

over which that insurance is applied but expanding those pools even more by bringing in the 47 million uninsured.

The bill emphasizes prevention to improve the health of Americans. It certainly improves their access to care, once they get sick, and also access to care by giving them preventive incentives to go in and do the kind of things with medical advice before they would ever get sick in the first place.

There are things in the bill that, as we continue to discuss it, certainly I wish to see. I wish to make absolutely sure that those currently covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program, which would be folded into this, as well as Medicaid, which would be folded into the program, I wish to make sure they receive affordable insurance of quality comparable to or better than what they currently receive. There are other concerns that will come up from time to time.

There is no one who has filed this legislation who thinks it is going to be enacted or seriously taken up this year, but there has to be a starting point. A great responsibility will rest on the shoulders of the next President because the American people are not only crying out for health care reform, they are demanding it. Because the cost of that health care is extending beyond their reach, it is incumbent upon us to be visionary and creative. It is certainly incumbent upon the next President to be visionary and creative and cooperative, cooperative with the Congress so we can forge a solution to help America solve her health insurance problem.

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.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in recognizing recipients of the 2008 Direct Service Professional Award. The recipients are being honored for their outstanding efforts to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These awardees have displayed humanity and professionalism in their work. They are an inspiration to the people they work with every day, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than half of their time at work in direct, per-

sonal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers providing care for people with special needs. They do their work every day with little public recognition, providing assistance that is unknown and unnoticed except to the people they spend their days with.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAIDD's 2008 Direct Service Professional Award: Robin Armond, Terry Ber, Vanessa Bradley, Debora Buchanan, Betty Carr, Eleanor Dewhart, Dawn Elliot, Barrett Girard, Jeri Von Holten, Cindy Jennings, Leonard Maniece, Adam Mize, Pat Murphy, Janet Newlin, Melissa Parnell, Hilary Pacha, Rhonda Risley, Sharon Watson, Denise Williams, Kimberly Woosley, and Delia Zavala.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2008 Direct Service Professional Award. I commend their dedication and join the AAIDD in thanking them for their service.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an explanatory statement approved by the Committee on Appropriations accompanying three amendments to the House amendments to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2642, concerning emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2008–2009, which the Committee on Appropriations authorized the chairman to offer on behalf of the committee.

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, REGARDING THE 2008 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS TO AMENDMENTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2642

Following is an explanation of the committee authorized amendments of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, including disclosure of congressionally directed spending items as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Section 10008 of the Senate amendment specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Supplemental Appropriations Act as if it were a report by the Committee on Appropriations to accompany a bill reported to the Senate from that Committee.

**BACKGROUND**

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL**

The Committee recommendations address the President's requests contained in the 2008 Budget Appendix, transmitted on February 5, 2007 (H. Doc. 110-3), budget estimate No. 5, transmitted on July 31, 2007 (H. Doc.

110-54), and budget estimate No. 6, transmitted on October 23, 2007 (H. Doc. 110-68). The recommendations also address the following estimates submitted this year: the 2009 Budget Appendix, transmitted on February 4, 2008 (H. Doc. 110-84), and budget estimate No. 6, transmitted on May 2, 2008 (H. Doc. 110-108).

The Committee recommends three amendments to be offered in response to the amendments of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. H.R. 2642 is the bill chosen by the House to address the President's supplemental requests for 2008 and to address "bridge" funding for 2009 overseas deployments and other contingencies, including military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**AMENDMENT #1**

**TITLE I**

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, INTERNATIONAL, AND OTHER SECURITY MATTERS**

**CHAPTER 1**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

**PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II GRANTS**

2008 appropriation to date	\$1,210,864,000
Supplemental estimate:	
2008 .....	350,000,000
2009 .....	395,000,000
Committee recommendation:	
2008 .....	850,000,000
2009 .....	395,000,000

The Committee recommends a total of \$850,000,000, to remain available until expended for Public Law 480 Title II Grants for fiscal year 2008. The Committee provides \$350,000,000, as requested, for the urgent humanitarian needs identified by the administration. Further, the Committee provides an additional \$500,000,000 for unanticipated cost increases for food and transportation to be made available immediately.

In addition, because the need for urgent humanitarian food assistance and continuing volatility of food and transportation costs are expected to continue into fiscal year 2009, the Committee provides a total of \$395,000,000, as requested, to be made available beginning October 1, 2008.

**CHAPTER 2**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

2008 appropriation to date	\$70,603,000
2008 supplemental estimate .....	
Committee recommendation .....	4,000,000

The Committee recommends \$4,000,000 for the Inspector General to continue reviewing the Federal Bureau of Investigation's use of National Security Letters [NSL] and section 215 orders for business records.

**LEGAL ACTIVITIES**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES**

2008 appropriation to date	\$745,549,000
2008 supplemental estimate .....	4,093,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,648,000

The Committee recommends \$1,648,000 to provide litigation support services for the Special Inspector General for Iraqi reconstruction to investigate and prosecute corruption in reconstruction efforts.

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS**

2008 appropriation to date	\$1,754,822,000
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