

Here is a point I want to make that I haven't heard anybody talking about. What the Democratic proposal has in it is an acknowledgement that the U.S. Government is going to make less money doing that because there is no back end to make this up. Because the U.S. Government is going to lose money—it is not going to make as much money by doing that—this plan has something in it to pay for it, to offset the cost to the budget. We have proposed closing a tax loophole, raising about \$4 billion in new revenues so we don't make that \$4 billion in revenues off our kids immediately.

In other words, if we are going to reduce the profits we are trying to make from our kids, there has to be a way to pay for it. The plan proposed by the Democrats is short term. It is a 1-year fix, and it has a proposal to pay for it because it actually proposes reducing the profits the U.S. Government makes.

Take a look at the Republican plan. There is no pay in the Republican plan because it proposes to continue to make that \$184 billion over the next 10 years.

So that is what this is about. We know what we need in the long term is to solve two big problems: The first is the \$1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt. We have to find a better way to deal with it, a way that is not continuing to produce profits for the U.S. government. The second is the rising cost of college. We have to address that, and it is going to be a hard problem to tackle. We can't solve it in a matter of a few days. It takes time to do it.

So the Democrats propose: Don't raise interest rates on anyone. Don't double my rate. Keep them where they are, and let's buy a year with a short-term patch in order to address the systemic problems we need to address—the outstanding student loan debt and the rising cost of college for all of our students.

This is our chance to help our students. This is a small downpayment. It is a small help for some of our students and a real commitment that we are going to make a difference in the future. It is not a proposal that says we are going to try to fool them, that we are going to reduce prices just for a little while and then sock somebody else on the back end. That is not what this should be about. That is not what the U.S. Government should be doing. It is our responsibility, it is our opportunity to invest in our students.

The Democrats propose we get started on that and we get started on it tomorrow. I support the Keep Student Loans Affordable Act, and I commend Senator REED and Senator HAGAN for their work. I hope tomorrow this body will come together and pass it for our students and for our country.

Mr. President, 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### CONGRATULATING JOHN BREITTFELDER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate John Breitfelder of New Canaan, who was selected to represent Connecticut in this year's Healthy Lunchtime Challenge contest hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Today, John joins 54 students, ages 8 to 12, at the White House for a Kids' State Dinner. These winners hailing from all 50 States, 3 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia will share a healthy lunch featuring their winning recipes. John's creation, a quinoa "risotto" with shrimp and kale was selected from over 1,300 recipes evaluated by a panel of judges, which included representatives from the First Lady's Let's Move!, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Education, DC Central Kitchen, and two student graduates of the Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters Program. The contest "invited a parent or guardian to work with their child ages 8-12 to create a lunchtime recipe that is healthy, affordable, original, and delicious." The winning recipes adhere to the USDA's MyPlate guidelines, featuring each of the food groups.

I applaud John for taking the initiative to enter this contest to explore how healthy foods can also be delicious, and the support of his family. This innovative competition not only combats childhood obesity, but also raises awareness of the importance of cooking for overall health as well as success in the classroom. Children are taught personal responsibility, encouraged to express their creativity, and are inspired to continue to make responsible choices and bring consciousness to each meal. I also thank the First Lady for hosting a Kids' State Dinner to celebrate the importance of parents and guardians spending time together in the kitchen and then sitting around a table and sharing food with each other. This month, Epicurious will offer a cookbook featuring these winning recipes free of charge. I invite my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing John and his fellow junior chefs for inspiring countless students across the country to try

their own recipes and share the gift of healthy eating with their families and communities.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, Delaware's law enforcement officers do their jobs day in and day out with exceptional courage and dedication.

When the worst happens in our community, our emergency responders rush toward danger while everyone else is rushing away.

It is my honor to congratulate four outstanding law enforcement officers on receiving the Lieutenant Joseph L. Szczerba Service Award, presented to Delawareans who go above and beyond the call of duty.

It is hard to think of more deserving public servants than these four heroes: Officer Justin Wilkers of the Wilmington Police Department and Officers Steven Rinehart, Michael Manley, and Arlene Redmond of the Capitol Police.

Each of their stories is heroic.

On February 3 of this year, Officer Wilkers and his partner pulled over an SUV for a motor vehicle violation. In what should have been a routine traffic stop, the suspect instead raised a gun and fired at Officer Wilkers, hitting him in the face.

Officer Wilkers was treated at Christiana Hospital for his injuries, and when he was released a week later, Delaware police officers lined up outside the hospital in applause.

With typical modesty, he said, "I don't understand what the big deal is."

The truth is, this kind of service and sacrifice is a big deal. Just 3 days after Officer Wilkers was injured in the line of duty, we saw once again how our law enforcement officers give us their best in the very worst of situations.

February 12 began like any other day at the New Castle County Courthouse, but that morning, a suspect in the lobby began shooting. Capitol police officers jumped into action and were immediately targeted by the shooter.

Officers Steven Rinehart and Michael Manley were hit in the chest. Thankfully they were wearing bullet-resistant vests that saved their lives. Along with Officer Arlene Redmond, they showed courage when it counted the most.

I will keep working to ensure Delaware's law enforcement officers have all of the tools they need to do their jobs and stay safe, including the kind of bullet-resistant vests that saved the lives of Officers Rinehart and Manley in the Wilmington courthouse that day.

These brave men and women put their lives at risk every time they put on a uniform to protect Delawareans. Almost 2 years ago, my friend, Lieutenant Joe Szczerba, was taken from us