

economic development tools and rely on having commercial air service in order to stay connected to our Nation's transportation network. The many Nebraskans who have contacted me about this attempt to cut off EAS funding for their rural airports have expressed great concern about how losing EAS support would be devastating to their communities' ability to attract employers and create jobs. During a time when our country is starting to see glimpses of economic recovery, cutting off EAS support for these airports is not the answer.

As a supporter of the EAS Program and someone who always considers the impact any legislation will have on rural Nebraska, I once again express my opposition to this provision and will work to see that it is not included in any final legislation authorizing our Nation's aviation programs.

PAY PROHIBITION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my concerns regarding S. 388, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress and the President from receiving pay during government shutdowns. While I believe it is important we in Congress lead by example, I am concerned this bill does not go far enough. Every bill that Senate moves this Congress should send a clear message to the American taxpayer that we are serious about our Nation's finances, the economic struggles being faced by our fellow citizens across the country, and the future of this great country.

If we are going to prohibit pay for Members of Congress and the President, we must also include members of the President's Cabinet, for example.

The bill prohibits retroactive pay for Members of Congress and the President who would not be paid during a government shutdown. This prohibition on retroactive pay should also apply to nonessential Federal Government employees who would be furloughed during a government shutdown. It is unfair to force hard-working Americans to pay the salaries of politicians who have failed to do their jobs or government employees who did not have to report to work because they are non-essential.

It is also my opinion that this legislation encourages Members of Congress to raise the debt ceiling. Clearly Congress does not need any more incentive to borrow and spend money or raise the debt ceiling. Since March of 1996 Congress has raised the debt limit 12 times. In 1995, the gross Federal debt was \$4.92 trillion. Today, the national debt exceeds \$14 trillion. We should not be passing legislation incentivizing more borrowing and debt. If anything, this bill should reduce Members' pay if they increase the debt limit, not the other way around.

I am also concerned with the timing and need for this bill. Prior to the Presidents Day recess, the House of Representatives passed a bill funding

the operations of the Federal Government through the remainder of the fiscal year that included over \$60 billion in spending reductions. Unfortunately, the Senate, which has not passed a single appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011, once again failed to act on this bill. And just today, the House passed a 2-week continuing resolution that the Senate will pass. It is about time for the Senate to do its most basic job—ensuring the continued operations of the Federal Government in a fiscally responsible manner.

With government spending at unsustainable levels, it is imperative that every Member of Congress make hard choices regarding Federal spending and cut waste, fraud, abuse, and duplication at every level of government.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SHEPARD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I recognize Michael Shepard for his achievement of being named the National Assistant Principal of the Year for his work at Har-Ber High School in Springdale, AR.

In his fourth year as an assistant principal at Har-Ber, Michael is continuously looking for ways to improve educating students. His efforts as the advanced placement coordinator helped secure funding for lead AP instructors for math, English and science. Since taking on the role of AP coordinator the number of students taking AP courses has more than doubled and minority participation has increased tremendously. Going above and beyond, Michael found funds to expand Har-Ber's technological capabilities, allowing students the use of laptops, wireless Internet access, and projection units.

Michael is committed to educating our youth and continues improving his skills to help meet the needs of Springdale students. He recently earned a licensure endorsement in English as a second language to help meet the needs of the district's 8,000 English language learners.

It is the efforts of educators like Michael Shepard that will enable our future generations to reach their full potential and I am proud of his commitment to education and his efforts to improve the lives of students in Arkansas. National Assistant Principal of the Year is a well-deserved honor and I congratulate Michael on this recognition.●

TRIBUTE TO COLBY QUALLS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Colby Qualls from Monette, AR, for being selected for participation in the annual U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Created in 1962, the U.S. Senate Youth Program was organized to encourage an understanding of our gov-

ernment with an emphasis of how its three branches work and how elected officials work for their constituents and create policies that impact our Nation and the world. The weeklong visit to Washington, DC, allows students to meet and interact with lawmakers, appointed officials and staff who are involved in crafting legislation and making decisions that influence our laws.

This program brings together some of our Nation's top youth leaders, like Colby, who show a commitment to public service. An outstanding student at Buffalo Island Central High School, Colby excels both in and out of the classroom.

He previously served as student council vice president and treasurer, in addition to his activities with the Future Business Leaders of America as vice president and national convention representative. Colby is captain of Quiz Bowl and all-region MVP; he is president of the 4-H Club and a member of the Buffalo Island Youth Council and the Arkansas Teen Leadership Council. In addition, he participates in many community volunteer activities. Colby plans to attend a top university and aspires to hold public office one day.

Colby is very deserving of this honor. I congratulate him for his determination, dedication, and service and encourage his growth as a leader.●

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I recognize Marshall University, which this week celebrates its 50th year as a designated "university." Founded in 1837, Marshall is the oldest public institution of higher education in the State of West Virginia. However, the granting of university status to the school formerly known as Marshall College did not occur until March 2, 1961.

The change from "college" to "university" was far more than a shift in nomenclature. Marshall's greatest champions—including Dr. Stewart H. Smith, president of Marshall from 1946 to 1968; State legislators and the local community—had to overcome entrenched beliefs that West Virginia did not need another large university.

Marshall's supporters made a strong case for the school, which was growing in enrollment as well as offering many academic programs and advanced degrees. The institution earned "university status," which recognized its role as an advanced institution of higher learning in the state, and all of West Virginia has benefited as a result.

Marshall University now educates more than 14,000 students at campus locations in Huntington, Point Pleasant, South Charleston, Beckley, Logan and Gilbert, offering degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels. The school boasts 90,000 proud alumni around the world.

For every dollar the State of West Virginia invests in Marshall University, the school generates more than