

is, in my view, his greatest achievement to date. He has given Congress a roadmap for cuts that really should be no-brainers.

But Congress' record on securing cuts is less than stellar. Ronald Reagan once said that nothing comes closer to eternal life than a government program. Congress' committee structure is set up to authorize and reauthorize new programs. It is set up to appropriate money for those programs.

But there are few institutionalized forums in Congress for spending restraint.

That is why I am introducing today, with my colleague from Colorado, Senator MARK UDALL, a Senate Resolution that will create a Committee to Reduce Government Waste. After last week's GAO report, there is no longer any doubt that the Federal Government is deluged with wasteful, non-performing, and underperforming programs.

This committee would be required, every year, to identify wasteful government programs and recommend legislation to either cut them or reduce them in scope.

Most importantly, the consideration of this legislation would be expedited, subject to Section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act.

There is a precedent for a committee such as this one. In response to the rising costs of World War II, Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia proposed the establishment of a committee to cut wasteful programs instead of raising taxes. In just three years, the committee cut wasteful programs, resulting in more than \$38 billion in today's dollars. Given the growth of government in the intervening 6 decades, I expect that our anti-appropriations committee will have an even easier time identifying wasteful spending and programs today.

This would be a truly bipartisan committee, with 4 members, 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats, from each of the Senate Finance, Budget, and Appropriations Committees.

Ultimately, getting our budget deficits and structural debt under control is going to take meaningful action from both sides of the aisle. This needs to be a bipartisan process, and I could not be more pleased that I am being joined in this effort by my Democratic colleague from Colorado, Senator UDALL.

The American people have spoken loud and clear. Every day families make tough choices to balance their books, and they expect Congress to do the same. Dozens of groups, representing millions of American taxpayers, have come together to ask Congress to support a committee devoted to eliminating government waste.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on enacting this resolution. Senators hear every day from interest groups seeking more money from the Federal Government. They are well organized, well financed, and well versed in the ways of the Senate. The com-

mittee we are proposing will make sure that the citizens who have to foot the bill for all of this government spending will have a venue where their concerns take precedence.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 152. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 143 proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

SA 153. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 154. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 155. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 156. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 157. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 152. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 143 proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; as follows:

On page 2 of the amendment, after line 11, add the following:

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) shall take effect 1 year and 1 day after the date of enactment of the Patent Reform Act of 2011.”.

SA 153. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. _____ PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EPSCOR ELIGIBLE JURISDICTIONS.

Chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 123, the following:

“**SEC. 124. EPSCOR.**

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, for purposes of section 123, a micro entity shall include an applicant who certifies that—

“(1) the applicant's employer, from which the applicant obtains the majority of the applicant's income, is a State public institu-

tion of higher education, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), in a jurisdiction that is eligible to qualify under the Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program administered by the Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); or

“(2) the applicant has assigned, granted, conveyed, or is under an obligation by contract or law to assign, grant, or convey, a license or other ownership interest in the particular application to such State public institution, which is in a jurisdiction that is eligible to qualify under the Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program administered by the Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).”.

SA 154. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

(e) EXCLUSION.—This section does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data related to such filing.

SA 155. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, beginning with “shall not” strike all through line 7, and insert “does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data”.

SA 156. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, strike lines 3 through 8 and insert the following:

(e) EXCLUSION.—This section does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data related to such filing.

SA 157. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: