

together to address climate change in a way that is responsible and allows us to focus on jobs and creating new opportunities in the green economy.

Finally, and certainly not least, education. In terms of access to college or whether it is preschool and Head Start or whether it is funding our K-12 system, it is critically important that we not forget education and job training for the future. We have a lot of people who are going through transition today from one job to another, and job training is particularly critical.

In the Obama budget, we are investing in America's future: jobs, health care, energy independence, and education.

I am also very proud of the fact that we make a strong commitment again this year. For the last 2 years, with our Democratic majority, we have made veterans a priority, veterans health care a priority. It is so terrific to see the commitment of President Obama and his administration, the commitment they put in the budget that we have sustained a strong commitment to keep the promise of America for our veterans and their families, those who have served us, are serving us now, and come home and expect us to keep our promises as well.

There are many important values reflected in this budget, from focusing on veterans, focusing on jobs, as well as addressing what happens when a plant closes. I am very pleased to have put language in to increase money for communities, where there are closed plants, to create new opportunities for jobs and economic development.

There are a lot of different strategies that are represented and funded in this budget.

Again, it all comes down to how we view America, what are our priorities, what are our values, whom do we represent? Do we have a budget for American families? Do we have a budget for the middle class of this country which, by the way, gets significant tax cuts? We have significant tax cuts in this bill as well. The difference between the tax cuts in this budget and in budgets when our friends on the other side of the aisle were in the majority is these tax cuts go to the middle class. These tax cuts go to working families.

We also in the committee under Senator CARDIN's leadership have increased the dollars going to SBA, for small business, because we understand small business is an engine of this economy.

This budget does reflect jobs, strengthening manufacturing, support for small business, addressing job training, and where we go in the new green economy around jobs and energy independence. It focuses on health care. It focuses on education. We are keeping the promise that has been made by this country to our veterans.

I am very proud of this budget. I am very proud of this President for submitting this budget to us. It is different. We will hear honest disagree-

ments about philosophy and how we stimulate the economy, differences in how we put together a budget and whether we invest in people or whether we continue the ways of the past that have gotten us where we are today.

This budget is a change. This budget is a commitment to the American people, a commitment to families, a commitment to communities, American businesses, keeping our jobs here at home. That is what this budget is about. Yes, it is different. Frankly, we tried it for 8 years under the philosophy and the direction that came from former President Bush and colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and it did not work. We cannot sustain having the same old politics and the same old policies if we are going to move America forward. We cannot sustain that any longer.

I urge colleagues to come together on a bipartisan basis and stand for the values and the people represented in this budget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

#### BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I was intending to walk through here on the way back to my office when I saw the sign blaming Republicans for everything—it blames us for the crisis, it blames us for—we keep talking about bipartisanship, but that is not the way you develop bipartisanship.

We did have some bipartisan votes today in the Budget Committee. One of them was to have an investigation into what is happening. I bet you are not going to point the finger at just one party on that. I am betting there is plenty of blame to go around on the situation we are in. Congress has contributed, as well as business, as well as employees. We are going to find out the country has been on a path and is still on a path that is not sustainable. We maxed out our credit cards and that causes a lot of problems. Now we are still trying to figure out how to spend more money.

I was disappointed that we went into a partisan speech right after such a bipartisan effort that happened in this Chamber. We passed a bill this afternoon that is going to provide 7 million volunteers across America, that is going to make a real difference for America.

One of the problems I have with Washington is when something good like that happens, it kind of disappears overnight; when something nasty happens, it is talked about forever. We have to talk more about bipartisanship. We have to stop blaming each other and start working together.

One of the ways that bill got done this afternoon is we have been following an 80-percent rule. We know we can agree on 80 percent of the stuff, and we did. Actually, we went a little

further than that because we found some third ways in part of the other 20 percent. That made a bill that both sides could agree on that could get finished. There will be more work to do in that area.

I am glad we got that done this afternoon. I hope it is not a little, tiny paragraph in the paper. It probably will not be because it was named after the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, because he has been such a leader in this effort and worked on this bill for years and certainly deserves to have the bill named after him.

That should not be the only reason we get publicity on something such as this bill. There ought to be people looking at what we achieved and talking about what was achieved and talking about how, on a bipartisan basis, Democrats and Republicans sat down and said: This is what we need. We also said these are programs that are not working; let's replace them. We did that, and we did that in a very fiscally responsible way.

That is what can happen when both sides work together. We need to do more of that. We need to do a little bit less blaming. We are not even close to an election right now. So the blame game does not need to be done.

I certainly hope we can work for some common goals. I think we have some common goals. Next week, we will be talking about the budget, and there are even some common things on that. But I am willing to bet what we talk about on this floor will be the 20 percent we do not agree on, and that is the 20 percent that can ruin America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

#### THE BUDGET

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there are good examples, as Senator ENZI declared, of bipartisan work in this Senate. We have a lot of those examples. I would point out, however, that a budget is a document that tends to favor an individual party's belief. It tends to point out where they want to take the country. It is a roadmap for the country, and that budget is a vehicle to achieve the goals that party has.

I want to say this about the budget: A budget is not just something an individual has to submit. The President submits one, but the numbers contained in it, the directions contained in it, are the choices made. You can choose to spend less, you can choose to spend more, you can choose to reduce debt, you can choose to increase debt. It might be more popular to spend more and run up more debt today, but it may not be good for the long-term interest of America.

We just left the budget markup, and the Democratic majority passed out of the committee on a straight party-line vote—with no Republicans supporting