

I had the opportunity to visit this school and observe the students throughout the school. When an adult walks into the classrooms, all of the children stand, say good morning, sit back down, and continue their lesson. They are taught to respect elders.

When I visited that school, I had the opportunity to observe a chemistry class. They were performing a chemistry experiment. I asked one of the students—she was an African-American young lady who had attended the school before Dr. Barton took over: What is the biggest difference between then and now? What was happening now, as opposed to before educators shook things up? She had a very simple reply. She said: Now I get to learn.

It seems like such a simple thing, to be able to learn, almost shocking that those kinds of words would come out of her mouth. But these students had been robbed of that opportunity. We are the greatest Nation on earth, and we have not figured out how to make it so all our kids can learn. Give a child an education—an education that teaches and inspires—and there is no limit to their potential. The test results at West Prep are proof.

This school has seen phenomenal test score growth. Recently, we learned how phenomenal that growth is. Three years ago, only 17 percent at what was then West Middle School could read or perform math at grade level. Only 17 percent. Today, 97 percent of juniors are proficient in reading, 73 percent are proficient in math, and 64 percent are proficient in science. About 80 percent of the juniors were enrolled at the school 3 years ago when Dr. Barton took over. Isn't that amazing?

I am so proud of what Dr. Goldman and Dr. Barton have done, but I am especially proud of the students, the teachers, and the parents at West Prep. Together they have turned the tide. Every day we see at West Prep what quality education can accomplish.

There is still work to do, but there is a can-do feeling that has spread throughout the community, and you feel it when you walk onto the campus. See, Dr. Barton was given freedom to lead that school. He isn't tied down by bureaucracy. He spends most of his time in the school, when a lot of the other principals today go to school district meetings, spend time on bureaucracy. The other thing is, he can fire teachers who are not performing. In fact, when he came onboard, he replaced a majority of the teachers. Remember, he is recruiting teachers into one of, what most people would describe in southern Nevada, the least desirable places to live or teach in southern Nevada. But now he has a team in place that he knows will motivate his students and help them reach their potential. This formula is working.

In 2006, nobody imagined this school could ever reach the level of success it has in such a short period of time. Instead, the school will graduate its first senior class next year. It is raising the

bar every day as it shakes up traditional education. Most importantly, the students of West Prep are learning and reaching their full potential.

Congratulations, West Prep. We are all so proud of you and what you have accomplished.

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

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

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I am going to read a unanimous consent request in a moment, but before then, because I don't have any time at the conclusion of the last vote before the vote on final passage, I wish to take a minute to thank the majority leader, Senator REED, for making it possible for this bill to be before the Senate this week. I am grateful to him and his staff.

I thank my staff, who have done a terrific job: Jonathan Miller, principally, from my Banking Committee staff, as well as many others from the Banking Committee staff who worked very hard to bring this bill together and to create the opportunity for our colleagues to offer as many as 20 different amendments, most of them in direct relation to the bill but others to add items which will strengthen the bill. I want to specifically thank Colin McGinnis, Beth Cooper, Dean Shahinian, Julie Chon, Brian Filipowich, Misha Mintz-Roth, Deborah Katz, Matt Green, Amy Widestrom, Ella Humphry, and James Bair.

I thank Senator SHELBY and his staff as well—Bill Duhnke, Mark Oesterle, Andrew Olmem, Peggy Kuhn, Hester Pierce, and Jim Johnson. We worked very cooperatively. While there were some differences of opinion on a couple matters involved with this legislation, overall we had great cooperation, as we have had over the past 2 years I have been chairman of the committee. I am grateful to him and his staff for the cooperation they have with my office.

We have a strong committee of some 23 members. Almost a quarter of this body serves on the Banking Committee. They add great value to the process. I am grateful to them.

This is an important matter, not just for financial institutions but, more importantly—I say that with some caution—to open up lines of credit. We need to have an increase in deposit insurance. We need to have an increase in the borrowing authority. Sheila Bair, for whom most of us have great respect, is Chairperson of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and is doing a wonderful job. This bill includes that.

We have provisions in here to provide a safe harbor for servicers—a key component of the legislation designed to get servicers to pursue loan modifications more aggressively. I thank Senator MARTINEZ of Florida for his contribution to this provision.

I see Senator ENSIGN in the Chamber, who, working with Senator BOXER, added value to this bill as well, making it possible for homeowners to determine who actually holds their mortgages.

Senator GRASSLEY added contributions, as well, to accountability and transparency. Senator REED of Rhode Island has done a great deal in providing greater flexibility in terms of warrants, which I think is going to strengthen the bill as well. Senator REED also contributed groundbreaking legislation to fight homelessness along with Senator BOND.

Invariably, when I start doing this without a note in front of me, I am going to forget some Member and their contribution to the bill. So I will reserve the ability to amend these remarks to make sure I include others who have contributed to this legislation.

But this bill includes the kinds of steps we need to be taking in order to get our economy moving, to increase that confidence and optimism so critical to economic recovery.

Madam President, 10,000 foreclosures a day is unacceptable. This bill will now provide the opportunity for us to be able to reduce that number. Some estimates are that as many as 1.7 million to 2 million homeowners could be positively affected by what we are doing today with this legislation. That is no small number when you consider the total numbers that could be adversely affected. Our hope is that will do just that, to make that kind of a difference, in addition to the other matters I have already mentioned that were added by amendment or included in the underlying bill. So while this is not going to change everything, it is not going to solve every problem, it is a major step in the right direction in terms of this economic recovery we are all interested in.

There is not a Member in this Chamber—regardless of the differences we may have on how to get there—who does not want to do everything in their power to see to it that our country once again has that sense of confidence that has been the hallmark of America for more than two centuries. Certainly, we are going through a difficult time. Individually, people understand it; they know it. We have an administration under President Obama that is working hard to do everything possible to see to it that we move in the right direction.

So I am grateful to my colleagues who have shown a lot of patience over the last several days to get to this point. I thank them for that. Senator KERRY, Senator CASEY, Senator FEINGOLD—I mentioned Senator ENSIGN—

Senator SNOWE, Senator BOND, and Senator PRYOR have all either been sponsors or cosponsors of major amendments on this bill, and I express my gratitude to all of them.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask that morning business be closed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009—Continued

Mr. DODD. Madam President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending bill is S. 896.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 1031, as modified, offered by the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, before we get to that, I would like to report to Members that we are inching closer to completing action on this legislation. Four amendments remain in order, and votes with respect to these amendments will occur shortly. Those that remain are Schumer amendment No. 1031, as modified; Coburn second-degree amendment No. 1042; Reed of Rhode Island amendment No. 1040, as amended, if amended; and Grassley amendment No. 1021, as modified. Once we have disposed of these four amendments, then the only matter remaining is adoption of the substitute, as amended, and, finally, passage of S. 896. Since there is no time in between, I have given my closing remarks on the value of the legislation.

With that, I guess we turn to Senator SCHUMER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 1031, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I wish to salute, praise the chairman of our Banking Committee, Chairman DODD, for doing a great job on this bill. I thank him for the good work he has done, and so many others who have worked long and hard on this legislation; Senator SHELBY as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are asking for a simple change that in no way affects the amendment, in no way affects whether it is going to cost anything. The purpose of the underlying amendment is to ensure that tenants of multifamily housing across the coun-

try benefit from the same attention and support of this Government as single-family homeowners will.

We have literally millions of tenants—millions—who, because the homes which they rent are foreclosed, are in very bad shape. They can be removed from their homes. Their homes can deteriorate. Once a home is in foreclosure, often it is not kept up. This is not just in big cities such as New York but around the country. In fact, States such as Tennessee and so many others are on the list which I listed of 15 States that are most affected because it affects not only big multiple dwellings but garden apartments and other residential units. It is unfortunate that the objection is going to stand in the way of helping these tenants.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1031, AS MODIFIED, WITHDRAWN
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I wish to commend my colleague from New York. I say this through the Chair. We will come back to this issue. I understand an objection has been voiced, but I want to thank our colleague from New York. He raises a very important issue and one that needs to be addressed. I commend him for it. There will be other opportunities, I hope, shortly to come back to this issue.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I appreciate that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1042

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I believe the next item is the amendment offered by our colleague, Senator COBURN, from Oklahoma.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to the Reed amendment. What it says is we create a pilot study. We have 69,000 pieces of property we cannot get rid of. It represents \$83 billion in assets to us as a government and to the American people. It is \$83 billion we would not have. What we set up is a pilot program that manages 150 pieces of property a year to dispose of them. It gives 20 percent to the agency, 80 percent back to the Government. It creates a way, in a pilot project, for us to do real property reform.

We have gone through and we have created 250 homeless shelters out of 30,000 properties at a cost of \$300 million. We are spending over \$8 billion a year just maintaining properties we do not want, do not need, yet we cannot get rid of.

This is a simple, straightforward amendment that is common sense.

There is no reason why we should not accept this amendment.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, in a moment I will make a point of order. But Senator COBURN and I, last night, had a short colloquy. He raises a very legitimate point on a larger issue, and he talked about it last evening at some length. I expressed to him then—and I am very sincere about it—that I would like to work with him. We have a lot of properties out there for which it takes too much money to care for them each year. A lot of them probably ought to be destroyed, as the Senator has pointed out. So I want him to know that the point of order being raised here should not reflect the underlying issue he has raised, and I am committed to work with him on that. I think it is a very good idea and one we ought to be aggressive about.

But having said that, Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JACK REED, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I move to waive the budget point of order, and ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota, (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Dorgan	McCaskill
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Bayh	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Grassley	Pryor
Bunning	Gregg	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Hutchison	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Isakson	Snowe
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Collins	Klobuchar	Vitter
Conrad	Kyl	Voinovich
Corker	Lincoln	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	Martinez	Wicker
DeMint	McCain	

NAYS—46

Akaka	Bond	Cantwell
Baucus	Boxer	Cardin
Begich	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Burr	Dodd
Bingaman	Byrd	Durbin