimum tax and its expired thresholds early on, which would have lent a degree of certainty to an already obnoxious and insidious tax, the Democrats last year dithered on both the AMT patch and on the other soon-to-expire provisions.

The result was a last-minute agreement on the AMT patch that put this year's tax filing season in jeopardy, greatly confused the American taxpayers, and left behind the other now-expired tax provisions. Perhaps most stunningly irresponsible was the fact that we took care of the AMT patch for 2007 only, and now we are facing the same scenario for this year. It must have been so much fun last year that we want to do it again in 2008.

I am very aware of the arguments surrounding the question of whether extending these provisions should be offset, and I will address those on another day.

Today, however, on the eve of America's most hated day, I call on my colleagues, and especially those on the other side of the aisle, to consider why this is so and what it is we are not doing that is the reason why the words "April 15," "IRS," and "Congress" are among the least popular in the lexicon.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized following the remarks of the Senator from Oregon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

TAX REFORM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for the next 33 hours, millions of Americans will face mindless, relentless, needless tax torture trying to shovel their way out from under an avalanche of bureaucratic forms as they struggle to complete their taxes.

Citizens Against Government Waste has calculated that Americans spend 4.3 billion hours each year filing their tax returns and complying with our tax laws. That is a lot of time to spend on something that is about as interesting as prolonged root canal work.

My guess is many Americans would rather read the phonebook than our Tax Code, and the phonebook is actually a lot shorter. So I am going to give one example of the heavy reading Americans have in front of us over the next 33 hours.

The alternative minimum tax, of course, is a killer tax for millions of Americans. It calculates taxable income differently than the regular tax. It adds a whole new layer of complexity to the Code and headache for our citizens. So I am going to read one of the portions of the AMT rules that clobber our middle-class taxpayers, and it is the one that is used to calculate the size of the interest deduction middle-income folks are allowed in our country.

Under section (C), it reads:

In determining the amount allowable as a deduction for interest, subsections (d) and (h) of section 163 shall apply, except that—

(i) in lieu of the exception under section 163(h)(2)(D), the term "personal interest" shall not include any qualified housing interest (as defined in subsection (e)),

(ii) sections 163(d)(6) and 163(h)(5) (relating to phase-ins) shall not apply,

(iii) interest on any specified private activity bond (and any amount treated as interest on a specified private activity bond on under section 57(a)(5)(B), and any deduction referred to in section 57(a)(5)(A), shall be treated as includible in gross income (or as deductible) for purposes of applying section 163(d),

(iv) in lieu of the exception under section 163(d)(3)(B)(i), the term "investment interest" shall not include any qualified housing interest (as defined in subsection (e)), and

(v) the adjustments of this section and sections 57 and 58 shall apply in determining net investment income under section 163(d).

It is obvious to all who are still awake at this point, since I have gone through just one of the sections, this is not exactly clarity in American Government. I cannot find anybody who can get through this. I would go through it again, but I only have 10

minutes since our friend, Senator CORNYN, is here for his remarks.

These words were actually written by a human being. The only thing more bizarre than the fact somebody thought they made sense was the language was then made law by another group called the Congress. So there is a reason the dictionary definition of the adjective "taxing" means "wearingly burdensome."

This burden is especially hard on small businesses. Small businesses are the engine that keeps our country going, but it is amazing they can move at all under the weight of what the Tax Code subjects them to.

The National Association of the Self-Employed is today releasing results of a survey of their members that shows what the 45 million small businesses and self-employed persons are going through with their taxes.

The group's survey, for example, found that almost one in five people who had gone to the IRS to get answers to their tax questions got conflicting responses, sometimes even from the same office.

The time small businesses waste complying with the tax laws is mind-boggling. Thirty-one percent of them recently said they spent 20 percent or more of their time every week on paperwork and other tax-related preparations. That is 1 day a week totally lost to tax preparation. That is a huge penalty that is being imposed on small business for complying with the rules of the IRS.

Another group suffering with our Tax Code is our older people. During the 2004 tax year, the IRS mailed 200,000 error notices to older Americans who miscalculated their taxes. Mr. President, 34,000 went to taxpayers who received the same notice in 2 tax years; 10,000 went to taxpayers who received it in 3 tax years.

What does all this tell you? It tells you the IRS cannot make their explanations understandable to the Nation's older people.

There was one word that kept coming up in this survey over and over. The people surveyed said: You have to simplify the Code, simplify our tax system.

That is what I am trying to do with the legislation I have introduced as a Member of the Senate Finance Committee. It is called the Fair Flat Tax Act, and it eases the burden on our taxpayers by offering them a simplified 1040 Form. Instead of this kind of mumbo-jumbo, it is 1 page, 30 lines for every individual taxpayer. The folks over at Money magazine, the financial publication, took the one-page 1040 form in the fair flat tax, and they could fill out their taxes in just 15 minutes.

The legislation makes our code flatter. It collapses the current system of six individual tax brackets down to three. The fair flat tax eliminates scores and scores of special interest tax breaks. The revenue derived from these changes is used to hold down the rates for everybody and keep progressivity.

More importantly, with the fair flat tax everybody in America has a chance to get ahead. There is a new opportunity with this legislation to promote economic growth, to grow the American economic pie, which is especially important during these times of great economic uncertainty.

One last point. For all of us on the Finance Committee—and I think Senators of both parties understand this—there is a Tax Code meltdown coming. The child tax credit ends in 2010, the marriage penalty roars back in 2011, and it comes back harsher than ever. The same meltdown is going to hit other income taxes—capital gains, dividend taxes—and if Congress doesn't come up with a thoughtful and responsible bipartisan solution, there is going to be new chaos in the world of taxes.

I have tried this afternoon to be a little bit lighthearted in discussing what is certainly a pretty dry topic for most Americans. But when you look at what they are going through tonight, if you are middle class and you are dealing with AMT, this is obviously not a laughing matter. The people of this country need tax reform, and they need it now. The fair flat tax would make our system simpler, fairer, and more progrowth. It makes sense for individuals, for families, and the businesses of our country. The Congress cannot any longer ignore the tax meltdown that is coming. It is time to fix the broken American tax system and eliminate this kind of needless suffering that so many of our citizens are going to endure over the next 33 hours.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CORNYN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2852 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

COLOMBIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have been listening to my friend and colleague, Senator WYDEN, talk, and I am going to study his bill. It sounds like it is an answer to a long overdue problem and one that, as he said, is a train wreck getting ready to happen. This is something we ought to be able to work on in a bipartisan fashion, and I look forward to studying his proposal.

I want to spend just a few minutes talking about another important issue when it comes to our economy and job creation, and that is the Colombian Free Trade Agreement, which the Speaker of the House, last week, said she would not allow to come to the floor of the House of Representatives.

It now remains indefinite as to when, if ever, that free-trade agreement would be allowed to come to the floor.

It is very important for the public to understand that this is more than just about free trade. It does, not coincidentally, create a market in Colombia for about \$2.3 billion in goods and farm commodities sold by the State of Texas into Colombia. And because of a previous Andean Free Trade Agreement, actually Colombian goods coming into the United States bear no duty or tariff, but goods made or grown in Texas or throughout the United States currently bear a duty that would be eliminated by this Colombian Free Trade Agreement.

Now, that is important because it creates jobs and opportunity in the United States. It levels the playing field, and it creates a situation where Colombia and the United States can become equal partners when it comes to commerce and international trade.

But this is important for many other reasons. Because of the war on terror, much of our attention recently, of course, has been focused on the Middle East. But we must be careful not to neglect other parts of the world that are also very important to U.S. security and our economic prosperity, and that is particularly the case in our own hemisphere. Not the least of these important regions is one of the closest to us; that is, Latin America. Unfortunately, Latin America's close proximity hasn't always translated into close ties and friendships. We have seen firsthand and heard firsthand how some Latin American leaders—most notably Hugo Chavez of Venezuela—have taken strong stances against the United States. That is one reason it is so important we embrace wholeheartedly our friends and allies and partners in the region.

Countries that share our focus on freedom and democracy and work with us to fight against terrorism and the spread of narcotics need our support to counter those who support, tacitly or otherwise, the spread of hateful anti-American ideology and militant extremism and criminal drug cartels. We must remember, if we do not stand with our friends, if we do not stay involved in Latin America, someone else will.

Already, nations such as China and Iran have dramatically increased their alliances and influence within the region. Not long ago, President Ahmadinejad of Iran toured Latin America, strengthening Iran's ties to the likes of Hugo Chavez and leaders of the terrorist group known as FARC.

Not long ago, I met with the commander of the U.S. Southern Command, the U.S. military official who is in charge of that region from the standpoint of the Department of Defense, Admiral James Stavridis, and I talked with him about current issues, current developments, and challenges that our Nation faces in his area of responsibility, which includes Latin

America. He made it very clear to me that there is a real threat of the spread of terrorism in Latin America. A major component of that threat that remains is this so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in short.

It is noteworthy that recently, when Colombian forces tracked down FARC rebels who happened to be across the border in Ecuador, they confiscated not only some computers, but they were able to confiscate 66 pounds of uranium in the hands of the FARC in Latin America. That is something that ought to cause all of us pause, and ask a lot of questions—for what purpose did they have 66 pounds of uranium in Latin America?

The FARC continues to carry out terrorist attacks throughout the region, which has caused the death of numerous innocent Colombians. They finance their terrorist activities through two of the most despicable forms of criminal activity imaginable—kidnapping and selling deadly drugs. Worst of all, the FARC continues to find sanctuary from Colombian prosecution inside neighboring countries such as Venezuela. If we do not stand firmly behind Colombia, we will see the advance of both terrorist organizations in Latin America and the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States.

If drug smuggling were not enough to convince us of the need to support our friends and allies in Colombia, we should consider the potential boost to terrorist organizations throughout the world that might otherwise occur. Through lessons learned in the poppy fields of Afghanistan, we have been made painfully aware that the drug trade often finances global terrorism. Without a strong ally in Colombia to fight the expansion of drug cartels and terrorist-backed drug trade, global terrorism will find new financial roots from which to grow and carry out its murderous plans.

I have had the privilege of traveling to Colombia and meeting with President Uribe personally. He affirmed to me his commitment to fighting back against illegal drugs and terrorism in his own country, and he expressed a sincere desire to continue to work closely with the United States.

We have a chance now to further solidify that purpose with our best ally in Latin America. The Colombian people have heard the call to democracy and freedom and they are taking it seriously. We owe it to them and we owe it to ourselves to demonstrate that the United States is a nation they can depend on.

While there is no doubt that more can be done to fully cement the principles of equality and justice, their commitment to the very same principles and rights we hold dear in this country is undeniable. The Colombian people deserve our firm support and it is time for the United States to enter into a free trade agreement with them.

As I mentioned last year, Texas led the Nation in exports to Colombia.

Even with damaging Colombian tariffs, Texas manufacturers and farmers sold \$2.3 billion worth of products to that nation. This agreement will remove those tariffs and allow Texas manufacturers and producers to sell even more goods to this large and growing market. When this market is open, employers will be able to hire more Texans to work in good, high-paying jobs, right here at home.

I might add, at a time when we are concerned about immigration into the United States by people who cannot find work where they live, this is another way for us to deal with our border security issues and our broken immigration system, by creating trading partners who are able to create jobs in Latin America so people do not have to come to the United States to find hope and opportunity.

Already, Colombia has been granted one-way preferential access to our markets. That country has added jobs to keep pace with growing trade in the United States and now it is time to bring it full circle. This agreement will implement two-way trade and it will level the playing field for our own manufacturers and exporters and create jobs right here at home. At a time when our economy has suffered a bit of a downturn, it strikes me as something desirable, to look for ways to bolster, indeed increase, jobs right here at home. This free trade agreement would be one way to do that.

Open trade helps boost the economy and it is an essential ingredient to the growth of businesses, jobs, and our economy in general. But despite the numerous positive aspects to this agreement with Colombia, some of my colleagues continue to fight against it. In any other setting, it would be comical to lay side by side their complaints against this partnership with their vows to work with foreign governments, to supposedly improve our image in the world. While many of those on the left have vowed to work with enemies such as Hugo Chavez and sit down with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, they balk at the prospect of strengthening ties and working with our greater Latin American ally. How ironic indeed. It would seem their willingness to pander to some supersedes their desire to restore our image internationally. Shouldn't we be more willing to work with our friends and allies than our enemies?

Now, more than a year after the President first began working with Congress on this agreement, and 90 days away from our scheduled recess, the majority is outraged. Speaker PELOSI particularly is outraged that this agreement is on the fast track and the President actually asked they vote on the agreement. It is sometimes comically tragic to compare the work we do here in Washington with the jobs ordinary Americans do every day. Only in Congress would a 3-month deadline not be enough to finish a project that started about a year ago.

I hope the Speaker of the House will reconsider and not take the Colombian free trade agreement with all of its ramifications as merely a negotiating chip she can use against other projects in which she is interested. We have seen that happen already with the Foreign Intelligence Act modernization. The failure of the House to pass that bill has left us literally deaf to emerging terrorist activity that cannot be monitored because of the failure to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Why the Speaker of the House would compound that mistake and add insult to injury now by sticking a thumb in the eye of one of our greatest trading partners and allies in Latin America frankly escapes me.

I hope she will reconsider. This free trade agreement is in the best interests of the United States. It will help create jobs here at home during a time of a softening economy. It will allow us to have a closer working partnership with one of our best allies in the region and to demonstrate to the likes of Hugo Chavez and Raoul Castro that being a friend to America produces some reward, which is closer economic ties and a better quality of life and security for all.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

FLAT TAX

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today most Americans are struggling with filling out their tax returns which are due tomorrow. This week I am introducing legislation that will make it possible for an American taxpayer to file his or her tax return on one page, a one-page optional flat tax on individuals and businesses at the rate of 19 percent for the first two years and 17 percent thereafter. Think what a change that would be. Taxpayers spend an average of over 26 hours to complete tax returns; and 13.6 hours just to complete form 1040.

Think how different it would be to simply fill out one page and turn that in. In 2005, taxpayers spent 6 billion hours and approximately \$265 billion to comply with the Tax Code. Think how much extra leisure time or productive work time we could have if every American had the option of a one-page simplified tax return.

Mr. President, \$705 was the estimated compliance cost for a Tennessean in 2005. And operating costs for the Internal Revenue Service almost tripled between 1970 and 2004. Think how much money we would save if every American had the option of filing a one-page, 17-percent flat tax and if every American business had the option of doing the same.

Here is what the optional flat tax legislation I will be introducing this week will do. As I mentioned earlier, it will simplify the Tax Code by providing an optional flat tax on individuals and

businesses. It will be a 19-percent flat tax for the first 2 years, 17 percent flat tax after the first 2 years, and it would create the option to file, as I mentioned, a simple one-page return.

The legislation I am introducing is almost identical to H.R. 1040 introduced by Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS, a Republican from Texas, in the House of Representatives. Congressman BURGESS introduced his legislation on February 2007 and it has six cosponsors.

My legislation is very straightforward. If an individual selects the option to pay a flat tax in lieu of the current income tax, the option is irrevocable. Under the flat tax, taxable income has a very simple definition. It will consist simply of wages and pensions. You do not start paying taxes on your income—wages and pensions—until you reach a certain exemption level. For a married couple filing jointly, the exemption level is \$25,580, indexed to inflation. For the single head of a household, you wouldn't start paying taxes until you reached \$16,330, indexed for inflation; for a single person, \$12,790, indexed for inflation; and \$5,510 for each dependent.

For example, a family of four would not pay the flat tax until the family's combined income reached \$36,600. That is \$25,580 for joint filers plus \$5,510 times two for the two dependents. No other deductions would exist.

This optional flat tax would eliminate the marriage penalty, so it is pro-family. This optional flat tax would eliminate the millionaires tax, which was put in place in the late 1960s to catch a few millionaires and today is catching millions of middle-class Americans. It is called the alternative minimum tax or AMT.

The optional flat tax for businesses is equally straightforward. It gives the business the option to pay a flat tax in lieu of the current corporate tax structure. Once a business selects this option, it is irrevocable. As it is on the individual income tax form, there is a 19-percent tax rate for the first 2 years and then a 17-percent tax rate for all other years. Businesses would be taxed on the difference of total revenue minus expenses—again, a very simple definition of income. Expenses would include wages, pensions, and the costs of new business equipment. This would provide for the immediate expensing of business capital equipment. This immediate expensing should be a very pro-growth provision in our Tax Code—rather than the current Code which requires spreading it out over a number of years. No other deductions would exist.

The current tax system is overly complicated and lengthy. The Tax Code and corresponding regulations are over 67,000 pages and include 7 million words. It was only 400 pages in 1913 when the Federal income tax was first introduced, and it has now grown to over 67,000 pages.

Taxpayers are expected to understand and comply with this com-

plicated Tax Code and it gets increasingly impossible to do. That is why I, and a great many Americans and American businesses, will welcome the opportunity to file a one-page, simplified flat tax in lieu of the current system.

The optional flat tax that I propose is intended to be revenue neutral. It is intended, in other words, neither to raise more revenues than the current tax system or less revenues than the current tax system. Arguably, a simpler tax will raise more revenues because a great many people pay less in taxes because they simply do not understand the forms. But the intention of my legislation is that the taxes collected, the revenue level, will be the same.

Finally, I urge that our nation's revenue level is not about to stay the same. Already the largest share of the average American's budget goes to pay taxes. Taxes are high. Americans currently spend 113 days of every year working to pay their Federal, State, and local taxes—almost twice the number of days they work to pay for housing and more than three times the number of days they work to pay for food.

Beginning in 2010, the amount of time Americans currently spend working to satisfy their tax bills will increase as millions of lower- and middle-income Americans and small businesses face significant tax hikes. Democratic leaders in Congress have already allowed the state and local sales tax exemption, which affects Tennesseans, to expire. That is \$400 a year for 600,000 Tennesseans, and the Democrats appear to be ready to let tax relief for millions of lower and middle-income Americans meet the same fate when those tax levels expire in 2010.

Failure of Congress to act to stop these tax hikes will result in the largest tax increase in United States history, and that is one of the worst things we could do to the family budget. Taxes are too high today and we are about to face the largest tax increase in United States history.

But while we are debating tax issues in the Senate, we can do something much simpler so that next year, when Americans go about completing their tax returns, they do not spend an average of 26 hours. Instead, they fill out one page. They do not take an average of 13.6 hours to complete form 1040; they fill out one page. Compliance costs are not \$265 billion; they are dramatically reduced. Compliance costs for Tennesseans, \$705 dollars in 2005, go down by hundreds of dollars a year.

The operating costs of the IRS ought to be cut, instead of increasing, as they review one-page optional tax forms. The same would be true for businesses who also would have the option of filing a flat 17 percent tax, on one page. So as we look ahead to tomorrow and filing our tax returns, and we think about the upcoming debate about whether to stop the largest tax in-

crease in history, let's get on a constructive page and say to the American people: By this time next year, April 15, 2009, you will have the option of filing a one-page Federal income tax return with a 19-percent rate for 2 years and 17 percent rate thereafter; businesses will get the same thing.

It will save money. It will encourage growth, and it will relieve a great deal of anxiety that occurs every spring when April 15 rolls around.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BOXER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. WEBB. I thank the Chair.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2008

Mr. WEBB. Madam President, as we approach the anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy, I am introducing legislation to implement one of the key recommendations from the Virginia Tech Review Panel that was formed by Gov. Tim Kaine to examine some of the issues that arose following the shooting.

It is exactly 1 year this week when a disturbed young man took the lives of 32 students and faculty and wounded several others on the campus of Virginia Tech. I commend the Virginia Tech community for pulling through such a difficult time and for the tremendous amount of courage they displayed. I also wish to extend my continuing sympathy to the families of the students and faculty who were directly impacted by these shootings.

On April 19, 2007, 3 days after the Virginia Tech shooting, Governor Kaine announced the formation of the Virginia Tech Review Panel to perform a review of the events of April 16. This panel included individuals with the expertise and autonomy necessary to conduct a comprehensive review. These nationally recognized individuals brought expertise in many areas, including law enforcement, security, governmental management, mental health, emergency care, victims' services, the Virginia court system, and higher education.

The genesis for the legislation I am introducing is the report prepared by this panel and released to the public in August 2007. A similar report was prepared for President Bush by the Attorney General and the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Education in follow-up to meetings with

various experts across the country. Both reports documented serious concerns from individuals in various communities throughout Virginia and the Nation regarding the treatment of student medical records.

One main theme that kept resonating in various communities was concern with the appropriate balance between providing for the safety of our communities while at the same time protecting privacy rights. Too many college administrators are unsure how to balance the right to privacy against public safety, and Federal law and regulations are of little help.

This bill simply attempts to clear up any ambiguity that currently exists within the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, known as FERPA, which allows for the sharing of student educational records in order to protect the health or safety of a student or the general public.

FERPA, written in 1974, was created at a time when schools did not provide the health care services they do today. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Schools today, whether they are K-12 or a post-secondary institution, have critical student health records in their hands.

It is important for Congress to ensure that we provide our school officials, administrators, and counselors clear Federal guidelines to protect the privacy and to ensure the safety of our students. My bill attempts to address the concerns raised by school officials, administrators, and institutions in interpreting FERPA.

If one looks back at the recommendations of the Virginia Tech Review Panel, one notices that a key re-sounding issue is the misinterpretation of Federal and State privacy laws. My bill does three things to amend FERPA so that tragic situations such as the one at Virginia Tech are less likely to occur. First, it adds an explicit "safe harbor" provision to make clear that no violation of FERPA occurs if a school official discloses information in a good-faith belief that it is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or the general public. Second, it clarifies how FERPA applies to student treatment records held for treatment purposes. Third, it clarifies the emergency exception in FERPA to emphasize that in an emergency, information-sharing is allowed if done in a good-faith belief that doing so will protect against a possible threat to the health or safety of a student or the general public.

This is a straightforward attempt to address several recommendations that were made by the Virginia Tech Review Panel in clarifying the widespread perception that information privacy laws make it difficult to respond effectively to troubled students. It is important for school officials to use their best professional judgment in deciding when to disclose or not to disclose in-

formation without fear of violating Federal educational privacy laws.

There is widespread agreement that existing law is in need of clarification. In this regard, I note that the Department of Education proposed a rule on March 24 of this year, which is an attempt to clarify and give guidance to university administration on what they can and cannot do in handling treatment records. I believe this bill is a more direct and effective way to achieve that desired clarity.

Together with the passage of the Mental Health Parity Act in both the House and Senate and other measures to ensure access to mental health services, my bill will be a good step in addressing this growing issue of mental disorders that is all too common in many communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate for quick passage of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Amendments of 2008.

Madam President, I yield the floor, I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

HIGHWAY TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 608, a bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. That means I would have how much time now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 23 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am glad you are in the chair. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, you have been very involved in everything we have done so far and we will do in the future, in

terms of rebuilding the infrastructure of this Nation, building a transit infrastructure, and some of the other things that we do.

I am very pleased the majority leader has called for a motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008. On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed into law the SAFETEA-LU Act, which authorized our Nation's highways, transit, and highway safety programs through the end of 2009.

We all know a country cannot be great if it does not have the physical infrastructure to move people and to move goods and to be efficient. The funding provided in SAFETEA-LU is currently being used on highway and transit projects that clearly increase our economic productivity, create thousands and thousands of new jobs, and improve America's quality of life.

It has been several years since SAFETEA-LU was signed into law, and we on the committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and on the Banking Committee and on the Commerce Committee, have worked across party lines to identify the technical corrections that need to be made. These include updating of project descriptions, adjustments to some of the legislative language, and in some cases where projects could not move forward Members have said we have other projects that are ready to move forward. That is why this bill is so important.

If we do not do this bill, we are simply going to languish until the next highway bill in a couple of years, and we are going to waste time. We do not have time to waste. The issues need to be addressed to ensure that various programs authorized in SAFETEA-LU are being carried out according to congressional intent and are not bogged down in unintended consequences.

In an effort to address the issues identified since the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 1195 in March of 2007 by a voice vote. The legislation was subsequently amended and approved by voice vote in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in June of 2007. That is the committee I chair, and my ranking member, Senator INHOFE, and I have worked very closely on this and other infrastructure matters.

My remarks today are on the Technical Corrections Act of 2008, which has been filed as an amendment in the nature of a complete substitute to H.R. 1195. This amendment mirrors the earlier technical corrections legislation approved by the Senate and House committees but has been updated for the fiscal year, and it addresses additional issues which have been discovered since H.R. 1195 was first approved by the House and considered by our committee.

I truly believe this is a straightforward, noncontroversial bill that corrects technical issues, confirms congressional intent, and moves us forward. It is foolish for us to ignore this bill or to try to stop this bill because it doesn't cost an additional penny. The funding comes through the highway trust fund, and that funding is there. If we do not make these technical corrections, a lot of projects simply will be stalled. At a time when our economy is in trouble, we should be moving ahead.

Senator INHOFE and I have worked very closely with the bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Transportation Infrastructure to craft this legislation that we bring to the floor as a substitute. We have also worked closely with Chairman DODD and Ranking Member SHELBY of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member STEVENS of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation because we wanted to ensure that corrections to SAFETEA-LU that fell within their jurisdiction were all included in this legislation.

I say to my friends who may be listening to this debate, this is truly a bipartisan bill. It is more than a bipartisan bill, it involves three different committees and all of us want to see this move ahead. Again, the legislation does not increase overall spending by the Federal Government. It works within the confines of the existing SAFETEA-LU authorization. Changes which restore funding left out of SAFETEA-LU are paid for through the use of existing funds. If anybody says to colleagues we are spending more, we are not. We are simply making it possible for us to fulfill our promises we made to the American people several years ago when we told them we were funding a highway and transit bill.

Project changes are usually made because of State and local authorities who have told us that changes are necessary. This legislation emanates in many ways from the people back home. Let me give an idea of one of the issues that is very important in this legislation. It will fix an oversight in SAFETEA-LU that resulted in the Surface Transportation Research, Development and Deployment Account being oversubscribed. This means funding is not available for the Federal Highway Administration to conduct its legacy research programs and research activities. This legislation corrects the issue by removing the Future Strategic Highway Research Program from the Surface Transportation Research Development and Deployment Account and, instead, funds it through funds already allocated for core highway programs. This will free up about \$50 million per year, enough funding to finance the remaining programs and projects in the Surface Transportation Research Development and Deployment Account and will allow DOT, the Department of Transportation, to continue its important legacy research

programs and activities, including the biennial Conditions and Performance Report.

What is the Conditions and Performance Report? It is a report that provides an appraisal of highway, bridge, and transit finance, the physical condition of roads and bridges and their operational performance, and estimates of future investment requirements. That will provide crucial information on the current conditions and future needs of our national transportation system as we develop the next transit and highway safety bill. We will need this information. It will be crucial to setting priorities in the next highway bill.

Remember, we have seen bridges in our Nation collapsing. We have seen bad problems in our infrastructure. We need to make sure we have a very fair appraisal of the condition of our roads, the condition of our bridges, what it is going to cost to fix them before we go into our next funding cycle, our full funding cycle which will occur in 2009.

The legislation also fixes and modifies descriptions for highway and transit projects that were included in SAFETEA-LU but have not yet been completed. Without the changes included in this legislation, many of these projects are stuck at a red light. Until that light turns green, the benefits to the transportation system will not be realized.

This technical corrections legislation provides a green light that could unleash up to \$1 billion into the economy. Remember, this is not new spending. This is freeing up the dollars we already voted to spend on transportation projects, transit projects, highway projects. This is funding that has already been provided through SAFETEA-LU. It is not new money, but if we do not act, simply speaking, \$1 billion of important highway and transportation programs will simply not be spent.

Given the current slowdown in our economy, we can't afford to let these funds remain unused due to technical matters. Just last month, President Bush acknowledged that we must respond decisively to the economic downturn we are going through. Investing in infrastructure is one of the best ways to stimulate our economy. Infrastructure investments provide immediate economic stimulus through job creation and long-term economic benefits through reduced transportation costs.

In the past, the Department of Transportation has told us that for every \$1 billion in Federal spending on transportation infrastructure, 47,500 jobs are created. It may be that the number is slightly smaller now due to inflation, but in any event we know it is tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

The benefits of infrastructure investment stay in America. Infrastructure investment creates American jobs and helps American businesses that produce most of the construction materials and equipment used in our Nation.

Finally, I would like to point out again—again—that this legislation will not increase spending. I have to say that over and over again, and it complies with earmark disclosure requirements of rule XLIV even though it only addresses changes to previously authorized projects.

I thank Senator DEMINT for giving me a call this morning and saying that he was very pleased with the way our committee handled this disclosure. I was very pleased with that call, and I thank him for it.

I urge my colleagues to support the technical corrections that have been included in this legislation so we can make the final changes needed to complete SAFETEA-LU and then turn our Nation to the next highway transit and highway safety authorization bill to be completed in the next Congress.

What I want to do is have put into the RECORD, if I might, Mr. President, without objection, a very important letter that comes from some very important constituents of all of ours.

I am going to show you what I am going to show you sent this letter. I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 1, 2008.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairwoman, Environment & Public Works
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DANIEL K. INOUE,
Chairman, Commerce, Science & Transportation
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
Ranking Member, Environment & Public Works
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,
Ranking Member, Banking, Housing & Urban
Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
Ranking Member, Commerce, Science & Trans-
portation Committee, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: We are writing to urge you to schedule a vote on HR 1195 making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59) as soon as possible.

Since enactment of SAFETEA-LU in August of 2005, Congress has worked diligently to pass into law corrections to SAFETEA-LU so that full implementation of important transportation programs and policies is possible. To address our Nation's transportation needs and challenges the full benefit of our transportation programs and policies in SAFETEA-LU is needed.

Congress' commitment to improving our transportation systems through the programs and policies it provided in SAFETEA-LU can be enhanced. We stand ready to continue to support this commitment.

Sincerely,
American Association of Highway and
Transportation Officials.

American Highways Users Alliance.
American Public Transit Association.

American Road and Transportation Builders Associations.

Associated General Contractors.
Council of University Transportation Centers.

National Sand, Stone and Gravel Association.

National Asphalt and Pavement Association.

Mrs. BOXER. This is the group who sent the letter. I want to say who it is, who signed this letter: No. 1, the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials; that is departments of transportation in all 50 States—red States, blue States, purple States—50 States signed this letter. They want us to move forward. No. 2, the American Highway Users Alliance; that is millions of highway users throughout this Nation of ours; the American Public Transit Association, which is transit systems from across the country, in all of our States; the American Road and Transportation Builders Associations, more than 5,000 members of the transportation construction industry. We know our construction industry in the housing sector is hurting. That means the jobs are decreasing. This is a moment in time where we can give a little boost to our transportation workers; the Associated General Contractors, more than 32,000 of them, service providers and suppliers; Council of University Transportation Centers, more than 30 university transportation centers from across the country; the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, companies that produce more than 92 percent of crushed stone and 75 percent of sand and gravel used in the U.S. annually; and the National Asphalt and Pavement Association, more than 1,100 companies that produce and pave with asphalt.

Mr. President, I say to Senators who might hear my voice, this a moment for us to come together across party lines such as Senator INHOFE and I have done, just as Senators DODD and SHELBY have done and just as Senators INOUE and STEVENS have done in our respective committees. This is a simple bill. This bill simply says we have about \$1 billion that is stuck because there have been some technical problems with the language. Some projects were not able to move forward. We substitute some others within the same funding cap. Some have legislative language which was confusing, and we are dealing with that. We feel very good about this bill.

We have listened very carefully to the ethics in the Senate. We know we needed to act to put all these projects on the Web site. We have identified who has asked for them, and we really do believe this technical corrections bill is ready for action. I can only hope that we will not see anybody try to hold up this bill for no reason at all.

If you have amendments, please let us know. We would be happy to give you as much time as you want. Today is the motion to proceed to the bill. We urge everyone to vote for that, and

that vote will occur, as I understand it, at 5:30; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I will withhold the remainder of my time. How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. I will withhold. I say that I expect that Senator INHOFE will be here. I would ask my colleague from North Carolina, are you here to speak on this bill?

Mrs. DOLE. No, I am not.

Mr. CRAIG. I will speak in morning business.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent if we can please go into morning business to accommodate my colleagues. But I would say, Senator INHOFE may well have a statement. I ask unanimous consent that my two colleagues have 5 minutes each to speak and then the remainder of the time be reserved for Senator INHOFE, minus my 7 minutes, then go to a vote at 5:30.

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

The Senator from North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of a former Member of the Senate who delivered his first speech in this Chamber exactly 39 years ago. It was April 14, 1969, when that Senator stood, not far from here, to address his Senate colleagues for the first time.

The Senator used his speech to call attention to a group of Americans who were very close to his heart and who, up until that time, had been largely ignored. It was a group of Americans he had joined on April 14, 1945, when, as a soldier in the famed 10th Mountain Division, he was severely wounded as he led his troops into battle in the hills of Italy.

As a result of his wounds, the soldier would spend 39 months in various hospitals, and doctors would operate on him eight times. Eventually, the soldier would be left without the use of his right arm.

So it was that Bob Dole rose on April 14, 1969, not just to speak as a Senator, he also spoke as one of the millions upon millions of Americans who happened to have a disability.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the speech delivered by Senator Bob Dole on April 14, 1969, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Congressional Record, Apr. 14, 1969]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 91ST CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION HANDICAPPED AMERICANS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, my remarks today concern an exceptional group which I joined on another April 14, twenty-four years ago, during World War II.

It is a minority group whose existence affects every person in our society and the very fiber of our Nation.

It is a group which no one joins by personal choice—a group whose requirements for membership are not based on age, sex, wealth, education, skin color, religious beliefs, political party, power, or prestige.

As a minority, it has always known exclusion—maybe not exclusion from the front of the bus, but perhaps from even climbing aboard it; maybe not exclusion from pursuing advanced education, but perhaps from experiencing any formal education; maybe not exclusion from day-to-day life itself, but perhaps from an adequate opportunity to develop and contribute to his or her fullest capacity.

It is a minority, yet a group to which at least one out of every five Americans belongs.

Mr. President, I speak today about 42 million citizens of our Nation who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped.

WHO ARE THE HANDICAPPED?

Who are the handicapped?

They are persons—men, women, and children—who cannot achieve full physical, mental, and social potential because of disability.

Although some live in institutions, many more live in the community. Some are so severely disabled as to be home-bound, or even bed-bound. Still others are able to take part in community activities when they have access and facilities.

They include amputees, paraplegics, polio victims. Causes of disability include arthritis, cardio-vascular diseases, multiple sclerosis, and muscular dystrophy.

While you may have good vision and hearing, many persons live each day with limited eyesight or hearing, or with none at all.

While you may enjoy full muscle strength and coordination in your legs, there are those who must rely on braces or crutches, or perhaps a walker or wheelchair.

While you perform daily millions of tasks with your hands and arms, there are many who live with limited or total disability in theirs.

And in contrast to most people, thousands of adults and children suffer mental or emotional disorders which hinder their abilities to learn and apply what is learned and to cope adequately with their families, jobs, and communities.

Then there are those who are afflicted with combination or multiple handicaps.

NOT JUST THE HANDICAP

For our nation's 42 million handicapped persons and their families, yesterday, today, and tomorrow are not filled with "everyday" kinds of problems which can be solved or soothed by "everyday" kinds of answers. Their daily challenge is: accepting and working with a disability so that the handicapped person can become as active and useful, as independent, secure, and dignified as his ability will allow.

Too many handicapped persons lead lives of loneliness and despair; too many feel and too many are out of from our work-oriented society; too many cannot fill empty hours in a satisfying, constructive manner. The leisure most of us crave can and has become a curse to many of our Nation's handicapped.

Often when a handicapped person is able to work full or part time, there are few jobs or inadequate training programs in his locale. Although progress is being made, many employers are hesitant to hire a handicapped person, ignoring statistics that show he is often a better and more dependable worker.

The result is that abilities of a person are overlooked because of disabilities which may bear little or no true relation to the job at hand. The result to the taxpayer may be to support one more person at a cost of as much as \$3,500 per person a year. To the handicapped person himself, it means more dependency.

STATISTICS

Consider these statistics: Only one-third of America's blind and less than half of the paraplegics of working age are employed, while only a handful of about 200,000 persons with cerebral palsy who are of working age are employed.

Beyond this, far too many handicapped persons and their families bear serious economic problems—despite token Government pensions and income tax deductions for a few, and other financial aids. I recall a portion of a letter received recently from the mother of a cerebral palsy child in a Midwestern urban area:

There are the never-ending surgeries, braces, orthopedic shoes, wheelchairs, walkers, standing tables, bath tables and so on . . . we parents follow up on every hopeful lead in clinics and with specialists; we go up and down paths blindly and always expensively . . . I have talked with four major insurance companies who do not insure or infrequently insure CP children . . . although our daughter is included in her father's group hospitalization plan, many families are not as fortunate. These are just a few of the problems, compounded by the fact we must try to adequately meet the needs of our other "normal" children. In many cases, some kind of financial assistance would enable us and others like us to provide for our children in our homes, avoiding overcrowding of already overcrowded facilities and further adding to the taxpayer's burden costs for complete care.

There are other problems—availability and access of health care personnel and facilities at the time and place the individual with handicaps needs them. In my own largely rural State of Kansas, many handicapped persons travel 300 miles or more to receive the basic health services they require.

Education presents difficulties for many parents of handicapped children. Although a child may be educable, there may be few, if any, opportunities in the community for him to receive an education. Private tutoring, if available, is often too expensive. Sadly, to date, the Council for Exceptional Children estimates less than one-third of the Nation's children requiring special education are receiving it.

In rehabilitation, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare said recently 25 percent of America's disabled have not received rehabilitation services and do not know where to seek such help. They estimate that at least 5 million disabled persons may be eligible for assistance.

Other problems the handicapped person faces each day include availability and access of recreation and transportation facilities, architectural barriers in residences and other buildings, and many, many more.

STILL A PROMISING OUTLOOK

We in America are still far from the halfway point of assuring that every handicapped person can become as active and useful as his capacities will allow. The outlook for the handicapped person in 1969, however, is not altogether bleak. Unparalleled achievements in medicine, science, education, technology as well as in public attitudes have cemented a framework in which the handicapped person today has more opportunities available to him than ever before. Consider first what government is doing.

THE GOVERNMENT STORY

The story of what the Federal Government, hand in hand with State governments, is doing to help meet the needs of the handicapped is not one that draws the biggest and boldest headlines. Broadly, the story is a "good" one, consisting of achievements in financial assistance, rehabilitation, research, education, and training of the handicapped—a massive effort to help many disabled Americans live as normal, as full and rich lives as possible.

It is, in part, the story of a man who, at age 21, became a paraplegic after sustaining injuries to his spinal cord and head in an accident while on the job.

In 1968, he joined over 2,300,000 other disabled men and women who have been restored to more productive, useful lives since the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program began 48 years ago.

In 1964, the young man—a high school dropout with a wife and child—was referred to his State's division of vocational rehabilitation where a thorough program of total rehabilitation began. In addition, he was enrolled in a training school and was graduated as a fully licensed insurance agent.

Today—4 years later—he has his own successful insurance business. He and his wife have built a new home and adopted a baby.

It is a measure of America's concern for its handicapped citizens that even 50 years ago, this story could not have been told.

It takes place now because the Congress and the Federal Government initiated and guided a vital, vigorous program of vocational rehabilitation.

Mr. President, vocational rehabilitation is one of many ways the Federal Government works to aid the handicapped. But none of the Federal programs necessarily reaches or helps every handicapped person.

Nevertheless, the role of the Government has been basically successful in terms of numbers assisted, basic research performed, and the movement of increasingly large numbers of persons into more productive, satisfying channels. It demonstrates what Congress and Federal and State governments are doing to help America's handicapped better participate and achieve.

Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, at the close of my remarks, a brief summary of Federal programs for the handicapped.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it is in the American tradition and spirit that parallel to Government effort there has developed the vital and growing effort for the handicapped by individuals, business and industry, churches and private, voluntary organizations. It is a herculean task to properly assess the many, far-reaching effects of the private sector—in health care, education, employment; in research, rehabilitation, by fundraising drives and through professional organizations and groups for the handicapped themselves. But it is here in the private sector—with its emphasis on the creativity, concern, and energies of our people—that America has become the envy of the world. Our private economy and the resources of our people have combined to improve the quality of life in America in ways and for persons the Government could not begin to match or reach.

For the handicapped, their achievements have been no less. I shall not today, detail or single out the achievements of the voluntary groups and private enterprise involved in aiding the handicapped. But let the record show that without the sincerity, scope, and

success of their efforts—in public information, employment and training, in upgrading health care and education personnel and facilities, in fundraising and in supporting research to conquer or at least minimize the effects of handicapping conditions—the prospects for the handicapped individuals would not be as hopeful as they are today.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Mr. President, as new public and private programs are developed, as old ones are strengthened and some, perhaps eliminated, as we in Congress allocate comparatively limited funds to help the handicapped, the responsibilities and opportunities loom large before us.

We must insure our efforts and money are not misplaced or misdirected—that they do not just promise, but really do the job.

Are we all doing our best to see that all the knowledge, information, money, and other help is consolidated and available to the handicapped person in the form he can use and at the time and place he most needs it?

Is there sufficient coordination and planning between and among the private groups and the Government agencies to avoid multiplicity and duplication so that we best serve America's handicapped?

Are we sometimes engaged in a numbers race—attending to cases that respond more quickly in order to show results to donors, members, and taxpayers, thus sacrificing some attention which should be focused on the really tough problems?

Many handicapped persons of our Nation are no longer helpless or hopeless because of private and public efforts which have helped them to better help and be themselves.

But the fact remains that some of our Nation's handicapped and their families are attacking the very programs and projects created to help them.

Some are disillusioned and disaffected by the programs.

Too often, the information, the services, the human help and encouragement are not reaching the person for whom they were intended and at the time and place he needs them.

Some sincerely believe there may be better ways we can demonstrate our concern and thereby better achieve for the person with handicaps the independence, security, and dignity to which he is entitled.

I am reminded of a statement given recently by the 1968 president of the National Rehabilitation Association:

It is the person, not the program that is of overwhelming importance. It is not the disability that claims our attention, it is the person with handicaps. It is not the maintenance of prestige of a particular profession that matters. It is the contribution of the profession to solving the complex problems of the individual who has handicaps.

When more of this emphasis on the individual better influences the agencies and professions dealing with the handicapped, I believe we can begin to open new, more meaningful vistas for more persons with handicaps.

We have been involved in efforts which have been creditable to date. Of this, there is no doubt.

But are we doing our best?

A highly respected official of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare summed up the problem this way:

I do not feel we are spending our dollars—public or voluntary—as effectively as we could. We need to take a whole new look at what is going on, where the service is given. We need to try to design new methods and clearer purposes for our efforts. We need to relate our efforts more closely to the needs

of a community, to the needs of its individuals. And we need to try to measure, as concretely and specifically as possible what is actually achieved by our expenditures.

Our handicapped citizens are one of our Nation's greatest unmet responsibilities and untapped resources. We must do better.

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE

With this in mind, I suggest the creation of a Presidential task force or commission to review what the public and private sectors are doing and to recommend how we can do better.

Composed of representatives of the public and private sectors, this task force or commission could provide an overview of how to provide the handicapped more help and hope.

Such a task force or commission could provide valuable assistance to Congress and the administration as we develop programs and allocate comparatively limited funds for the handicapped.

It could also help private organizations and voluntary groups conduct their efforts more efficiently and effectively.

The goal of a task force or commission, to achieve maximum independence, security, and dignity for the individual with handicaps, should encompass the total needs of the handicapped, not just employment or education or any other * * *

Rather the task force or commission should concern itself with the whole broad spectrum of needs and services, because as I have pointed out the problems of the handicapped do not begin and end with the handicap itself.

Although there are hundreds of areas a task force or commission could review, I am hopeful, if created, it would include the following subjects:

First. Expansion of employment, transportation, and recreation opportunities for the handicapped.

Second. A directory or central clearinghouse to help inform the handicapped person and his family of available public and private assistance.

There are many helpful handbooks and information sources available. But most are not comprehensive and are more accessible to professionals in the field than to the handicapped who really need the guidance and information.

Third. Removal of architectural barriers.

Many persons cannot secure employment or fill their leisure hours because their disabilities bar use of the facilities. It is just as easy to build and equip buildings so that the handicapped and unhandicapped can use them. The Federal Government is doing this now for federally financed structures.

Fourth. More development of health care on a regional or community basis.

This is a tough, but priority matter and one which cannot be accomplished quickly or inexpensively. But we must begin to move toward more adequate health care facilities and personnel which serve each person at the time and place he needs them.

Fifth. Better serving the special educational needs of the handicapped.

Both the person and the Nation suffer when any educatable child—handicapped or unhandicapped—does not receive an education.

Sixth. Income tax deductions and/or other financial assistance to extend relief to more handicapped persons and their families.

Seventh. More attention on the family of the handicapped person.

These are the people who often need a degree of encouragement, counseling, and "rehabilitation" themselves. Are there services we should provide to family members whose own lives and resources are deeply affected by the presence of a handicapped person?

Eighth. Increased dialog and coordination between private and voluntary groups and Government agencies to avoid multiplicity and duplication.

What is at stake is not the agency, group, or program. What is at stake is the future of the handicapped person with his own abilities and potentialities.

CONCLUSION

This, then, Mr. President, is the sum and substance of my first speech in the Senate.

I know of no more important subject matter, not solely because of my personal interest, but because in our great country some 42 million Americans suffer from a physical, mental, or emotional handicap. Progress has been and will continue to be made by Federal and State governments, by private agencies, and individual Americans; but nonetheless there is still much to be done, if the handicapped American: young, old, black, white, rich, or poor is to share in the joys experienced by others. The task ahead is monumental, but I am confident that there are forces in America ready and willing to meet the challenge—including, of course, many of my distinguished colleagues who by their acts and deeds have demonstrated their great interest.

EXHIBIT 1

FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED DISABLED VETERANS

The program of services for disabled veterans as we know it today began with enactment of the Soldier Rehabilitation Act, which was passed unanimously by Congress June 27, 1918 (P.L. 178, 65th Congress). Under the law, the Federal Board for Vocational Education, created by legislation the year before, was authorized to organize and offer vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled veterans.

The program was finally closed out July 2, 1928. In the program's 10-year existence, about 675,000 veterans applied for training. About 330,000 completed their courses satisfactorily and were considered rehabilitated, and about 98 percent of them were employed at the time their training was completed or terminated.

Soon after the U.S. entered World War II, planning began for vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled servicemen returning from that war.

On March 13, 1943, after much discussion over whether the veterans program should be allied with the civilian vocational rehabilitation program, the House passed a bill authorizing a separate veterans' program. It was signed into law 11 days later as P.L. 16, 78th Congress, and covered veterans who served in the armed services between Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, and the declared end of the war. This legislation set into motion an effort which, before termination, benefitted several hundred thousand disabled veterans.

When the U.S. entered the Korean conflict, the Congress enacted legislation to insure that the men who fought there could receive the same services as World War II veterans. By 1955, about 36,000 Korean veterans had received vocational rehabilitation training for service-connected disabilities.

Later legislation made it possible for veterans disabled after the conclusion of the Korean conflict to receive rehabilitation and other services of the Veterans' Administration. This includes peace-time veterans and the veterans of the Vietnam war. In 1968 alone, 5,192 veterans participated in vocational rehabilitation training, bringing the total number since the program began to 721,000.

Disabled veterans who need prosthetic and sensory aids can obtain them from the Vet-

erans Administration. In 1968 prosthetic appliances and services were furnished to about 465,000 disabled veterans, including 5,400 Vietnam veterans. Approximately \$10.2 million was spent in 1968 for the procurement and repair of prosthetic and other related appliances.

Last year, too, requests for grants were approved to help pay for special automobiles for 2,850 veterans because of loss of hands or feet or severe eye impairment. Expenditures for this benefit in 1968 totalled almost \$3.5 million, bringing the total cost to \$83.6 million since this program was enacted in 1946.

Another special benefit for disabled veterans is the grant program for acquiring specially-adapted housing for those who need braces, crutches, canes, or wheelchairs. Grants totaling \$4.4 million were made to 460 veterans in 1968. Since the program began in 1948, 9,705 grants at a cost of \$92.7 million have been awarded.

With the creation of a new Department of Medicine and Surgery December 31, 1945, the Veterans Administration set in motion a new pattern of care and rehabilitation service for sick, injured and disabled veterans entering VA hospitals. A special rehabilitation service was developed; selected hospitals were specially staffed and equipped for certain disabilities such as spinal cord injury, blindness, epilepsy, amputation and other conditions.

PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED CIVILIANS

A rehabilitation program for disabled civilians was not enacted simultaneously with the veterans' program because of opposition that it was not practicable and also not the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Two years later—June 2, 1920—President Wilson signed into law the Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 236, 66th Congress). The bill, known as the Smith-Fess Act, is one of the oldest grant-in-aid programs for providing services for individuals. At that time, services under the act were confined to counseling, job training, artificial limbs and other prosthetic appliances, and job placement. It provided for an appropriation of \$750,000 for fiscal year 1921 and \$1 million for fiscal years 1922 to 1924 and for payments to States cooperating in vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry. Federal funds were to be matched by the States and were not to be used for institutions for handicapped persons except when individuals entitled to benefits of the act, required special training.

In its first year, the vocational rehabilitation program helped rehabilitate 523 disabled persons. Authorization for the program was renewed by Congress several times until 1935, when the Social Security Act included permanent authorization. This action demonstrated the consensus of congressional thought that vocational rehabilitation should be a permanent program in the United States. Continuing to grow, the program rehabilitated 11,890 persons in 1940.

The entry of the United States into World War II caused a manpower shortage which gave disabled persons who had been rehabilitated an opportunity to show the nation that the disabled could be productive, capable workers. Many employers began calling for more rehabilitated workers than the vocational rehabilitation program, despite its success, was prepared to provide. For more than 20 years since its enactment, the program had been limited in scope and uncertainly financed. Some States had excellent programs, but many did not. Development on a national scale had been uneven.

Legislation in 1943 helped solve some of these problems, and other legislation in later years helped to shape it into the more meaningful and effective program it is today.

In 1943 after an attempt to combine the Veterans' and civilian vocational programs was defeated, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943 (P.L. 113, 78th Congress) were signed into law. The 1943 law superseded the 1920 legislation and broadened the vocational rehabilitation program—more liberal financing, increased State services, and broadened the concept of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation services were extended to the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. Separate State agencies for the blind were incorporated into the Federal-State rehabilitation program. In addition, the now 50 States, and Puerto Rico were all placed on the same footing with respect to Federal grants. An improved provision of the 1943 law was coverage for specified corrective surgery or therapeutic treatment necessary to reduce or eliminate a disability. Administration of the program was transferred from the Commissioner of Education to the Federal Security Agency. In 1950, 59,597 persons were rehabilitated.

There were problems, however. Partly because the financial system was becoming inadequate and because there was no provision for research, professional training, and other features, essential progress was not being made.

Legislation in 1954, supported by President Eisenhower, was an effort to remedy these problems. While retaining the basic pattern of services, the 1954 amendments (P.L. 565, 83rd Congress) made sweeping improvements. They included provisions for research, demonstration, and training activities. The Federal share was increased on a formula basis, to give greater support to States with relatively large populations and relatively small per capita income. It initiated a new system of project grants for improvement and extension of services. For the first time, the use of Federal grants to expand, modernize and equip rehabilitation facilities and workshops was also authorized.

In 1954, Congress also amended the Hill-Burton hospital survey and construction act to provide Federal grants to help construct rehabilitation facilities.

While in 1960, 88,275 persons were rehabilitated under the vocational rehabilitation program, by 1965 it had mushroomed to over 135,000 persons.

The 1965 amendments to the vocational rehabilitation act (P.L. 89-333) were designed to bring the public and voluntary agencies into a closer working alliance. It expanded and enlarged the program by broadening its legal and financial base. Services to the severely disabled, the mentally retarded, the deaf, and other handicapped individuals were increased. A national commission on architectural barriers to rehabilitation of the handicapped was established. Federal financial support was extended to local areas for funding more vocational rehabilitation programs. In a drive to build more rehabilitation facilities and workshops, funds were authorized for a comprehensive program to improve the workshops and to construct more vocationally-oriented rehabilitation facilities. Grants to States to conduct comprehensive State-wide planning by agencies designated by the Governors were also provided.

In 1967 Congress took further steps to improve rehabilitation programs for the Nation's disabled. The 1967 amendments (P.L. 90-99) extended and expanded grant authorizations to States for rehabilitation services. Provisions were made to establish a national center for deaf-blind youth and adults and to extend services to disabled migrants, and their families. In addition, the 1967 amendments required State agencies to provide services to the handicapped without regard to their residence locations.

Finally, just this past year, Congress passed another bill amending the vocational

rehabilitation program. The bill increased the Federal share for basic support of State programs from 75 to 80 percent, beginning in fiscal 1970, and established a minimum allotment of \$1 million for each State to increase efficiency, expand services, and reach more clients. The 1968 amendments (P.L. 90-391) also extended programs of grants for innovation, for special projects and for rehabilitation facilities construction and staffing.

The bill established a new vocational evaluation and work adjustment program to serve those who are disadvantaged by such reasons as physical or mental disability, youth, advanced age, low educational attainment, ethnic or cultural factors, or prison or delinquency records, especially in association with poverty.

Evaluation may include preliminary diagnostic studies to determine whether the individual is disadvantaged, has or will have an employment handicap, and needs rehabilitation services. Work adjustment services include appraisal of the individual's pattern of work behavior and development of work habits, work tolerance, and social and behavior patterns suitable for successful job performance.

Establishment of the social and rehabilitation service in 1967 also brought about an expansion of the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, and its transfer to the Division of Mental Retardation, under the newly-named Rehabilitation Services Administration. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed the President's Panel on Mental Retardation and gave them a mandate to recommend a national plan to combat mental retardation.

The Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendments of 1963 (P.L. 88-156) carried out several recommendations of the panel. This act provided funds to assist the States in planning comprehensive State and community programs for the mentally retarded. The Social Security Amendments of 1965 (P.L. 89-97) extended comprehensive planning grants to the States, enabling implementation of their comprehensive plans to combat mental retardation.

The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-164) authorized grants to States to construct facilities to serve the mentally retarded. It also provided grants to assist in construction of university-affiliated facilities to provide an interdisciplinary approach for clinical training of specialized personnel and for demonstration of new service techniques.

The Mental Retardation Amendment of 1967 (P.L. 90-170) extended these two programs and established a new grant program to pay part of the compensation of professional and technical personnel in community facilities for the retarded, for initial operation of new facilities, or of new services in a facility. Projects have been approved for construction of 242 community facilities to serve over 63,000 retardates.

In 1963, Congress authorized the hospital improvement program to support projects to improve services in State mental retardation institutions. This program is assisting about 100 of the 169 existing facilities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1968 (P.L. 90-391) authorized projects for rehabilitation of mentally retarded persons not eligible for vocational rehabilitation due to age, severity of handicap, or other reasons. The first appropriation for this program is being requested for 1970.

Today, there are 90 rehabilitation agencies with 800 offices operating nationwide and in four territories. They serve nearly 700,000 handicapped persons each year at a State-Federal cost of over a half-billion dollars.

PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND

One of the first pieces of legislation providing Federal aid for handicapped persons was approved March 3, 1879, under the title "An Act To Promote the Education of the Blind." This law set up a perpetual trust fund of United States Bonds, the income from which, in the amount of \$10,000 a year, would go to the American Printing House For the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky, so that books and other materials could be distributed among the schools for the blind throughout the country. Subsequent amendments gradually increased the authorization for this program. In 1956, it was \$410,000 a year. Then in 1961, Congress removed the ceiling from the annual appropriation and made it an amount to be determined by Congress. In fiscal year 1968, the printing house served some 19,000 blind children with books and other teaching materials at a cost of \$1.5 million.

The printing house was originally designed to serve blind children. In 1931, Congress enacted the so-called Pratt-Smoot Act (P.L. 787, 71st Congress) to "Provide Books for the Use of the Adult Blind Residents of the United States." This legislation formed the basis for the Federally-supported library service to the blind vested in the division for the blind and physically handicapped in the Library of Congress.

In 1933, an amendment to the act made available for distribution talking books, or phonograph records, in addition to the Braille books already used.

As commercial firms became interested in producing talking book records, a 1939 amendment gave preference to "nonprofit-making institutions or agencies whose activities are primarily concerned with the blind." A 1942 amendment provided maintenance and replacement of talking book machines as well as the talking books.

Then in 1952 Congress enacted an amendment removing the word "adult" from the act, clearing the way for blind children to also benefit from the program. In 1966, another amendment extended the program to include other physically handicapped persons. In 1968, 140,000 handicapped readers received catalogs from which to select reading matter and circulation of the containers, and reels, and volumes, was over 5,265,000. The expenditure for the program in 1968 was \$5.6 million.

One aspect of the vocational rehabilitation program is the emphasis given to adjustment, training, and placement of blind persons in competitive employment. Attention was first focused on this severely disabled group as a result of the passage of P.L. 113 in 1943.

The amendments to the vocational rehabilitation act in 1954 made a limited amount of training and research money available, so employment opportunities for blind workers have been greatly expanded. In 1968, 6,800 blind and 12,000 visually-limited persons were placed in a variety of occupations. In addition, special workshops for the blind now employ approximately 5,000.

Another phase of employment for the blind was made available through the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (P.L. 732) in 1936 which gave preference for operation of snack bars, vending stands, and other facilities of Federal properties to qualified blind persons. Installation of facilities, training, and supervision of blind operators are responsibilities of the State licensing agencies. In 1968, 3,259 blind persons earned \$16.6 million, an average of \$5,580 per operator.

EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED

In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a bill establishing a national college for the deaf later to be known as Gallaudet

College, and in 1879, Congress enacted legislation giving federal financial aid to the American Printing House for the Blind. Unfortunately, these two programs were the extent of Federal aid for education of handicapped children for the next three quarters of a Century.

In 1954 Congress enacted the cooperative Research Act (P.L. 83-531) for research grants in education. In 1957, \$675,000 of the \$1 million appropriated under the Act was earmarked to be spent on research on education of the mentally retarded.

In 1958 Congress passed the captioned films for the Deaf Program (P.L. 85-905). Originally aimed at cultural enrichment and recreation, amendments in 1962 and 1965 broadened the program into a flexible, comprehensive instructional program for the deaf, including teacher training. 1967 legislation extended the program to include all handicapped children requiring special education.

Legislation in 1958 (P.L. 85-926) authorized grants to educational institutions to help train professional personnel to train teachers of mentally retarded children. In 1961, Congress enacted legislation authorizing support for training classroom teachers of the deaf (P.L. 87-276).

In 1963, these programs for training personnel to work with handicapped children were expanded to include teachers of children who are "hard of hearing, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, crippled, or other health impaired," as well as mentally retarded and deaf. The same legislation (P.L. 88-164) authorized grants for research and demonstration projects in education of handicapped children. A 1965 amendment to this program authorized construction, equipping, and operation of facilities for research and related purposes.

The year 1965 saw enactment of a great body of legislation to aid in the education of handicapped youngsters. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (P.L. 89-10) provided programs through local education agencies to reach handicapped children in low income areas. It also provided support for supplemental services including special instruction for the handicapped and for innovative programs. A 1965 amendment to this act (P.L. 89-313) provided grants to State agencies directly responsible for educating handicapped children. This brought assistance to State-operated or State-supported schools for the deaf, retarded, etc., not eligible under the original act.

Also in 1965 Congress enacted the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act (P.L. 89-36) authorizing establishment and operation of a postsecondary technical training facility for young adults who are deaf. This institute, which is being established at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, complements Gallaudet College, which provides a liberal arts program.

1966 saw more legislation for education of the handicapped. There was the Model Secondary School for the Deaf Act (P.L. 89-694) which created a model high school as part of Gallaudet College to serve deaf children of the Washington, D.C. area. Planned to offer a full curriculum and the normal extracurricular activities of high schools, this model high school for deaf children may lead to formation of other similar schools throughout the country.

Also in 1966, Congress passed further amendments (P.L. 89-750) to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which authorized funds to assist the States in improvement of programs and projects for the education of handicapped children at preschool, elementary, and secondary levels. The 1966 amendment also required establishment of a

National Advisory Committee on Handicapped Children to make recommendations concerning programs carried on for handicapped children by the Office of Education.

In addition, the Congress undertook a bold precedent, establishing the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped to administer all Office of Education programs for the handicapped. The Bureau of Education for the Handicapped has made major strides in stimulating a local, State and Federal partnership for improvement of education for handicapped children.

The 1967 amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act further broadened and extended the program of services to the handicapped. Regional resource centers were authorized to determine special education needs of handicapped children referred to them, develop educational programs to meet these needs, and assist schools in providing such programs. The 1967 legislation also authorized establishment and operation of centers for deaf-blind children, programs designed to improve recruiting of educational personnel and to improve dissemination of information on educational opportunities for the handicapped.

The 1967 Mental Retardation amendments (P.L. 90-170) provided support for training professional personnel and for research and demonstration activities in physical education and recreation for mentally retarded and other handicapped children.

The most recent piece of legislation for education of handicapped children was enacted in the Handicapped Children's Early Education Assistance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-538). It authorizes grants to public and private agencies and organizations for establishment of experimental preschool and early education programs which show promise of developing comprehensive and innovative approaches for meeting special problems of handicapped children. This legislation recognizes that the most rapid learning period comes in the years before school traditionally begins. The programs engendered by this legislation should do much to identify handicapped children early and to help give them a better start toward full, productive lives.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED

Once a handicapped person is rehabilitated and able to support himself, he often encounters tremendous difficulties in securing meaningful employment. A case is not considered closed, in the vocational rehabilitation program, until the disabled person is on the job, and has satisfactorily adjusted in the eyes of both the disabled person and his employer.

For many reasons, employers are reluctant to hire the handicapped. The Federal Government is trying to change this attitude among employers and the public and has met with some success.

In addition to the placement program of the vocational rehabilitation program, the Bureau of Employment Security, through state and local employment services, provides direct employment counseling and assistance to physically and mentally handicapped persons seeking work. Public information and educational activities directed toward employers and labor organizations are part of the effort made under these programs. Selective placement techniques are also used to help match the physical demands of a job to the physical capacities of a worker.

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, a voluntary group of about 600 men and women, has made great accomplishments in the past 20 years to promote greater employment opportunity for qualified handicapped men and women. Operating within the Department of Labor and

within a budget that until last year had a ceiling of only a half million dollars, the Committee maintains working relationships with the 53 cooperating governor's committees, and with the various Federal Departments, Agencies, and Commissions. The Committee works to help assure that the handicapped are considered for their abilities, and to help facilitate development of maximum employment opportunities for them. The peak of its activity, although it goes full steam throughout each year, is in the first full week of October, National Employment of the Physically Handicapped Week.

The Department of Labor is also involved in training the handicapped. Enactment of the Manpower Development and Training Act in 1962 widened the opportunity for the Department to develop meaningful training programs for handicapped workers. It was estimated that by the summer of 1966, well over 25,000 handicapped persons had received training under MDTA and over 20,000 of those had already obtained jobs.

HOUSING FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Federal Government is involved in several programs concerned with housing for the handicapped or disabled. The Housing Assistance Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides loans and contributions to local housing authorities which, in turn, provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low-income families at rent they can afford. Handicapped persons of limited income are among those eligible for benefits under this program, established by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (P.L. 75-412).

The Housing Assistance Administration also provides low-interest, long-term loans to private nonprofit corporations, consumer cooperatives, and public agencies for new and renovated rental housing, dining facilities, community rooms, and workshops for the elderly and the handicapped whose incomes are above the levels set for admission to public housing projects, but below that needed to pay rents for available private housing. This program was enacted by the Housing Act of 1959 (P.L. 86-372).

The Housing Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-70) established a grant program for public and private groups to develop new or improved means of providing housing for low-income persons, the physically handicapped, and families. Demonstration of means to provide housing is specifically authorized by this legislation.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-117) authorized rent supplement payments to help assure privately-owned housing is available to low-income individuals or families of low income. The handicapped are among those eligible for this program if their income does not exceed the maximum amount established in the area for occupancy of federally-aided, low-rent public housing.

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

Related to housing, Congress in 1968, passed legislation to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are designed and constructed to be accessible to the physically handicapped (P.L. 90-480). This legislation applies to any public buildings constructed in whole or part with Federal funds. The only exceptions are privately-owned residences and buildings or facilities on military installations intended primarily for use by able-bodied military personnel.

This legislation was passed after recommendations were made by the National Commission of Architectural Barriers to Rehabilitation of the Handicapped, authorized by the Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1965 and appointed by the President in 1966.

The legislation should spur States and local governments to enact legislation and regulations so that all public buildings, not only those built with Federal funds, will be so constructed that the disabled will be able to fully utilize them. Some 45 States have laws or resolutions already, but many of them are not strong enough to have much effect. Only a few municipalities thus far have taken similar action.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE NEEDY BLIND AND
TOTALLY DISABLED

The Federal Government is involved in programs of support for needy blind persons and for permanently and totally disabled persons through social security legislation enacted in 1935 and 1950. Under these public assistance programs, the Government provides grants to States and the States, in turn, provide three forms of assistance: cash payments for food, clothing, shelter, and other basic needs; medical or remedial care recognized under State law, through payments directly to hospitals, physicians, dentists, and other providers of care; and social services, such as counseling on personal problems, help in finding better housing, referral to community resources, and home-maker services.

These programs are available to needy blind persons so that they may attain or retain their self-support or self-care capability and to people over age 18 who cannot support themselves because they have a permanent and total physical or mental impairment.

In 1967 the number of persons receiving aid to the blind in the States and territories with programs in operation totaled over 82,000. Combined, total expenditure of local, State, and Federal funds for this purpose was over \$86.9 million, and the average payment for all individuals participating nationwide was \$90.45 per month. Under the program for the permanently and totally disabled, there were 646,000 recipients receiving a total of \$573.5 million, averaging \$80.60 per monthly payment.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE

The basic social security program which provides benefits to the worker when he retires also provides cash benefits to covered disabled workers under age 65 and to their dependents for as long as the worker is unable to engage in "substantial gainful activity." In 1967, over two million disabled workers and dependents received social security cash benefits totalling over \$147.8 million. Under the 1965 social security amendments, use of trust funds was authorized to pay the cost of rehabilitation services provided by the State vocational rehabilitation agencies to certain disability insurance beneficiaries.

The "Medicare" Act passed in 1965 included a little-publicized but valuable new arrangement for restoring more disabled people: It authorized the Social Security Administration to transfer from trust funds for retirement and disability benefits certain amounts for vocational rehabilitation services to disabled workers receiving social security benefits. A limit of one percent of the total benefits being received placed a control on how many funds could be transferred each year. These funds are used by the Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation Program to pay for services to disabled beneficiaries, most of whom can be restored to activity and work, thereby resuming their payments into the trust funds. For this year, \$18,077,000 was transferred for this work.

SUMMARY

The above Federal programs have been described briefly and quite possibly some programs may have been unintentionally overlooked in our research.

At any rate, the summary may be of assistance to those interested in the problems and

programs concerning handicapped Americans.

Mr. PEARSON. Mr. President, I should like to express great pride in, and ask to be associated with this most excellent statement just made by my distinguished colleague. He speaks of a problem which, in his own words, affects every person in our society and every fiber of our Nation.

Here is, then, a definition coupled with a solution and, treated with sympathy and yet with reason, an approach, I am sure, that will yield to progress.

I think that one point he so clearly set forth is the challenge. That is when he asked all of us:

Are we doing our best to see that all the knowledge, the information, and money, and other help is consolidated and available to the handicapped person in the form he can best use and in the time and place he needs it most?

I think he answered that question by saying a little later on that we must do better. He makes a proposal which is specific in its recommendations, and is an enormous contribution, I think, to a very great problem.

I look forward to the other proposal that he shall be making in the days ahead in regard to what is, really, one of the great problems facing this country in the last third of the 20th century.

I congratulate my distinguished colleague. I am very much pleased to be here today when he makes his first speech in the Senate.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, will the Senator from Kansas yield?

Mr. DOLE. I yield.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I should like to join my friend, the other distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. PEARSON), in commending the distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION THIS AFTERNOON.

I have served in this body many years. I do not know that I have ever heard a new Senator make a greater contribution in what he characterizes as his first speech in this body.

He talked on a subject which is close to the hearts of all Americans. This country has grown so fast, with over 200 million people in it, with a huge Government requiring complicated machinery, that it is a supertask for us to try to see that some of the less fortunate people in this country are not ground under the wheels of the massive instrument that we have played our part in creating.

I predict for the junior Senator from Kansas a long and distinguished career. I venture to say that although his contributions, I am sure, will be great, he can always remember with pride the fact that his first contribution was on a subject which is so important to all Americans.

As a Member of the Senate, I join in congratulating the distinguished Senator from Kansas on the masterly speech he has just delivered.

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Kansas yield?

Mr. DOLE. I yield.

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, I should like to join the senior Senator from Kansas (Mr. PEARSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. COTTON) in commenting on the speech which the junior Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) has just completed—a speech which addresses itself to a problem which is becoming increasingly felt as one of the serious problems in America today. The subject has a humanitarian impact because it deals with the problems of the individual, but it also has a social and economic impact because it affects the way in which we, as a nation, deal with problems that touch the lives of so many of our citizens.

The Senator has treated the subject in great depth, with thoroughness, and with understanding. I can only say that this is typical of him. He and I entered the other body on the same day. We came to the Senate on the same day. I have known him very well in the intervening years.

The remarks of the junior Senator from Kansas today are evidence of the promise of the enormously valuable service which he will render in this body as the years pass by.

I wish to express my appreciation to him for his valuable contribution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleagues for their patience and their kind remarks.

Mr. HRUSKA. Mr. President, the junior Senator from Kansas is to be commended for his statement today on problems faced by the handicapped. This statement, in many ways, typifies the man who made it. It is well prepared, thoughtful, and above all, it is a warm and human examination of the problem.

The Senator from Kansas, during his four terms in the House of Representatives, established himself as a man who truly cares about people and does his best to aid them. His emphasis is not on statistics, but on the people involved. This is as it must be. The dollars spent, the programs generated, mean nothing unless they benefit those in need.

The problem of aiding the physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped is not one to be solved by government alone. In the end it is people who must help. People will provide jobs, training, and dignity. A partnership of government, local and national, and the private sector of our economy is the wise way of approaching the question of assistance to the handicapped. It is the way highlighted by the able Senator from Kansas.

There is one final point I wish to make, Mr. President. In mentioning specific causes of disability, there is one the Senator from Kansas left out—service to our Nation. A great number of our citizens have made the sacrifice of health and well-being for the cause of peace. The distinguished Senator knows well the problems of which he speaks today. He knows the vitality that remains in the human soul despite injury to the body. He has demonstrated how well a man can serve his country despite a handicap.

Mr. President, I congratulate the junior Senator from Kansas on his fine remarks to the Senate.

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to read the speech because it is as compelling and timely today as it was 39 years ago. It offers a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing those with disabilities and the steps that need to be taken to fulfill their dreams of full participation in our society. Thanks to the leadership and perseverance of Bob Dole and the work of other Senators such as Senator DOMENICI, Senator HARKIN, and Senator KENNEDY, those dreams became a reality with the passage in 1990 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bob has described July 26, 1990, the day President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the ADA into law, as one of the most rewarding days of his life. He once said:

I suppose there were some that day who saw only a White House lawn covered with wheelchairs and guide dogs. But that just goes to show who in our society is truly limited.

My own perspective was very different. As I looked around, I saw Americans with amazing gifts; Americans who could finally contribute to a Nation much in need of their skills and insights.

Bob Dole not only devoted much of his public life to serve as an advocate for Americans with disabilities, he devoted much of his private life as well. He began the Dole Foundation and worked to raise millions, which were used to fund job training and placement programs for disabled workers. Bob also established a scholarship fund for law students with disabilities at the Washburn University School of Law. The funds provide assistance to students with disabilities for tuition, books, and other special needs.

Throughout his career, Bob Dole has never wavered in his special commitment to the veterans who were disabled in service to our country. As my colleagues know, last year President Bush appointed Bob and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to serve as cochairs of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returned Wounded Warriors.

The Commission was asked to provide a comprehensive review of the care provided to service men and women wounded in the global war on terrorism and to recommend needed improvements to that care. In the course of their work, the Commission visited DOD facilities, VA hospitals, and other care sites across the country. They met with injured servicemembers, their families, professionals who provide medical and rehabilitative services, program administrators, and many others.

Last July, the Commission issued a final report with important recommendations that would serve and support our veterans while simplifying an overly complex system. As Senators ROBERTS and BROWNBACK know, the State motto of Kansas is: "To the stars through difficulties."

Quite simply, I can think of no American who has done more in his life and career to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to fly as high and soar as far as their skills and talent can take them than Bob Dole.

In doing so, he has earned more than the pride and admiration of a loving wife. He has earned the respect of a grateful nation and the enduring thanks of millions of individuals he has never met but whose lives are immeasurably better and richer and more productive because of him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. I have been listening to Senator DOLE speak of her husband, a great American. I would like to tell the Senator that as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we are now examining the Dole-Shalala proposal that the Senator referenced, which is a quantum leap in good advice and sound understanding of the needs of Amer-

ica's veterans. We thank you. More importantly, we thank Senator DOLE for that great effort.

TAX CODE REFORM

Mr. CRAIG. I rise today, on the eve of Tax Day, 2008, to discuss the State of our Nation's Tax Code. Only a few weeks ago, we debated the fiscal year 2009 budget resolution and some recurring themes very quickly emerged.

Over and over again, both sides of the aisle were speaking of the problems they heard about, the death tax and problems with the alternative minimum tax and the unfair tax advantage of the wealthy and the burden on the middle class and other problems that are systemic within America's Tax Code.

You know what we did about these problems? We only offered temporary solutions like we have offered for the last decade. Here is what is wrong with that type of thinking: There are not temporary problems that can be fixed with temporary solutions, they are fundamental problems that require fundamental changes in America's Tax Code.

Our current Tax Code is broken, and you saw Democrats and Republicans alike opining on the floor of the Senate during the debate over the budget resolution about taxes. We tried to fix it with a temporary measure, but we have served only to make things worse. There is exactly what we have done over the last good number of years.

Today's Tax Code is over 67,000 pages long, and it is growing. According to IRS estimates, taxpayers spend 6 billion hours annually trying to fit themselves into the Tax Code and over \$265 billion in related compliance costs.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans, it is only going to get worse. Since the last major overhaul of the Tax Code in 1986, we have made 15,000 changes. That is right, since 1986, we have made 15,000 changes. That equates to a couple of changes to our Tax Code every day.

This nonstop tinkering has created a tax system that is overly complex, incredibly inefficient, and extremely unfair. We cannot continue down this unsustainable path of temporary fixes. We need to do fundamental reform to our Tax Code. We need a system that is simple and transparent and fair. We need to wipe the slate clean and start all over.

I am amazed we have not done the very fundamental aspects of what we need to do to fix the Tax Code. Our broken code does more than cost us money in compliance costs and a waste of time, it hurts us both socially and economically. Socially our Tax Code tells us when is the best time to marry, how many children we ought to have, how much to save, how much to invest, where to live, and even, to a degree, what time we should die in our lives that is the most economically advantaged to our estate.

That is what our Tax Code does. Economically, we waste billions of dollars

that could have been reinvested in the economy. Instead, we employ some of America's brightest minds on innovation, while we waste them on finding ways to navigate through this phenomenally complex 67,000-page code. Moreover, our complex Tax Code and high corporate tax rate are putting Americans out of business as we compete in a world around us, not just here in America but all over the world. Companies today are locating where they have a greater tax advantage.

I spent several years examining several different tax systems, and after examining the facts, I believe the best alternative to a broken Tax Code has been the very tax idea I introduced some years ago. That was a flat tax—no games, no gimmicks, a straightforward approach.

Our Tax Code is the workhorse pulling our economy, as I stated earlier, pulling us in the wrong direction. This horse that pulls our economy, the American Tax Code, has grown very lame. I grew up farming and ranching. Let me tell you, when the horse got lame, you took it out of the harness and put it in the barn. Sometimes, if it could not get well, you would simply have to dispose of it. How tragic that was.

But today's tragedy is the lame horse that is still in the harness, attempting to pull the Tax Code and the American people and the economy in the right direction when it is headed in the wrong direction.

So now as Americans file their taxes responsibly and dutifully, after they have navigated their way through a maze, and they have taken them to their accountant, and their accountant puts his or her final seal on it, and they send it in, if they were to ask an IRS agent: Did I do it right, there is no IRS agent today, no matter how schooled and how learned and how long-serving in the IRS, who can say: Yes, you have done it right. And that is not appropriate. The best they can tell you is that they think, in fact they guess, that you did it right.

That ought to be an embarrassment to our country, and more importantly it ought to be an embarrassment to America's policymakers. That is us, those who write the Tax Code of our country that drives our economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Let me use some of the time for the issue at hand. First of all, I wish to talk about the technical corrections bill that is going to be voted on in about 15 minutes—not the bill but the motion to proceed to the bill.

The Transportation bill that we are involved in, that Senator BOXER and I were involved in back in 2005, that we passed August 10 of 2005, authorized \$286 billion in transportation and infrastructure spending for fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

Now, let me say that as a conservative standing here, that is a huge

number. I think that may have been the largest nondefense spending bill at the time up to that time. But it is interesting that if we spend all of that, it is not going to even maintain what we have today.

That is why we put into the bill a committee to look into new ways of funding infrastructure, new ways of funding transportation. We have been doing it the same way since President Eisenhower, and it is time we tried something different.

I think there is a resistance to continuing to increase taxes as the only way of funding our infrastructure. Included in the bill are recommended technical changes from the Department of Transportation that address functional problems in implementing the bill, technical changes to safety products which will continue to be delayed from breaking ground due to simple drafting errors and descriptions.

Furthermore, universities and other transportation research entities will not receive their fully intended funding, and the States will be unable to use millions of dollars in transportation funds that were authorized 3 years ago.

Something that is interesting, the bill does not increase the overall size of SAFETEA. I have heard a lot of people say: Well, this is a big spending bill. First of all, it is not a spending bill, it is an authorizing bill. But the technical corrections are also an authorization.

Now, it is my understanding, and I believe it is true, that the total amount of authorization that was in the bill itself is not changed by the technical corrections bill.

A lot of people are implying it is. I do not believe it is. We have had staff and ourselves looking at it. It may change some of the priorities in the authorization, but the overall figure, the top line, is going to be the same.

Several of my colleagues have approached me recently with additional project fixes. In some cases, I have had to say no to their requests because they either submitted them too late to be considered in our negotiations with the House—the request went beyond the scope of a technical fix—or because the proposed fix was to a House project which the House objected to. Let's keep in mind, we have two Houses working on this. We have the Senate and the House of Representatives. This is a difficult type of legislation to get passed. But one thing you can't do is start making changes and anticipate that the House is going to go along with those changes, because I can tell my colleagues, they will not do it. Our House colleagues have passed this bill several times, but each time it comes over to the Senate it has been held up.

The bill before us, along with the manager's substitute amendment, is the commutation of negotiations between the House and the Senate. Any changes to the bill at this point will require the concurrence of the House or

the bill will not proceed. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to understand that if they are planning on filing an amendment before the chairman and I can agree to it, we need to determine if our counterparts in the House would find it to be agreeable. I suggest they probably will not.

I heard about an hour ago, when I arrived in Washington, that it might be that the administration could have some objections. I am having a hard time understanding how that could be. First, they supported the bill. They signed the bill when it first passed in August of 2005. Technical corrections is a common thing. It does not have a net increase in authorizations. I can't see why it would be. I understand there would be one provision having to do with rapid transit that would not be in our committee. It was not in the committee chaired by Senator BOXER and formerly chaired by me. It is in the Banking Committee. So we want to look at that. If that is the objection, I certainly believe we can talk to the administration and keep them from opposing it.

We have some amendments that have been discussed. I have not been here long enough to find out this week if people are going to come forward with their amendments. My junior Senator, Mr. COBURN, makes a very good point on a project down in Florida called Coconut Road, that there have been some problems. Apparently, all those have been corrected. The only thing I wish to talk to my junior Senator about is if he wants to examine this, investigate this, that is a good idea. It is already being done. However, we have enough committees and commissions around this place, thousands of them. I am not sure we need another one. That is something we might want to debate. I know Senator BOND has an amendment that he has discussed. I look forward to visiting with him. Any of these amendments, yes, we want to talk about them. But keep in mind, we do have this commitment that we have a technical corrections bill that has to pass or we cannot implement those provisions that otherwise are going to allow us to correct some of the problems we have.

Again, here I am, a conservative, saying this is not adequate, what we have done today. We have another one that should be coming up next year. Hopefully, it will. Sometimes it doesn't happen like it should. But in the meantime, I want that committee that is supposed to be examining the way we have historically funded roads and highways and infrastructure to come up with some ideas. There are experiments in different States right now. But we will have to recognize the fact that this country has got to have infrastructure for it to survive.

In conclusion, I assure my colleagues that I appreciate their responsiveness to our numerous requests to advise the committee of their requests, thereby assisting us to help them. If we were

unable to satisfactorily address their concerns in this bill, there will be additional opportunities do so when we reauthorize SAFETEA, and that reauthorization should be under way next year.

With that, I hope those who object to this will at least let us proceed to this bill. Then we can look at it and see if there are any of the amendments that we feel would not violate the agreement between the Senate and House and would have the effect of killing the whole bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank my ranking member. He and I, when we are on the same page, have had very good results. I think our colleagues trust that when we can come together on something, it has gone through all the hoops and all the "I's" have been dotted and the "T's" have been crossed. I want to assure colleagues that on this particular piece of legislation, we have worked closely together, as have Senators DODD and SHELBY over at Banking, as have Senators INOUE and STEVENS. This is one of those moments which doesn't come that often around here—not often enough for me—where we do have a lot of us working together across party lines, across committee jurisdictions.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Mr. INHOFE. I neglected to mention that when we went through this long and arduous legislation initially, there are probably not two Members of the Senate who are more opposed to each other philosophically than the two of us, Senator BOXER and myself. But we recognize that the process we used is one that is fair. We developed criteria. There are projects in here that met the criteria. Some of them I would oppose personally, but nonetheless, you have to come up with a bill if you are going to have roads to travel and infrastructure to serve this great Nation.

I compliment Senator BOXER in working with me on some of the problems I had initially with this bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased we can work so well together. I want to thank our staffs also. We have developed very trusting relationships with our senior staff, and it reflects the relationship we have developed to be able, even if we disagree, to be completely honest with each other. This is helpful for the Senate as a whole.

I wanted to share with the Senate this amazing group who came together to support us in our efforts on this technical corrections bill which will unleash some funding that is rather stuck right now, at a time when we could use some construction activity. I think it is important to see. We have the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials—those are Departments of Transportation from all 50 States—American Highway Users

Alliance, millions of highway users throughout the country; American Public Transit Association, transit systems from across the country; American Road and Transportation Builders Associations, more than 5,000 members of the transportation construction industry—these people have all written to us and have said: Get this bill going—Associated General Contractors, more than 32,000 contractors, service providers and suppliers; the Council of University Transportation Centers, more than 30 university transportation centers from across the country; National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, companies in America that produce more than 92 percent of crushed stone and 75 percent of sand and gravel used in the United States annually; and the National Asphalt and Pavement Association, more than 1,100 companies that produce and pave with asphalt. These are the folks who are saying to all of us: Please bring this bill to the floor, please work together.

I personally have a very good feeling about this bill. Senator DEMINT, who sometimes has trouble with these bills, was complimentary to both of us and the work we have done. He has a couple of amendments, maybe only one amendment. He said he did not intend to hold up our bill. So I think we are moving in a good direction. But I want to reiterate what Senator INHOFE said: Please, if you do have an amendment, talk to us, because we are not going to have this bill go through unless the House signs off. So we would hope we could keep this bill pretty clean. We hope we can work out our differences with a couple of Senators who have some problems. If we can't work it out, we will have to see what the body wants to do. This is sort of a very mini stimulus package, frankly, and one that doesn't mean one dollar of new spending that hasn't already been authorized. It is a good moment for the Senate.

I thank Senator REID, working with Senator MCCONNELL, for getting this bill before us. A lot of our communities will be very happy when they see that projects that were stalled, because there were some technical problems, can now go forward.

Some of our colleagues who said: Look, leg one of this project can go forward but not leg two. Can you change the wording?

We are allowing colleagues this kind of latitude. Of course, we put a freeze on all of that because we had to cut off at some point. I think this bill is a good bill. It is a technical corrections bill. It is not breaking any new ground. We look forward to an "aye" vote from as many of our colleagues whom we can convince this is a good idea. I understand we are about to go into the vote. I look forward to a solid vote. Then Senator INHOFE and I will be in the well, and we will talk to all our colleagues who may want to talk about their amendments.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 608, H.R. 1195, an act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Richard Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jon Tester, Mark L. Pryor, Bernard Sanders, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jack Reed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) would vote "yea."

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Brown	Coburn
Alexander	Brownback	Cochran
Allard	Bunning	Coleman
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Baucus	Byrd	Conrad
Bayh	Cantwell	Corker
Bennett	Cardin	Cornyn
Biden	Carper	Craig
Bingaman	Casey	Crapo
Boxer	Chambliss	DeMint

Dodd	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Dole	Kohl	Salazar
Domenici	Kyl	Sanders
Dorgan	Landrieu	Schumer
Durbin	Leahy	Sessions
Ensign	Levin	Shelby
Enzi	Lieberman	Smith
Feingold	Lincoln	Snowe
Feinstein	Lugar	Specter
Graham	Martinez	Stabenow
Grassley	McCaskill	Stevens
Gregg	McConnell	Sununu
Hagel	Mikulski	Tester
Harkin	Murkowski	Thune
Hatch	Murray	Vitter
Hutchison	Nelson (FL)	Voivovich
Inhofe	Nelson (NE)	Warner
Inouye	Pryor	Webb
Isakson	Reed	Whitehouse
Johnson	Reid	Wicker
Kerry	Roberts	Wyden

NAYS—1

Bond

NOT VOTING—6

Clinton	Lautenberg	Menendez
Kennedy	McCain	Obama

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 93, the nays are 1. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I just need 30 seconds. On behalf of my ranking member, JIM INHOFE, and myself, I thank colleagues for giving us this go-ahead to go to the technical corrections bill. It is not the most exciting of bills, but it will be a bit of an economic stimulus to our Nation. It doesn't add a dollar of new spending; it just makes corrections to a bill that is a very popular bill—SAFETEA-LU—and it will allow a lot of highway construction and transit projects to proceed. We are very pleased with this vote.

Before giving up the floor so Senator INHOFE can say a couple of words, if my colleagues have any amendments—we know that amendments do threaten this bill—we will be delighted to speak with our colleagues about them and try to figure out a way to either work them out so that the House agrees and we agree we can move forward or figure out a way to get an early vote so we can get on with consideration and then on to something else.

At this point, I yield the floor and again say thank you very much to our colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me say I do agree with what Senator BOXER says, although it is a little bit

more than that. Not only does it not spend more, it doesn't authorize more. I think that is very important for people to understand. There is some confusion from some things I have read in different publications that make it appear that we have increased the authorization. Some things have been moved around, but the bottom line is it has remained unchanged.

The other thing that is important to repeat is that as big as this bill was, the 2005 bill we are scheduled to get into again next year, in 2009, it still doesn't take care of the problem. We have a problem in this country with the \$286 billion figure; it doesn't even maintain what we have today. That is critical. I am hoping the committee that was established for the purpose of exploring new ways of funding transportation will come up with something a little more creative than they have so far because we are not going to be able to do it just by redoing and expanding what Eisenhower started many years ago. So we need to have this bill in order to go ahead and finish the projects that we have authorized and that are paid for at this time, and we won't do it unless we can pass this bill.

So I hope anyone—I would agree with Senator BOXER—anyone with amendments, let's bring them down and talk about them, and I am available to talk, and I am doing that as we speak. I have spoken with a couple of Members who have talked about an amendment. So if you have any amendments, bring them down so Senator BOXER and I can visit with you about the amendments.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AARP

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to call the attention of the Senate to the 50th Anniversary of a remarkable organization that boasts 35 million members, for whom it provides services ranging from discounted prescription drugs, to travel services, to financial services. Most of us on Capitol Hill are far more familiar with this organization as the tireless advocate for the interests of Americans over the age of 50. The organization, of course, is AARP.

In its half-century of service, the organization that we know today as AARP has been transformed from its modest beginnings in 1958 when Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired high school principal, transformed the National Retired Teachers' Organization into the American Association for Retired Persons. The organization was

known under this name until 1999 when it became just AARP to reflect the fact that many of its members are still active in the labor force.

Characteristic of the work of AARP over the past 50 years has been its efforts to influence national policy on behalf of the well being of Americans over the age of 50 and to defend the programs that protect them, especially Social Security and Medicare. More recently, AARP has spearheaded the effort to get bipartisan action in Congress to provide all Americans with health care and long-term financial security with its Divided We Fail campaign. I commend AARP for its outstanding leadership on these issues, which are so critical to millions of Americans.

When President Bush in 2005, fresh from his election victory, made the privatization of Social Security his top domestic priority, he met his match in AARP, which mobilized its members to oppose this very risky plan. Congressional Democrats worked very closely with AARP in that effort, and in the end we were successful, at least temporarily. Unfortunately, given the continuing support for privatization among many in Washington, that battle will have to continue in the years ahead, and I look forward to working closely with AARP to continue to make the case against privatization, and to make sure that America keeps its promise to our seniors.

So I offer a cordial birthday greeting to an organization that is 50 years old and stronger than ever. AARP has kept pace with the needs of mature Americans and, more importantly, it has kept faith with them. In the process, it has made this country a better place for all Americans.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge the passage of S. 793, the reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, Program. Both the Senate and House of Representatives have passed this bill and it will now be sent to the President's desk to be signed into law.

I thank my colleague and coauthor of the Senate bill, Senator KENNEDY, and his staff for their hard work over the past few years. I also extend my gratitude to Senator ENZI and his staff for their diligent efforts in helping to reauthorize this important program.

I also must thank the leaders of this effort in the House, Representatives BILL PASCRELL, Jr., FRANK PALLONE, Jr., and their staffs who have been so dedicated to helping individuals with TBI.

Also, this bill would not have been possible without the cooperation and input from involved organizations, such as the Brain Injury Association of America, BIAA; the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators, NASHIA; the National Brain In-

jury Research, Treatment and Training Foundation, NBIRTT; and the National Disability Rights Network, NDRN; and I thank them all for their contributions.

It means a lot to the 5.3 million Americans living with TBI, and their families, to reauthorize the only Federal program that helps them. The Federal TBI Program comprises prevention and surveillance activities at the Center for Disease Control, CDC, research at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and grants to States from the Health Resources and Services Administrations, HRSA. This reauthorization bill expands and improves those activities, and includes provisions to look at the reintegration of war vets returning to their communities.

Each year, 1.4 million people sustain a TBI and face long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result. Direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost productivity of TBI totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the United States in 2000. We can help truncate those costs and ensure that people are connected to the services they need by continuing this important program.

It has been a labor of love to draft and enact legislation to reauthorize this important program. On behalf of individuals living with TBI, and their families, I thank my colleagues in Congress for passing this legislation and reaffirming our commitment to helping those with who suffer from traumatic brain injuries.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, yesterday marked the official beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Since 1981, communities in Vermont and across the Nation have observed this week with candlelight vigils and public rallies to renew our commitment to crime victims and their families. It is vitally important that we recognize the needs of crime victims and their family members, and work together to promote victims' rights and services.

We have been able to make some progress during the past 27 years to provide victims with greater rights and assistance. In particular, I was honored to support the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, VOCA, Public Law 98-473, which established the Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund allows the Federal Government to provide grants to State crime victim compensation programs, direct victim assistance services, and services to victims of Federal crimes. Nearly 90 percent of the Crime Victims Fund is used to award victim assistance formula grants and provide State crime victim compensation. These VOCA-funded victim assistance programs serve nearly 4 million crime victims each year, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse,

and drunk driving, as well as survivors of homicide victims. Our VOCA-funded compensation programs have helped hundreds of thousands of victims of violent crime.

The Crime Victims Fund is the Nation's premier vehicle for supporting victims' services. It is important to understand that the Crime Victims Fund does not receive a dime from tax revenue or appropriated funding. Instead, it is made up of criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments.

In 1995, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I proposed and Congress passed the Victims of Terrorism Act of 1995. Among other important matters, this legislation authorized the Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice to set aside an emergency reserve as part of the Crime Victims Fund to serve as a "rainy day" resource to supplement compensation and assistance grants to States to provide emergency relief in the wake of an act of terrorism or mass violence that might otherwise overwhelm the resources of a State's crime victims compensation program and crime victims assistance services.

Over the last several years we have made sure that the Crime Victims Fund would remain dedicated to crime victims. We made sure that it would serve as a "rainy day" fund and reserve to help meet crime victims' needs. The "rainy day" fund has been used to make up the difference between annual deposits and distributions three times during the past 7 years. It provides security and continuity to crime victims programs and to our State partners.

Since fiscal year 2000, Congress has set a cap on annual obligations from the Crime Victims Fund. I have worked to ensure that the cap has never resulted in resources being lost to the Crime Victims Fund. I believe we need to increase the cap. With the failure of the Bush administration crime prevention policies, crime began to rise under Attorney General Gonzales. Crime victims, the States and service providers need more assistance.

Instead of taking that salutary action, the Bush administration is proposing to raid the Crime Victims Fund and zero it out. The future of the Crime Victims Fund is in danger because the Bush administration has proposed rescinding all amounts remaining in the Crime Victims Fund at the end of fiscal year 2009—just cleaning it out and leaving the cupboard bare. That would leave the Crime Victims Fund with a zero balance going into fiscal year 2010 and create a disastrous situation for providers of victims' services. That is wrong.

Over the last few years, we have successfully blocked the Bush administration's past attempts to raid the Crime Victims Fund. This is not a cache of money from which this administration should try to reduce the budget deficits it has created. It has turned a \$5 trillion budget surplus into a \$9.4 trillion

debt. Its annual deficits run into the hundreds of millions. It is wrong to try to pay for its failed fiscal policies by emptying out the Crime Victims Fund. These resources are set aside to assist victims of crime.

In order to preserve the Crime Victims Fund once again, Senator CRAPO and I, as well as 25 other Senators, sent a letter on April 4, 2008, to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking that the committee to oppose the administration's proposal to empty the Crime Victims Fund. We asked the Committee, instead, to permit unobligated funds to remain in the Crime Victims Fund, in accordance with current law, to be used for needed programs and services that are so important to victims of crime in the years ahead.

We need to renew our national commitment to crime victims. The Senate can help by recognizing the importance of the Crime Victims' Fund and supporting its essential role in helping crime victims and their families meet critical expenses, recover from the horrific crimes they endured, and move forward with their lives. I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to honor our longstanding commitment to crime victims by working together to recognize and support victims of crime, and to preserve the Crime Victims Fund.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I wish today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Early in the morning of September 9, 2007, police in Antioch, CA, responded to a call regarding a fight that had broken out at a party. According to witnesses, Phillip Hale, 18, and a 17-year-old accomplice were mocking and attempting to provoke a group of deaf partygoers by mimicking their hand movements. The two teens were asked to leave, but came back sometime later with a stick, a hoe, and a brick. Witnesses say a fight ensued upon their return. When police arrived on the scene, they found a substantial amount of blood. One deaf victim suffered a minor head injury, and Hale suffered a head injury as well, for which he was treated at John Muir Medical Center. According to jail records, Hale was booked at Contra County jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy, and committing a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and vio-

lent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN EDMUND LITTLE

• Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, it is with great pleasure that today I honor the life of LTC John Edmund Little, a veteran of World War II and a Pearl Harbor survivor. He passed away October 18, 2007, at the age of 92 after serving his country in the U.S. Navy from 1933 to 1937 and in the U.S. Air Force for 19 years from 1940 to 1959.

In 1937, Lieutenant Colonel Little was serving in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Colorado*, which was the first ship to search for Amelia Earhart around Howland Island in the South Pacific.

As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he was serving in Hawaii at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the island was attacked. Lieutenant Colonel Little went on to become a distinguished fighter pilot in the Southwest Pacific, Solomon Islands from 1942 to 1943. In 1943, he became squadron commander of the 44th Fighter Squadron which became the No. 1 squadron in the South Pacific, and was involved in the fatal strike against Admiral Yamamoto. Nine of the original pilots in his squadron were aces.

During his military career, Lieutenant Colonel Little received numerous awards for his hard work and dedication to the United States. These awards include four Air Medals, American Campaigns Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal. My home State of Arkansas is fortunate to have men and women such as Lieutenant Colonel Little who devote their lives to protecting the citizens of this great Nation.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating LTC John Edmund Little on his service to the United States of America. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the Calendar:

H.R. 3352. An act to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 14, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 38

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 399, a bill to

amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to enhance the overseas stabilization and reconstruction capabilities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to prevent abuse of Government credit cards.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 1052

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1052, a bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1117, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the limitation on the foreign earned income exclusion, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1430

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1572

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1843

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1843, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid

pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2035, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 2056

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2056, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore financial stability to Medicare anesthesiology teaching programs for resident physicians.

S. 2059

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2099, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare competitive bidding project for clinical laboratory services.

S. 2109

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto

Mountains National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a prospective payment system instead of the reasonable cost-based reimbursement method for Medicare-covered services provided by Federally qualified health centers and to expand the scope of such covered services to account for expansions in the scope of services provided by Federally qualified health centers since the inclusion of such services for coverage under the Medicare Program.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to States for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit and the residential energy efficient property credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2376

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2376, a bill to establish a demonstration project to provide for patient-centered medical homes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in providing medical assistance under the Medicaid program and child health assistance under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2460, a bill to

extend by one year the moratorium on implementation of a rule relating to the Federal-State financial partnership under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program and on finalization of a rule regarding graduate medical education under Medicaid and to include a moratorium on the finalization of the outpatient Medicaid rule making similar changes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for cooperative governing of individual health insurance coverage offered in interstate commerce.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2533

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2533, a bill to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act.

S. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today.

S. 2672

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2672, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

S. 2684

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2684, a bill to reform the housing choice voucher program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

S. 2689

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend section 411h of title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for family members of members of the uniformed services with serious inpatient psychiatric conditions.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery honoring blind members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and other Americans.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2702, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and increase utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B Program.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to provide for enhanced health insurance marketplace pooling and relating market rating.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to preserve access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program during an economic downturn, and for other purposes.

S. 2822

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2822, a bill to amend the En-

ergy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas.

S. RES. 500

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, a resolution honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child".

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5773. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cultivated Wild Rice Crop Insurance Provisions" (RIN0563-AC00) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5774. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5775. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12647) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5776. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12640) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5777. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12644) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5778. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Office of Hearings and Appeals; Conforming Changes to Reflect Organization Regulations" (RIN2501-AD35) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5779. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component of the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG00) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5780. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG24) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5781. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elephant Trunk Scallop Access Area Closure for General Category Scallop Vessels" (RIN0648-XG29) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5782. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Reduction of Winter I Commercial Possession Limit" (RIN0648-XG20) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5783. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Management Measures for the 2008 Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A" (RIN0648-AW26) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5784. A communication from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methodology to be Employed in Determining the Railroad Industry's Cost of Capital Board Decision" (RIN2140-AA84) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5785. A communication from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases Board Decision" (RIN2140-AA88) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5786. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the protection of market sensitive data; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5787. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of

FERC Form No. 423" (RIN1902-AD47) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5788. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5789. A communication from the Program Manager, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit" (RIN0938-AO74) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5790. A communication from the Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to oversight of the Global Fund to fight AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5791. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Immigrants and Non-immigrants—Visa Classification Symbols" (22 CFR Parts 41 and 42) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5792. A communication from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5793. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities carried out by the Family Court during 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5794. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5795. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure and Consistency of Cost Accounting Practices—Foreign Concerns" (RIN3110-01) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5796. A communication from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5797. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Recommendations"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5798. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Highlights"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2850. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to promote the direct deposit of Social Security benefits until adequate safeguards are established to prevent the attachment and garnishment of such benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2853. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the cap on disproportionate share adjustment percentages for certain rural hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. PRYOR)):

S. 2854. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to clarify the effective date of active duty members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces receiving an alert order anticipating a call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation for purposes of entitlement to medical and dental care as members of the Armed Forces on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 513. A resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 76. A concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, throughout my career, I have been working on the front lines of the battle for greater transparency and openness in our Government because I fundamentally believe the more the American people and my constituents in Texas understand about the Government and how it operates, the better accountability can take place, and people will once again feel they are in charge, which is absolutely the case. Knowledge is power, and transparency permits the accountability necessary for our system to work.

Just a few months ago, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I were successful in getting a bill signed which modernized and greatly improved our Freedom of Information laws for the first time in many years. Now it is my intent to try to accomplish that same thing with the Federal spending, and that is why today I am introducing the Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008.

The first thing this bill would do would be to create an online earmark tracking system that taxpayers can use free of charge to search for specific earmarks by recipient, by appropriations bill, by State, and by Member, and to do so in a real-time frame of reference during the appropriations process.

Of course, earmarks are especially designated appropriations for particular projects in particular locations. There is a lot of controversy about earmarks, but I think greater transparency would limit the number of earmarks introduced because were they to be completely transparent, it would discourage the use of earmarks and make certain only meritorious ones are accepted by the Congress as part of the appropriations process.

Secondly, my legislation would direct the Internal Revenue Service to provide each taxpayer with a concise, easy-to-read personal record of the amount of taxes they have already paid and an estimate of the amount of taxes they will pay in the timeframe before they retire.

As you know, the Social Security Administration currently already mails out a similar statement, called a Social Security account statement, which gives taxpayers a record of the earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes and a summary of their estimated future benefits. So this taxpayer account statement would be sort of the mirror image of the Social Security statement, and it would let people know how much taxes they have paid and what their tax obligation would likely be into the future.

I think this tax statement could play an important role when taxpayers are planning their future finances and provide them with a better idea of how much in taxes they will pay in the future.

It will also have the added benefit of making them much more aware of what Washington is doing when it comes to their hard-earned money and the money they send to Washington to pay the bills.

Finally, this legislation builds upon the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 that created a one-stop, searchable Web site for all Federal contracts and grants. My legislation would expand on this Web site by including all expenditures of all Federal agencies, such as salaries, rent, supplies, and transportation.

As this chart shows, taxpayers will have to work 74 days during the year just to pay their Federal taxes without getting one red cent for themselves. Additionally, local taxes and State taxes account for an additional 39 days of work, and that is before they begin to work to pay their own bills, their other bills. For housing, it is roughly 60 days out of the year; health insurance, 50 days out of the year; food, 35; and transportation, 29 days out of the year. So these living essentials are being squeezed by the Federal tax burden, and I think it is important for people to understand that. Frankly, once they do, I think their voices are then much more likely to be heard when loose talk in Washington occurs about raising taxes.

I was interested to hear our colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, talk about the alternative minimum tax. That is a perfect case study of why, when people talk about taxing the rich, really what they are talking about is taxing people who earn a living. That was a classic case where the alternative minimum tax was passed to target 155 taxpayers who did not otherwise pay Federal income tax because of their deductions, due to State and local taxes. Well, no surprise those 155 targeted taxpayers grew last year to 6 million taxpayers, and this year it would have grown to 23 million middle-class taxpayers because it had not been indexed. Once again, taxing the rich turns into taxing the middle class.

Well, I think greater transparency in the process would allow the middle class to tell Washington: Wait a minute, you need to cut out some of the waste and inefficiency of Government before you come back to me and ask me for more of what I earn, which I need to spend on housing, health insurance, food, transportation, or whatever else I see fit.

I think it is about time for taxpayers to see where their money is going, and it is in this spirit I am introducing this Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008. I think it answers the fundamental question: Should the people who foot the bill for the Federal Government know what it is they are getting?

Never would you ask a person to make an investment without giving them the ability to monitor that investment. But when it comes to taxes, that is precisely what we are asking. It is time for us to open up the process of Federal spending to the public and let the American people see where their money is going. That way they can hold their elected officials accountable and play a closer role in the determination of where we spend their hard-earned money.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2852

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Taxpayers deserve to know how their tax money is spent by the Federal Government.

(2) The Office of Management and Budget has developed a single, searchable Internet website of Government grants and contracts, accessible free of charge by the public.

(3) The Office of Management and Budget, through its Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) system, identified that almost 25 percent of Federal programs it reviewed either were ineffective or their effectiveness could not be determined.

(4) Billions of dollars are lost each year through fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement among the hundreds of programs in the Federal Government.

(5) Taxpayers work on average more than 2 months of every year to pay for the operations of the Federal Government.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to bring more transparency to the spending habits of the Federal Government;

(2) to help taxpayers understand how the Federal Government spends the money they send to Washington, D.C.;

(3) to provide for better accountability in the Federal budget and appropriations process;

(4) to give taxpayers an easy and accessible way to see how their money is being spent; and

(5) to increase the participation of citizens in their Government.

SEC. 3. EARMARK TRACKING WEBSITE.

(a) INTERNET WEBSITE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Congressional Research Service shall create a single operational searchable Internet website, accessible free of charge by the public, that allows the user to search information on each Federal earmark, including—

(A) the name and location of the intended recipient of the earmark,

(B) the total dollar amount of the earmark,

(C) the Member of Congress who sponsored or requested the earmark, and

(D) the status of the bill to which the earmark is attached.

(2) SCOPE OF DATA.—The Internet website established under this subsection shall in-

clude data for fiscal years after fiscal year 2007.

(3) TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION.—The Congressional Research Service shall update the Internet website established under this subsection as soon as any bill or report containing an earmark has been passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) EARMARK.—For purposes of this section, the term "earmark" means a congressionally directed spending item, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit.

(A) CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEM.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member of Congress providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.

(B) LIMITED TAX BENEFIT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "limited tax benefit" means any revenue provision that—

(i) provides a Federal tax deduction, credit, exclusion, or preference to a particular beneficiary or limited group of beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) contains eligibility criteria that are not uniform in application with respect to potential beneficiaries of such provision.

(C) LIMITED TARIFF BENEFIT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "limited tariff benefit" means a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits 10 or fewer entities.

(2) RECIPIENT.—For purposes of this section, the term "recipient" means the entity designated to receive the earmark.

(3) SEARCHABLE INTERNET WEBSITE.—For purposes of this section, the term "searchable Internet website" means an Internet website that allows members of the public—

(A) to search and aggregate Federal funding for any earmark passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof, as well as an overall total by any method required by subsection (a)(1);

(B) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks provided to a single recipient;

(C) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks sponsored or requested by each United States Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, including Delegates and Resident Commissioners, and the President of the United States; and

(D) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks and earmark recipients located in each State and territory of the United States.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall, upon making a determination that the Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) will not be operational by January 1, 2009, immediately notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives of such determination and shall provide the reason for the delay.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date on which the

Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) becomes operational, the Director of the Congressional Research Service shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of such website, including data regarding the usage of and public feedback on the utility of the website and any recommendations for improving the presentation of the data.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Congressional Research Service shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the Internet website established under subsection (a).

(e) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of classified information.

(f) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with the requirements of this section.

SEC. 4. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO TAXPAYERS.

(a) PROVISION OF STATEMENT UPON REQUEST.—Beginning not later than October 1, 2009, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide upon the request of an eligible individual a taxpayer account statement for such individual.

(b) TAXPAYER ACCOUNT STATEMENT.—The taxpayer account statement required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the aggregate amount of individual Federal income tax paid by the eligible individual under chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in all previous taxable years, and

(2) an estimate of the aggregate amount of such income tax that such individual will have paid as of the projected date of the normal retirement of such individual.

(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible individual” means an individual who—

(1) has a valid social security number issued by the Social Security Administration.

(2) is age 25 or over,

(3) has filed a return of tax in any previous taxable year, and

(4) has had net income tax liability which is greater than zero in any previous taxable year.

(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, to the maximum extent practicable, take such steps as are necessary to assure that eligible individuals are informed of the availability of the statement required under subsection (a).

(e) MANDATORY PROVISION OF INITIAL STATEMENTS.—By not later than September 30, 2014, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide a taxpayer account statement to each eligible individual for whom a current mailing address can be determined. The Secretary shall provide with each such statement notice that an updated version of such statement is available annually upon request.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

(a) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2010, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include the financial outlays of all Federal agencies on the Internet website established by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

(2) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The information added to the Internet website under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) allow the user at least 2 different methods of searching and aggregating the finan-

cial outlays of all Federal agencies, including—

(i) searching by agency obligation and object class; and

(ii) searching by budget function and sub-function; and

(B) allow the user to download any data received as the product of a search.

(b) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—All Federal agencies shall comply with instructions and guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and shall provide appropriate assistance to the Director upon request in the addition to the Internet website of the information required under subsection (a).

(c) SCOPE OF DATA.—The information added to the Internet website under subsection (a) shall include data for fiscal years after fiscal year 2008.

(d) FINANCIAL OUTLAY.—For purposes of this section, the term “financial outlay” means any payment to liquidate an obligation (other than the repayment of debt principal) that is greater than \$25,000.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, upon making a determination that the information required to be added to the Internet website under subsection (a) will not be complete by January 1, 2010, immediately notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives of such determination and shall provide the reason for the delay.

(f) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 6 months after the date on which the information required under subsection (a) has been added to the Internet website described in such subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the addition of the information added under subsection (a), including data regarding the usage of and public feedback on the utility of the Internet website and any recommendations for improving data quality and collection.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the Internet website established by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

(g) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of classified information.

(h) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2011, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with the requirements of this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 513—CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL, WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY CELEBRATED ON APRIL 23, 2008, AND COMMEMORATING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS VETERANS AND CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS SOLDIERS TO THE VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND HOMELAND DEFENSE MISSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 513

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a “special message” to the Senate and the House of Representatives that “earnestly recommended passage” of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring “our Army ... to the highest point of efficiency”;

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, “strongly commending ... proposed legislation” to “increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army” by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled “An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army”, ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents

Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deploying or providing mobilized soldiers and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled

and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas more than one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions have consistently been marked by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76—TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1858

Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 76

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858 (to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes) the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following technical corrections:

(1) In section 1, strike "2007" and insert "2008".

(2) In section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 2) strike subsection (j) and insert the following:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There are authorized to be appropriated—

"(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under subsection (a)(1), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

\$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

"(2) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(3) In section 1110(d) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 3), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(4) In section 4(2)(A), insert " , respectively" before the semicolon.

(5) In section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 4)—

(A) in subsection (d)(2), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(B) in subsection (e), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(C) in subsection (f), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(D) in subsection (g), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(6) In section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 5)—

(A) in subsection (b)(4)(D), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(B) in subsection (d), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$2,531,250 for fiscal year 2010, \$2,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, \$2,593,750 for fiscal year 2012, and \$2,625,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(7) In section 1113(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(8) In section 1114(e) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(9) In section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 7) strike "and or" and insert " , or".

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4525. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4526. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1195, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4525. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 98, strike lines 11 through 14 and insert the following:

(250) in item number 3909 by striking the project description and inserting "S.R. 281,

the Avalon Boulevard Expansion Project from Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 90”;

SA 4526. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 107, strike line 24 and all that follows through page 108, line 3, and insert the following:

Washington County”;

(87) in item number 5161 by striking the project description and inserting “Raleigh Street Extension Project in Martinsburg”;

and
(88) in item number 2406 by striking “in Fort Worth” and inserting “, or Construct SH 199 (Henderson St.) through the Trinity Uptown Project between the West Fork and Clear Fork of the Trinity River, in Fort Worth”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, has been postponed.

The purpose of this hearing was to consider S. 2438, a bill to repeal certain provisions of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

For further information, please contact Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883 or David Brooks at 202-224-9863.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled “The Impact of the Credit Crunch on Small Business,” on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. BINGAMAN. 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 Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 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 following bills: S. 934 and H.R. 1374, to amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, and for other purposes; S. 2833, to provide for the management of certain public land in Owyhee County, Idaho, and for other purposes; and S. 2834, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, and improve public land in Wash-

ington County, Utah, and for other purposes.

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 it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BINGAMAN. 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. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2007, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 2680, Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Environmental Improvement Act of 2008; S. 2805, Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act; S. 2814, Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act; H.R. 29, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 1803, San Diego Water Storage and Efficiency Act of 2007; H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

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 it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Gina_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Michael Connor or Gina Weinstock.

PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 477, H.R. 1119.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1119) to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the 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. 1119) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3352

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 3352 be discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and be placed on the calendar.

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

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 513, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A resolution (S. Res. 513) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 513) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 513

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a “special message” to the Senate and the House of Representatives that “earnestly recommended passage” of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring “our Army . . . to the highest point of efficiency”;

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, “strongly commending . . . proposed legislation” to “increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army” by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled “An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States

Army", ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deploying or providing mobilized soldiers and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential com-

bat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas more than one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions have consistently been marked by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our Nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 70, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

CALLING ON THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENTS, MULTILATERAL BODIES, AND NON-STATE ACTORS IN CHAD, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND SUDAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 470, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) calling on the relevant governments, multilateral bodies, and non-state actors in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan to devote ample political commitment and material resources towards the achievement and implementation of a negotiated resolution to the national and regional conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 470

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely among Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder, banditry, forced recruitment, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and other crimes that are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these

countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, rebels stormed the capital of Chad, N'Djamena, in their second coup attempt in two years, prompting clashes with forces loyal to President of Chad Idriss Deby that caused more than 100 civilian deaths, thousands of displacements, and an estimated 10,000 refugees from Chad to seek refuge in neighboring Cameroon;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, the United States Embassy in N'Djamena was forced to evacuate employees' families and all non-emergency staff and urged United States citizens to defer all travel to Chad;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, the United States Government condemned the armed attack on N'Djamena and expressed "support [for] the [African Union]'s call for an immediate end to armed attacks and to refrain from violence that might harm innocent civilians";

Whereas, on February 12, 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that recent offensives by the Government of Sudan in Darfur have prompted up to 12,000 new refugees to flee to neighboring Chad, where the UNHCR and its partners are already struggling to take care of 240,000 refugees from Sudan in eastern Chad and some 50,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas cross-border attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad have also resulted in the displacement of an estimated 170,000 people from Chad in the region, adding to the humanitarian need;

Whereas there have been allegations and evidence in both Chad and Sudan of government support for dissident rebel militias in each other's country, in direct violation of the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006;

Whereas, on January 16, 2008, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north of that country have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas, since late 2007, arrests, disappearances, and harassment of journalists, human rights defenders, and opposition leaders—particularly those reporting on military operations and human rights conditions in eastern Chad—mirror the repressive crackdown in the aftermath of an attack on N'Djamena in April 2006, and conditions have only worsened since the February 2008 attempted coup;

Whereas, on September 27, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), authorizing a limited United Nations peacekeeping mission (MINURCAT) and a concurrent European-led force (EUFOR), which is permitted to "take all necessary measures" to protect refugees, civilians, and aid workers in eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic;

Whereas, despite the explicit support of President Deby, deployment of both the 3,700 EUFOR troops and the 350 MINURCAT officers has been hampered by political and security delays as well as insufficient resources; and

Whereas continuing hostilities will undermine efforts to bring security to Sudan's Darfur region, dangerously destabilize volatile political and humanitarian situations in Chad and the Central African Republic, and

potentially disrupt progress towards peace in southern Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses the concern and compassion of the citizens of the United States for the hundreds of thousands of citizens of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been gravely affected by this inter-related violence and instability;

(2) calls upon all parties to these conflicts to cease hostilities immediately and uphold basic human rights;

(3) urges the governments of Chad and Sudan, with support from other key regional and international stakeholders, including France, Libya, and China, to commit to another round of inclusive negotiations towards a sustainable political solution for national and regional stability facilitated and monitored by impartial third-party leadership;

(4) calls upon the governments of Chad and Sudan to reaffirm their commitment to the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006, refrain from any actions that violate these agreements, and cease all logistical, financial, and military support to insurgent groups;

(5) urges the Government of Chad to increase political participation, strengthen democratic institutions, respect human rights, improve accountability and transparency as well as the provision of basic services, and uphold its commitment to protect its own citizens in order to redeem the legitimacy of the Government in the eyes of its citizens and the international community;

(6) calls for diplomatic and material support from the United States and the international community to facilitate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive peace process that includes an inclusive dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to end violence, demobilize militias, and promote return and reconstruction for internally displaced persons and refugees; and

(7) encourages the United States Government and the international community to provide immediate and ongoing support for the multilateral peacekeeping missions in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the northern Central African Republic, along with adequate assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and security needs of the individuals and areas most affected by these interrelated conflicts.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1858

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 76, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 76) to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 76) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 76

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858 (to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated follow-up care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes) the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following technical corrections:

(1) In section 1, strike "2007" and insert "2008".

(2) In section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 2) strike subsection (j) and insert the following:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There are authorized to be appropriated—

"(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under subsection (a)(1), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

"(2) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(3) In section 1110(d) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 3), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(4) In section 4(2)(A), insert " , respectively" before the semicolon.

(5) In section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 4)—

(A) in subsection (d)(2), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(B) in subsection (e), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(C) in subsection (f), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(D) in subsection (g), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(6) In section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 5)—

(A) in subsection (b)(4)(D), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(B) in subsection (d), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$2,531,250 for fiscal year 2010, \$2,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, \$2,593,750 for fiscal year 2012, and \$2,625,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(7) In section 1113(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(8) In section 1114(e) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013."

(9) In section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 7) strike "and or" and insert " , or".

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15,
2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to

speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill, and that all time during any morning business, recess, or adjournment count against cloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10 a.m.