

“(I) the total amount of funds expended for each conference conducted under the authority of subsection (b)(4); and

“(II) the amount of funds expended for each such conference that were for transportation and for travel expenses.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to conferences conducted under the authority of section 1936(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-6(b)(4)) after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. FUNDING FOR THE MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$2,220,000,000” and inserting “\$2,290,000,000”.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5057 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5057) to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate will pass the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act. I want to thank Senator BIDEN for his leadership in the Senate in supporting this important program, and I was pleased to work with him and others, as I have before, to ensure that the Debbie Smith grant program is given the authorization to continue its vital work.

I should take this opportunity to thank Debbie Smith for her courage and for the tireless efforts of her and her husband, Rob, on behalf of rape victims. In her own case, DNA testing led to the arrest and conviction of her attacker, but the backlog of rape kits waiting to be tested forced her to endure an excruciating wait before the culprit could be found and justice could be done. The legislation that she inspired and worked so hard to pass aims to ensure that other victims do not have to live in fear through a long and unnecessary delay.

In 2004, after years of work, Congress passed a significant package of criminal justice reforms known as the Justice for All Act, which substantially increased Federal resources available to State and local governments to combat crime with DNA technology. The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program was a key component of that legislation. I worked hard for years to try to get the Debbie Smith Act passed, and I was thrilled in 2004 to finally be able to call Debbie to tell her that our hard work had paid off. I have pushed every year since for full funding of this crucial program.

As DNA testing moved to the front lines of the war on crime, forensic lab-

oratories nationwide experienced a significant increase in their caseloads, both in number and complexity. Funding simply did not keep pace with this increasing demand, and forensic labs nationwide became seriously bottlenecked.

Backlogs have seriously impeded the use of DNA testing in solving cases without suspects—and reexamining cases in which there are strong claims of innocence—as labs are required to give priority status to those cases in which a suspect is known. Solely for lack of funding, critical evidence remains untested while rapists and killers remain at large.

The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program has given States help they desperately needed, and continue to need, to carry out DNA analyses of backlogged evidence. It has provided a strong starting point in addressing this serious problem, but much work remains to be done before we conquer these inexcusable backlogs. That is why I so strongly support reauthorization of this vital program.

Some in both Chambers have expressed a desire to expand and improve this program and other DNA testing programs. I share those goals and will work with others to pursue them next year. It is very important, though, that we reauthorize the Debbie Smith program now, when we can and should, and turn to more difficult tasks in the next Congress when we will be able to give them the attention they require.

This reauthorization bill authorizes \$755 million over the next 5 years to reduce the current backlog of unanalyzed DNA samples in the Nation’s crime labs. I am glad that the Senate has passed it, and I hope the House promptly passes this version of the bill, and the President promptly signs it. I hope too that Congress fully funds this important program.

I want to make one point on the issue of rape kit testing, which this legislation does so much to promote and which Debbie Smith has worked so hard to make available for all victims of horrendous attacks. No victim should ever be required to pay the cost of a rape kit. Collecting and testing evidence from serious crimes is a responsibility our Government and our community bears, and it should never be seen as a revenue source for cities and towns. It appalls me that any official in any community would condone such a practice, and I hope it will stop.

I congratulate Debbie and Rob Smith on this key step toward the reauthorization of this important program, and I look forward to working with them to continue to find ways to protect women, assist crime victims, and bring criminals to justice.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Biden substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and

any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5646) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: to provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3), by—

(A) striking subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(B) redesignating subparagraph (E) and subparagraph (A); and

(C) inserting at the end the following:

“(B) For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014, not less than 40 percent of the grant amounts shall be awarded for purposes under subsection (a)(2).”; and

(2) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

“(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General for grants under subsection (a) \$151,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.”.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking “2005 through 2009” and inserting “2009 through 2014”.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking “2005 through 2009” and inserting “2009 through 2014”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 5057), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 962, S. 1276.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1276) to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Methamphetamine Production Prevention Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING SIGNATURE CAPTURE AND RETENTION FOR ELECTRONIC METHAMPHETAMINE PRECURSOR LOGBOOK SYSTEMS.

Section 310(e)(1)(A) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 830(e)(1)(A)) is amended by striking clauses (iv) through (vi) and inserting the following:

“(iv) In the case of a sale to which the requirement of clause (iii) applies, the seller does