

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:39 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Office (Mr. BEGICH).

TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009— Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, shortly we will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on this urgent legislation to create jobs and extend vital safety net and tax provisions. We have had a good debate. The Senate considered this bill on 7 separate days over the course of 2 workweeks. We have considered more than 30 amendments. We conducted a dozen rollcall votes. It is now time to bring this debate to a close.

This is not just some technical bill; this measure helps real people. Failure to enact this bill would cause real hardship. Failure to enact this bill would cost jobs.

Within weeks, this bill would help half a million workers who lose their jobs nationwide, including nearly 1,600 in my State of Montana, to remain eligible for help paying for their health insurance under the COBRA health insurance program. Unless we act, within weeks the average doctor in America will stand to lose more than \$16,600 in payments from Medicare. The average doctor in Montana would lose \$13,000. This bill would help nearly 40 million Medicare beneficiaries and nearly 9 million TRICARE beneficiaries nationwide to continue to have access to their doctors. That includes nearly 144,000 Montanans with Medicare and nearly 33,000 Montanans with TRICARE. Within weeks, this bill would help 400,000 Americans to be eligible for expanded unemployment insurance benefits. Thus, this important legislation would prevent millions of Americans from falling through the safety net. It would extend vital programs we have only temporarily extended. It would put cash into the hands of Americans who would spend it quickly, boosting the economy. It would extend critical programs and tax incentives that create jobs.

I urge my colleagues to vote to help Americans hurt by this great depression. I urge my colleagues to vote to preserve and create jobs. I urge my colleagues to vote to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the tax extenders bill. I do so with a heavy heart because there are good things in this bill that would be good for my State of Florida. It would be good to extend unemployment benefits. It would be good to extend COBRA, it would be good to extend and help with Medicaid funding, and it is important to make sure we have enough money going to doctors in Medicare so that they can provide services. But I can no longer stand by, even on a bill such as this, and vote for it when it is going to add \$100 billion to our deficit.

If the majority party in this Chamber did the right thing and paid for this bill, if we cut wasteful spending, if we cut duplicate programs in other areas and paid for this bill, 80 or 90 Senators would vote for it. But at some point, even though these programs may be good for your State, a Senator has an obligation to stand up and say: No more, no more spending our kids' future, no more putting debt on the next generation, no more bankrupting the promise of this country.

No more. We cannot afford it. We have a \$12.4 trillion debt. We are supposed to have pay-as-you-go rules here. One month ago, we passed a pay-as-you-go law. The President signed it. And all of the language was laudatory: We are not going to spend our children's money anymore. We are going to be fiscally responsible. And then here comes this bill, \$100 billion in spending, and we declare it an emergency so that we do not have to follow the rules. It occurred to me this weekend as I played with my 6- and 4-year-old sons that this is not pay-go, it is Play Doh—you can make whatever you want of it. But it is not real enforcement.

We in this chamber should pay for the spending so that we do not increase the debt on our children. So we should vote against cloture on this bill, not because the leadership has not allowed us to have amendments—they have, and I appreciate that. But we should vote against it because this bill should only pass if we can pay for it.

No matter how good the program is, it is not good if we saddle our children with \$100 billion more in debt. The public debt in this country is going to double in 5 years and triple in 10. It is has now come out that the estimate of the national debt in 2020 will add another \$10 trillion. The day of reckoning is at hand, and we just cannot stand by, even though there are good things in this bill, things that would help my State. On this occasion, I have to put country first.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, we have a vote coming on cloture on a matter that has been moving through the Senate, the tax extenders bill. I wish to make clear that I will be voting for cloture. That does not mean I will support the actual legislation when it comes to a vote. That being said, I have serious concerns about the overall cost of the bill, but my vote for cloture signals my belief that we need to keep the process moving and allow the measure to be considered by the full Senate. I promised my constituents I would try to change the tone of politics as usual in Washington. There has been a week of debate. Allowing this bill to receive an up-or-down vote would be a step in the right direction.

However, I am opposed to the bill at this point because it adds more than \$100 billion to our national debt and provides no way to actually pay for it. Our national debt is at a record high, and we cannot continue to burden future generations with a mountain of debt and bills they cannot pay.

I believe in process. I believe we should have an opportunity, after full and fair debate, to move bills forward so the House and others can get a crack at it and hopefully send back a product with which we can all live.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3401, AS MODIFIED, 3417, 3430, AS MODIFIED, 3372, AS MODIFIED, 3442, AS MODIFIED, 3365, AS MODIFIED, 3371, AS MODIFIED, AND 3451 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the following amendments to be considered agreed to en bloc; and in the instance where the amendment is modified, that the amendments, where applicable, be modified with the changes at the desk, and as modified the amendments be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; further, that in the instance where the amendment is not pending, where appropriate, the amendment be recorded by number: Lincoln amendment No. 3401 pending, to be modified; Reid amendment No. 3417, pending; Isakson-Cardin amendment No. 3430, pending and as modified; Merkley amendment No. 3372, to be modified; Warner amendment No. 3442, to be modified; Whitehouse amendment No. 3365, to be modified; Rockefeller amendment No. 3371, to be modified; and a Baucus technical amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would ask that the request be modified to allow Senator ISAKSON to speak for 2½ minutes