

in the Vice President's Office with my Republican colleagues to explain the status of that bill. I think the distinguished chairman has set up a similar meeting for his colleagues.

Mr. REID. I think I have covered everything we need to do before we leave. Again, I would say it is not a question of us leaving on a given day or time, but it is a question of being able to complete our work before we go, and we have an opportunity to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, a couple of words underlying what the leader said in his remarks. These are not only for our membership but also for the other body.

The underlying bill has mental health parity in it. The underlying bill is also 2-year extenders. We are wrapped around the axle too much in this body by having actual extenders every year. This is 2 years.

Third, this is a compromise between both bodies. They want everything paid for, this body does not. It is a compromise in the middle. For those reasons, I very much hope the other body supports this measure we are about to adopt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of the bill, as amended.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The result was announced—yeas, 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Brownback	Coleman
Alexander	Bunning	Collins
Allard	Burr	Corker
Barrasso	Byrd	Cornyn
Baucus	Cantwell	Craig
Bayh	Cardin	Crapo
Bennett	Casey	Dodd
Bingaman	Chambliss	Dole
Bond	Clinton	Domenici
Boxer	Coburn	Dorgan
Brown	Cochran	Durbin

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

NAYS—2

Carper
Conrad

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Kennedy	Obama
DeMint	McCain	

The bill (H.R. 6049) as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to a period of morning business. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Idaho.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, be recognized.

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

TIMBER-DEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, while I think most of us have been focused on H.R. 6049, as amended by the Senate, primarily on the tax extenders and some of the energy tax credits and provisions that we believe are critically important to our economy and to the American business sector that is, by any measure, having difficulty at the moment, something is also in this legislation that is phenomenally important to timber-dependent school districts throughout the United States but dominantly in the Pacific Northwest. That is a provision called the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program.

Now, if I were in Oregon, I would call it the Wyden-Craig bill. If I am in Idaho, I call it the Craig-Wyden bill. It is legislation that both Senator WYDEN and I, a good number of years ago, fashioned when I was chairing the Forestry and Public Lands Subcommittee and he was my ranking member, when we came to the Senate and said we have the rural schools of our timber-dependent communities and counties in crisis.

Through the decade of the 1990s, we saw a dramatic reduction in the allow-

able cut of timber on our public land forests for a variety of reasons. As a result, a 1908 policy, established by Gifford Pinchot and President Teddy Roosevelt, said if we are going to create these forest preserves, we have to connect the communities of interest with them. By that, I do not mean the Sierra Club. I mean that little community sitting out in the forest that is trying to make a living off our forests and to supply to its county its roads and bridges and to its citizens its schools. We will give them a piece of the stumpage or the fee the Federal Government is paid by a private logging company to cut that tree and turn it into lumber.

Down through the years, we did just that. We financed many of our counties and many of our schools in these dependent communities largely with the stumpage fee from public timber. In some counties, it was 50 or 60 percent of the county budget. In certain counties of Oregon, in the O&C lands of Oregon, it was oftentimes the near whole school budget and oftentimes a very large chunk of the county budget.

Well, when that timber went away, for a lot of different reasons, most of them environmental, so went the money. We saw that as a crisis in our school districts, looked at it, evaluated it, established a formula, came to the Senate, and said: We have to help these school districts that do not have fee land. They do not have private property to tax. They are all public lands.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I have counties in my State that are larger than your entire State, Mr. President, and most of them are 60 or 70 percent public lands. They don't pay taxes, but they produce product. We, a long time ago, nearly 100 years ago, decided that product the Government was selling ought to pay something back to the communities. So we established this legislation, Craig-Wyden. It lived its life. It secured our schools and our communities. It allowed some self-termination. It brought together regional advisory groups, issue groups who were warring amongst each other, and it brought common cause to the public concern on our national forested lands. It was highly successful, but it expired.

In a time of deficits and financial difficulties and finding all of the needed resources we need for our Government, it became very difficult to refinance, to reauthorize this program. I have school districts that were laying off essential educators, canceling programs that would provide for the quality education of the students simply because we could not pass this legislation.

Today, we passed the legislation. Today, we reauthorized, for a period of up to 4 years, this program. It is vastly important to hundreds of school districts across the Nation. When I say the Pacific Northwest—Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—it is Montana, it is California—northern California tremendously—it is Mississippi. I suspect

there are a few school districts in the State of Colorado and other places that are highly dependent upon this particular piece of legislation.

So I am here this evening to thank my colleagues for being sensitive to these public land-bound counties that simply do not have fee land to finance their essential needs—roads, bridges, schools—and they cannot ask the other taxpayers to assume their burden outside the counties within the State.

My State anticipated the difficulty of reauthorizing and created some contingency, but still it would not have funded the full school program. So tonight we have acted and sent a very clear message to these counties, to these schools that we take educating the young people of these school districts as a high priority, that we see the vitality of these communities as extremely important.

So tonight, in section 601, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program, we have reauthorized Craig-Wyden. I thank my colleagues for allowing that to happen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a few short remarks.

IMPROVED ADOPTION INCENTIVES AND RELATIVE GUARDIANSHIP SUPPORT ACT OF 2008

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Montana, Senator BAUCUS, for the terrific work he did when I talked to him on the Senate floor in July and he made a point of speeding up and shepherding through the Improved Adoption Incentives and Relative Guardianship Support Act of 2008. It was his leadership that made such a difference. I am proud to be a cosponsor of that bill, which was introduced by Senator GRASSLEY in May and passed the Finance Committee unanimously earlier this month.

Since its enactment in 1998, the Adoption Incentives Program has helped nearly 450,000 children in all 50 States and the District of Columbia move from foster care to permanent homes. In my State of Ohio, more than 18,000 adoptions have been finalized through this program. It has helped incredible people such as Joe and Becky Puckett of Conover, OH. After raising children of their own, the Pucketts adopted four children with special needs out of the foster care system. Without reauthorization, this important program would have expired on September 30. Thankfully, this bill passed last night by unanimous consent.

I commend the senior Senator from Montana and others for their tireless support and the hard work they have done on behalf of adopted children and families who adopt in our great country. I thank the Senator from Montana.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, something happened on the floor of the Senate moments ago which was a long time in the making. We passed a bill, the mental health parity bill, that has been debated in this Chamber for 10 years or more.

The reason I come to the floor today, after its passage, is to note one of the Members of the Senate who was an inspiration for this bill. His name was Paul Wellstone. Six years ago, he died in a plane crash, running for election in the State of Minnesota. He used to sit in the back row over here and at a corner desk. He had an especially long cord for his microphone, and he used to wander all up and down the aisle talking. It was a sight to behold—a short, little fellow, and because of his passion for college wrestling, his back was all beat up and he kind of hobbled around. But he had a heart of gold, and he was one of these people you loved to be serving with because he brought out the best in you.

The last time I ever saw him was here in the well of the Senate on the night of the vote authorizing the war in Iraq. He was one of 23 of us who voted against it.

I knew he was going home to Minnesota to face a tough election, and I said to him: I hope this doesn't cost you the election, Paul.

He said: It is all right if it does. This is what I believe. This is what Minnesota expects of me. And whatever happens, I am all right.

That was the last conversation I had with him. Within days, he died in a plane crash.

When we returned after a memorial service and a lot of heartfelt expressions of sympathy for him and his wife Sheila, who died, as well as members of their staff, there was always a question about, what is a fitting tribute to Paul Wellstone for a great, inspiring legislative career? Those of us who knew him knew the last thing in the world he would ever want is a statue or a bridge named after him or a post office—just not the kind of thing that would mean anything to Paul. But this bill, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction

Equity Act of 2008, is the tribute Paul Wellstone would have wanted.

I thank Senator PETE DOMENICI, who was his partner in this effort for this mental health parity bill, for agreeing to allow Paul Wellstone's name to be the lead name on this legislation. It will be the Wellstone-Domenici bill for all of us, and both of them deserve praise for all the work they did. But when PETE DOMENICI said: Put his name first, it meant a lot to many of us. This was the fitting tribute we were hoping for Paul Wellstone.

What does it mean? It means for Paul Wellstone's family and the families of millions of Americans that mental health will now be treated differently in their health insurance plan. For the longest time, we have languished in ignorance over mental health. We have fed our prejudices instead of learning about this illness. We have treated it not as an illness but a curse, and we have basically said that we officially give up on finding cures for mental illness.

That is just plain wrong on every count. Mental illness is an illness. For the vast majority of Americans, it is a curable illness. What those suffering from mental illness need is professional assistance and the right medication, and many of them will lead absolutely normal, happy, productive lives. But the health insurance companies refused to cover mental illness—most of them—so many people with family members who were suffering from mental illness had no place to turn, and many times they could not afford the medications, and many times their lives were compromised as a result.

Paul Wellstone and PETE DOMENICI said a long time ago that is just unfair and America is a better place. Thanks to their hard work and inspiration, thanks to the hard work of TEDDY KENNEDY, who should have been here today voting for it—his name belongs in this pantheon as well when it comes to mental health parity—TOM HARKIN, and MAX BAUCUS, who put this in this package to make sure it passed—I just want to say it is a great day for America, a great day for us to give so many millions of Americans who struggle with mental illness or have a member of their family struggling with mental illness a fighting chance. That is what this gives them: a fighting chance that their health insurance policies will cover this, for the first time in many instances. It is long overdue, and this tribute to Paul Wellstone is long overdue. But 6 years after he left this Chamber, 6 years after he died, we finally gave the right tribute to a great man who served us so well.

Mr. President, today is an important day for the U.S. Senate and the Nation.

With the passage of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, the Senate not only acknowledges the struggle for civil rights in our country, but also the fight of one man never neglected that struggle.