

Act, as I see it, is one of the last chances of a market-based system.

It could actually lead to a market, whether it was Medicare and Medicare Advantage as parts of Medicare or the commercial sector, that we would actually be able to understand what we are buying and what we are paying for.

That is the kind of commonsense transformation we need. You remember, Dr. Kaplan said: We have demonstrated the path to higher quality, safer care is the same path to lower costs.

Gary Paulsen, Intermountain, and other organizations have shown that improving quality is compatible with lowering costs. Indeed, high-quality care is generally less expensive than substandard care, and the primary challenge for us and the main reason more organizations do not adopt the high-value model discussed in the hearing that we held is the underlying fee-for-service payment system which predominates, of course, in the United States. We pay doctors for doing more, not for doing better. We pay doctors for doing more things to you rather than getting you well.

Because we do that, we have the results we have. When you look at that mess, you can say, OK, we are going to leave all that alone. We are not going to follow the path that Intermountain, that Gundersen, Lutheran, that Virginia Mason has proven, that Kaiser has argued for and proven, that so many systems around the country are doing, you can say, we are going to forget all that. We are going to leave it in place. We are going to leave it a mess, and we are just going to cut benefits away from seniors, from our elderly, from the people who need care the most, from the people who paid into the system, from the people who do not have a chance to recover, very often from people who are not in a position to direct their own care and make effective choices if they are the very elderly on Medicare or worse, the Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibles.

We are going to go after those people. We are going to cut their benefits, and we are not going to take the trouble to follow the path the professionals who are doing this are already showing is a path that leads to saving, is a path that leads to a better health care system, is a path that leads us out of the difficult position of being the only country in the world that spends 18 percent of our GDP on health care, of being the most inefficient country in the world in health care by a 50-percent margin. The next closest country in terms of inefficiency in health care is about 12 percent of GDP. We are at 18. Why is it necessary that America has to be the most inefficient health care provider in the world of all the countries we compete with by a factor of nearly 50 percent? That is half again worse than the most inefficient competitor we face. It makes no sense to be in that position.

There is enormous room for improvement. The path to that improvement is

clear. It is already being walked by serious and responsible institutions that have set this as their corporate goal. That is where we should go. I will close again by repeating George Halvorson's exhortation. He is one of the great health care leaders in this country. He is a savvy corporate manager. He runs an enormous health care corporation. This is not an idle opinion of his.

There are people right now who want to cut benefits and ration care and have that be the avenue to cost reduction in this country and that's wrong. It's so wrong, it's almost criminal. It's an inept way of thinking about health care.

Those are CEO George Halvorson's words, not mine.

I hope that they ring through this body and we don't make the mistaken decision to go after Medicare benefits and instead take the positive path of reform and improvement.

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

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

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

CARE & COMFORT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, November marks National Family Caregiver Month, a chance to thank those who provide care for our loved ones in their time of need. According to the most recent census data, my home State of Maine has the oldest population in the United States, and therefore I am acutely aware of the tremendous role wonderful, compassionate individuals play as caregivers. Today I rise to commend and recognize Care & Comfort, a small business that successfully helps to fill the need for high-quality health care professionals in Maine.

Care & Comfort, headquartered in the central Maine city of Waterville, specializes in care for elderly and special needs individuals. Within their home health division, Care & Comfort provides nursing services, caring companions, in-home care, and long-term care. Throughout various other divisions, the company offers outpatient therapy, behavioral health and community support services, children's case management service, home and community support services for children, adult community support, and home modifications. As a company which strives "to provide the best possible care to clients and families across Maine," Care & Comfort not only helps its clients through its high quality customer service, it also serves as a community resource on health care for the entire Maine community.

In 1991, Susan Giguere started Care & Comfort with just two employees after

realizing the lack of home health solutions in Maine following her mother's illness. In order to expand her business, Susan applied for and received guaranteed loans from the Small Business Administration, SBA. The first loan Susan obtained was for \$100,000 in 1996, and the second for just over \$330,000 in 2000. These loans allowed her company to grow from two employees to 475 staff members. As a result, this August Care & Comfort was named to the SBA 100 list, which features 100 small businesses that have created at least 100 jobs since receiving SBA assistance. This honor is richly deserved, as the company has vividly demonstrated the tenacity and strength found in so many of our Nation's small businesses in these challenging economic times.

Care & Comfort now helps 890 home health and 748 mental health clients out of five regional offices located across the State. Furthermore, this small business goes above and beyond the call of duty to routinely give back to the community through volunteer efforts and charitable donations. Their hard work, along with exceptional staff, has led to several accolades for the company including awards from the SBA, two Fleet Bank Awards for Community Service, and an award from Kennebec Valley Community College.

Care & Comfort has assisted many families through difficult times. Therefore, it is only fitting that we celebrate this firm's successes, as they have simultaneously helped support our loved ones and created numerous jobs throughout Maine. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Susan Giguere and everyone at Care & Comfort for their tremendous efforts and offer my best wishes for continued success.

REMEMBERING EMORY FOLMAR

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Emory McCord Folmar, who passed away on Friday, November 11, 2011. Emory lived a life dedicated to service to his country, holding many military and civic leadership roles, and was a true inspiration to many. I am glad to have known such a remarkable individual and fellow public servant.

Emory Folmar was born on June 3, 1930, in Troy, AL. He graduated from the University of Alabama with his B.S. in business and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Emory's career in the military began at the University of Alabama as well. During his college years he served as a cadet colonel of the Army ROTC. Upon graduating, Emory attended parachute training and instructors' schools and was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division of the 2nd Infantry Division of the Army. During his years of service in the military, Emory received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart during his service in the Korean war. He was a brave defender of

the United States of America and continued his dedication to the military throughout his career as a public servant.

In 1954, Emory moved to Montgomery, AL, where he began a successful construction business with his brother, James Folmar and Henry Flynn. His political career began in 1975 as president of the City Council District 8, and then he served as mayor of Montgomery from 1977 to 1999. As mayor, Emory made great strides in developing the downtown area and improving Montgomery's infrastructure. Staying true to his military roots, Emory worked hard for the wellbeing of Maxwell and Gunter Air Force Bases, which are vital to our national security and to Alabama's economy.

Additionally, Emory worked on the Presidential campaigns of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and ran for Governor of the State of Alabama in 1982. He has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, who have referred to him as the "grandfather of the State's modern Republican Party."

Emory is loved and will be missed by his wife, Anita Pierce Folmar, two children, Wilson Bibb Folmar III and Margaret Folmar Dauber, and many more family members and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn the death of a wonderful husband, father, friend, community leader. He was a role model to many, and the citizens of Alabama and of Montgomery are very fortunate to have benefited from his commitment to public service as mayor for 22 years.

FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATION PROVIDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND THE BUDGETARY AGGREGATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I previously filed committee allocations and budgetary aggregates pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Today, I am further adjusting some of those levels, specifically the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2012 and the budgetary aggregates for fiscal year 2012.

Section 101 of the Budget Control Act allows for various adjustments to the statutory limits on discretionary spending, while section 106(d) allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will be considering the conference report to H.R. 2112, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012. That conference report includes funding designated for disaster relief. In total, the amount of such designations is lower than amounts passed by the Senate earlier this month. Consequently, I am lowering adjustments made previously to the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and to the aggregates by a total of \$847 million in budget authority and \$79 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the changes to

the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES
(Pursuant to section 106(b)(1)(C) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	2011-	2012
\$s in millions-		
Current Spending Aggregates:—		
Budget Authority—	3,070,885-	2,984,245
Outlays—	3,161,974-	3,047,268
Adjustments:—		
Budget Authority—	0-	-847
Outlays—	0-	-79
Revised Spending Aggregates:—		
Budget Authority—	3,070,885-	2,983,398
Outlays—	3,161,974-	3,047,189

FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(Pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	Current allocation/ limit	Adjustment-	Revised allocation/ limit
\$s in millions-			
Fiscal Year 2011:—			
General Purpose Discretionary Budget Authority—	1,211,141-	0-	1,211,141
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays—	1,391,055-	0-	1,391,055
Fiscal Year 2012:			
Security Discretionary Budget Authority—	814,744-	0-	814,744
Nonsecurity Discretionary Budget Authority—	364,281-	-847-	363,434
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays—	1,328,004-	-79-	1,327,925

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(Pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011)

	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency-	Overseas contingency operations	Total
\$s in billions-					
H.R. 2112, the Consolidated Appropriations and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Conference Report):—					
Budget Authority—	0.00-	-0.847-	0.00-	0.00-	-0.847
Outlays—	0.00-	-0.079-	0.00-	0.00-	-0.079
Memorandum 1: Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category:—					
Security Budget Authority—	0.00-	0.00-	0.00-	0.00-	0.00
Nonsecurity Budget Authority—	0.00-	-0.847-	0.00-	0.00-	-0.847
General Purpose Outlays—	0.00-	-0.079-	0.00-	0.00-	-0.079
Memorandum 2: Cumulative Adjustments (Includes Previously Filed Adjustments):—					
Budget Authority—	0.893-	7.741-	0.00-	126.544-	135.178
Outlays—	0.774-	1.590-	-0.007-	63.568-	65.925

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2838. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2838. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3949. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Fresh Peaches Grown in California; Termination of Marketing Order 917" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0018; FV11-916/917-4 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3950. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order" (Docket No. AMS-FV-

10-0008-FR-1A) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3951. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order, Referendum Procedures" (Docket No. AMS-FV-10-0008-FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3952. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports; Corrections" (Docket No. AMS-CN-11-0026C; CN-11-002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.