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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *112th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LEWIS of California).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JERRY LEWIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 17, 2011, at 10:50 a.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress he has extended the national emergency with respect to highly enriched uranium in the territory of the Russian Federation.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies (U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2011.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force

these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 17, 2011*.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2067. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Plants for Planting; Establishing a Category of Plants for Planting Not Authorized for Importation Pending Pest Risk Analysis [Docket No.: APHIS-2006-0011] (RIN: 0579-AC03) received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2068. A letter from the Chief Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Civil Rights Protections for SNAP Households (RIN: 0584-AD89) received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2069. A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Loan Policies and Operations; Lending and Leasing Limits and Risk Management (RIN: 3052-AC60) received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2070. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8179] received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2071. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2072. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Program Integrity: Gainful Employment—Debt Measures [Docket ID: ED-2010-OPE-0012] (RIN: 1840-AD06) received June 15, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2073. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Requirements for Bicycles (RIN: 3041-AC95) received May 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2074. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Certain Consumer Appliances: Test Procedures for Battery Chargers and External Power Supplies [Docket No.: EERE-2009-BT-TP-0019] (RIN: 1904-AC03) received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2075. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Payment Adjustment for Provider-Preventable Conditions Including Health Care-Acquired Conditions [CMS-2400-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ34) received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2076. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Motorcycle Helmets [Docket No.: NHTSA-2011-0050] (RIN: 2127-AK15) received May 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2077. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Ex Parte Rules and Other Procedural Rules [GC Docket No.: 10-43] received May 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2078. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band; Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules [WT Docket No.: 06-150] [PS Docket No.: 06-229] [WP Docket No.: 07-100] received May 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2079. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief, Commission's final rule —, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reexamination of Roaming Obligations of Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers and Other Providers of Mobile Data Services [WT Docket No.: 05-265] received May 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2080. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Lybia (RIN: 1400-AC83) received May 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2081. A letter from the Associate Director for PP&I, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Taliban (Afghanistan) Sanctions Regulations received May 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2082. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulations; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-52; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket: FAR 2011-0077, Sequence 4] received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2083. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Sustainable Acquisition [FAC 2005-52; FAR Case 2010-001; Item I; Docket 2010-0001, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL-96) received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2084. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Buy American Exemption for Commercial Information Technology-Construction Material [FAC 2005-52; FAR Case 2009-039; Item IV; Docket 2010-0104, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL62) received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2085. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations [FAC 2005-52; FAR Case 2008-009; Item III; Docket 2009-0020, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL28) received June 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BARTLETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MORAN) introduced a bill (H.R. 2242) to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act regarding penalties for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 2242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 96: Mr. MCKEON and Mr. CANSECO.

H.R. 139: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 501: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 687: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 733: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 923: Mr. CONYERS and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1352: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1700: Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 1856: Mr. LANKFORD and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2044: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 2045: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 2092: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 2108: Mr. NUGENT.

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Vol. 157 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011 *No. 88*

Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, June 16, 2011)

The Senate met at 2 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God of time and eternity, You made us. Bring our wandering hearts under Your control. Infuse within our lawmakers a love for You that will make their obedience willing and glad. Lord, enable them to turn from every thought, word, and deed that violates righteousness. Help them to manifest ethical fitness in their private and public lives, making integrity the hallmark of their characters. Let right living begin with them as they resolve to labor for peace and justice and to be good stewards of Your gifts.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be no rollcall votes today. The next rollcall vote will be at about noon tomorrow on confirmation of the Simon nomination.

Further, following the weekly caucus meetings on Tuesday, Senators should expect up to three additional rollcall votes on confirmation on the Panetta nomination, cloture on the Economic Development Act, and if cloture is not invoked, cloture on the motion to proceed to the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act.

AMENDMENTS TO EDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this Congress convened in January with a single mandate from the American people: create jobs. So Democrats have brought to the Senate floor bill after bill aimed at helping American businesses innovate, grow, and hire. These were good pieces of legislation with proven track records of creating jobs.

Take the latest, the Economic Development Administration reauthorization. Since 1965 the EDA has created jobs in economically distressed communities all over America, creating good jobs in places that need them, such as Nevada, California, Florida, and many others. This should be a goal on which we can all agree.

In the last 5 years, the Economic Development Administration has created 314,000 jobs and has done it efficiently too. For every dollar the Federal Government invests, private industry invests $7.

For 45 years the EDA has worked with businesses and universities at the local level to create jobs from the ground up. Even when Republicans controlled the White House, even when they controlled Congress, even when they controlled both, EDA was there helping businesses grow.

Today, our economy needs jobs more than ever. Yet Republicans have found new ways to kill a piece of legislation that would put Americans back to work. They have stood on the Senate floor and talked with straight faces about job creation and then turned around and bogged down good job-creating legislation with amendments that would kill even the most bipartisan bill. Meanwhile, unemployed Americans wait and wait.

They wait while Republicans filibuster, not with words but with amendments. A bill that has created 314,000 jobs in the last 5 years, they filibustered. One would think these must be important amendments if Republicans are willing to make Americans who are standing in the employment line wait longer and longer. But you be the judge.

Our Republican friends are holding up a proven job creator to exempt the sand dune lizard from the Endangered Species Act. Lest the lizard be singled out, there is an amendment to exempt the lesser prairie chicken.

This sends the message that such frivolous amendments, more than 90 of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

them, are more important than putting people back to work.

Here are some of the amendments they have filed: EPA water quality standards, lightbulbs, right-to-work laws, the estate tax, repeal of Wall Street reform, the United States-Mexico border fence. Yet, again, a handful of these amendments would delay or repeal health care reform. None of them are germane to the legislation before us.

My staff looked through all of these, and they found one arguably is germane, and that one is an amendment offered by Senator INHOFE which the chairman of the committee, BARBARA BOXER, agrees to. Again, they have amendments that would delay or repeal health care reform. It is a battle Republicans seem determined to fight over and over, no matter how many times they lose.

We have already voted on bank card swipe fees and ethanol subsidies, and we voted on the regulatory reform amendment offered once again by the senior Senator from Maine. Yet we could not reach agreement to consider this worthy bill.

This is not the first time Republicans have stopped the important work of job creation in its tracks. The small business innovation research bill died on the Senate floor because of amendments, none of which related to that bill. The Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization and patent reform bills, which would have put about a half million people to work, languish in the House. They are over there now someplace. Yet, still, unemployed Americans wait on this bill we are going to vote cloture on tomorrow—or try to.

The amendments are really hard to comprehend: the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, to do away with that; they repeal Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform, the Commission to Approve Oversight and Eliminate Wasteful Spending, debt instrument transparency, amend the NLRA with respect to States that have the right-to-work laws, national right to work, gainful employment regulation, termination of global climate change, permanently repeal the estate tax, substitute the Economic Development Administration, prohibit award and designation of funds to any area or entity named for a living Member of Congress, repeal position on withholding of certain payments made to vendors by government entities, extension of certain Outer Continental Shelf leases, removal of insurance moratorium for industrial banks, limit antitrust exemption, repeal Davis-Bacon wage requirements, prohibit printing of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, increase statutory limit of the public debt, enable States to opt out of health care reform.

Another one is, Stability Oversight and Council authority, inclusion of application to independent regulatory agencies, amend Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, border fence completion, major rules of the legislative branch shall have no force for approval as enacted into law, delay implementation of health care reform until final resolution in pending lawsuits, securities laws amendments, rescind $45 billion of unobligated discretionary appropriations, rescission of unobligated discretionary appropriation, reduce amounts authorized to be appropriated, prescribe fires in Flint Hills region, EPA water quality standard, repeal Bright Fields Demonstration Program, terminate global climate change mitigation.

Mr. President, these are amendments that go page after page. I have only mentioned a few of them. They have more than 90 of them. If there ever were an example of such a tremendous waste of the Senate's time and the indication that the Republicans don't care anything about the American people working—I guess their goal is to make things as bad as they can and, hopefully, the American people won't see through it, and maybe they will get somebody elected to replace President Obama. What other reason could there be?

People are desperate for jobs. The unemployed wait and wait. It would be different if they came here and offered amendments that had some relevance or germaneness to this legislation. But they don't.

Tomorrow, Republicans will get another chance to help us move forward on a bill that has a proven track record of putting people to work, for the amount of $1.2 billion, and the last 5 years we have created 314,000 jobs. Why? Because it is good for the private sector. For every dollar we invest, they invest $7. In the meantime, though, I urge my Republican colleagues to consider the cost of these delaying tactics.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY COAL MINERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words to acknowledge the three coal miners who are trapped in a coal mine near Middlesboro, KY. They were trapped there as a result of terrible storms and flooding in the southeastern part of my State. A number of different communities have been affected by the flooding, and a lot of people are working hard to help folks recover from power outages and mudslides. From what I understand, rescue efforts for the three miners are now underway, and the people on the ground are hopeful they will be able to rescue all three men, but we want them and their families to know we are all thinking of them as the rescue efforts continue.

This is a vitally important industry in the region, and in moments such as this it is appropriate that we acknowledge the danger people who work in the coal mines subject themselves to every single day. They are a courageous and dedicated group, and we are very grateful for their work.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL SIMON

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Michael Simon to serve as U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Oregon. Michael Simon is a good and decent man. In my home State where we have a judicial emergency by the standards of Chief Justice Roberts, it is vitally important that Michael Simon be confirmed. To begin, I wish to thank Chairman LEAHY; ranking minority member GRASSLEY; the majority leader, Senator REID, and minority leader MCCONNELL for bringing this nomination to the floor today.

Senator MERKLEY and I have been proud to put forward Mr. Simon's name for consideration by the President. We were enthused by his subsequent nomination, and we are now hopeful he will soon be able to continue his service to the people of Oregon in this new capacity.

Michael Simon is both a distinguished lawyer and a legal scholar with a diverse and impressive legal career. That career includes work as a public servant, as a litigator, a pro tempore judge, and as a professor. Michael Simon now is a partner at the firm of Perkins Coie in Portland, and he has worked there since 1986. After graduating summa cum laude from UCLA, Mr. Simon attended Harvard Law School where he again graduated with honors cum laude.

He began his legal career in the Department of Justice antitrust division where he served as a trial attorney for 5 years. During his time working in Washington, DC, Mr. Simon also volunteered for and served as special U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. It was through his work at the antitrust division that Mr. Simon made one of his most notable contributions, and that was a contribution to strengthening consumer protection law. The distinguished President pro tempore of the Senate knows from his days in Connecticut as attorney general how important it is that there be public advocates for consumer rights because so often this is a field that gets short shrift. People say they are for the rights of consumers, but these cases can be hard and time consuming to bring. That is what Michael Simon did and did so well.

Working on behalf of the Department of Justice on the case of United States v. American Airlines, Mr. Simon successfully argued for extending the reach of the Sherman Act to include monopolization and attempted monopolization. In my view, this extension is one that benefits consumers each and every day across this country. Frankly, to have someone on the bench who has this kind of expertise in fighting monopolies and protecting the rights of consumers is a very special qualification that I would simply commend to the Senate as we consider the nomination of Michael Simon.

Throughout his work both in the public sector and in private practice, Mr. Simon has been an active member of our community. In fact, I have had many conversations with him in his capacity as the immediate past president of Congregation Beth Israel in my hometown where he constantly is the leader of the congregation, reaching out to conscript volunteers for a host of projects, particularly those that involve children. He has engaged in extensive pro bono work. He has volunteered for many local nonprofit organizations. I would call him the official champion of voluntarism, because when we look at some of the causes he has volunteered for—he has been a past board member of the Waverly Children's Home; he has been past president and current board member of the Classroom Law Project—we see that he consistently comes back to recognizing the importance of the well-being and security of children in our community. That, too, is a special area of expertise and advocacy that he will bring to the bench, confirmed by the Senate, and another area that I wish to commend Mr. Simon to the Senate for as we look at his candidacy this week.

This seat has been vacant for nearly 2 years. As the distinguished President pro tempore of the Senate knows, there is a process by which one actually determines a judicial emergency. It has essentially been defined by Chief Justice Roberts, and we clearly have such an emergency in my home State of Oregon. So it is very welcome news for Oregonians that we have this opportunity to have a full bench, to have all justices on deck, and it is my view that Mr. Simon is an outstanding nominee. I have absolutely no reservations that he will be a superior judge.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting an exceptional individual—a person who is fair and thoughtful and who brings years and years of expertise and a host of very important legal assignments. I am especially grateful that he is a resident of my hometown where he has distinguished himself with extraordinary volunteering for a whole host of causes that are important, especially the future of our children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I see the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee here, so let me yield the floor at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MONTANA FLOOD HEROES

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Christopher Reeve once said that ''A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.''

Today I wish to call attention to five Montana heroes—everyday folks making a superheroic effort to help their friends and neighbors. I enjoy sharing these stories. I am proud of these stories because they tell the story about what it is to be a Montanan.

For all the flooding that is going on in my State of Montana and in other States of the Nation, I am happy to mention the names of many Montana heroes who have been rising above and beyond the call of duty and are following Christopher Reeve's definition of what it means to be a hero.

We in Montana pride ourselves in helping our fellow neighbors. I know that is true in States all across our country. I don't want to say it is just in the State of Montana, but I can say that in our State it is special. We in Montana sometimes say we are one big small town. It is a big State, not a lot of people. We tend to know each other. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and community which I think is even stronger in my State than perhaps in some others.

My home State continues to face severe flooding. The Jefferson River, which is one of the three rivers that form the headwaters of the Missouri River, is over its banks at Three Forks, MT. The Milk River, where Lewis and Clark traveled—up the Missouri and part of the way up the Milk River—continues to flood, and the Missouri River is flooding in Toston. As we know, downstream the Missouri flooding has been very significant. Rain is also in the forecast for the rest of the week. We have record snowpack levels in our State. We have a lot of flooding, and there is going to be more.

But Montanans all across our State continue to do all that is necessary and beyond to help. As we can see, this is the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation that is underwater for the second time in a year. This is the problem. The floods come and then they recede; the rains come and melt the snowpacks, so it is flooding again. This is the Rocky Boy's Reservation, one of the seven major Indian reservations in the State of Montana.

This is Bruce Sun Child, interim chairman of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. I have known Bruce for many years. He has been working around the clock to help his tribe through this emergency. For those who lost their homes, he helped them find a place to sleep. For the sick, he found a way to get them to the hospital. He is one of those guys who cares.

Dave Dickman owns a business in Great Falls called Dickman Excavation. After flooding threatened homes in Great Falls—this happens very often, usually in the Sun River which is one of the tributaries of the Missouri River. It flows into the Missouri in Great Falls. Dave Dickman donated thousands of sandbags to Montana families working to protect their homes from rising waters. This is classic. This is typical. When we asked him why he did all this and why he is working so hard, he humbly said, ''I know my neighbors would do the same for me if I needed a helping hand.''

Floyd Fisher is another Montana hero. I have been mentioning many heroes in Montana individually and specifically by name over the last couple of weeks. This is Floyd Fisher. He does it all. Floyd Fisher is the Golden Valley sheriff. He is also the county coroner. Floyd is the county fire chief. He is also the disaster emergency services director. He works as an EMT responding to ambulance calls. Floyd is a busy guy. Floyd cares. He likes to help people. After learning of a pending flash flood in Ryegate, MT, last week, we initiated the county's reverse 911 alert system. He then rushed across town door to door with an evacuation order. Shortly thereafter, 2 feet of water flooded the streets of Ryegate.

After the floods, Floyd Fisher kept at it. He directed traffic away from washed out roads. He picked up a broom to help clean out Super D's Grocery. He provided emergency medical care.

Floyd has been working around the clock, catching 2 or 3 hours of sleep when he can find it. If you want to understand Montana, look no further

than Floyd. His efforts sum it up very well.

Last week, Missoula County set up a flood hotline to help people face the rising floodwaters. Before long, the hotline received dozens of calls from volunteers wanting to help. Missoula's former rural fire chief, Curt Belts, stepped up to help. This is Curt. He has a smile on his face right now. He didn't have a smile on his face when he was helping out with the flood.

Curt worked with the United Way to organize over 60 volunteers daily. He made sure sandbags were placed at key locations around Missoula. He worked very hard—14-hour days—to minimize damage from flooding in Missoula. If we ask any volunteer around Missoula, they will tell you it was Curt who made all the difference, even down to the finest details such as sunscreen and bug spray for volunteers. Runoff is expected to swell again in Missoula. Thanks to Curt, they are much more ready.

In Lewistown, John Bebee's home was safe and dry, but his neighbors near the river were in danger. For the last 3 weeks, John has been sandbagging homes in Lewistown that are most in danger. No one needed to ask him for help. No one went to John and said: John, can you help out? He just knew what was needed. He knew on his own, and he headed out to provide that help.

In the Upper Missouri River Breaks in north central Montana, there are a lot of cottonwood trees. The cottonwood trees need floods to regenerate. Floods along the Missouri clear away rich, bare soil for new cottonwoods to take root. Hydrologists with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Lewistown said this year's floods could help establish a new generation of cottonwoods. The aging stands had been in danger of disappearing altogether.

So like the cottonwood, Montana will return from these floods stronger than ever. That is because of hundreds of unsung heroes stepping up to help. I am asking Montanans to share their stories of ordinary folks doing extraordinary things for their friends and neighbors. Whether on Facebook or by calling my office, we want to hear those inspiring stories.

In closing, I wish to share a humble thank-you. Thank you to all of Montana's heroes. I do not know what we would do without you. Thank you for your service. You are wonderful. You are aces. We all deeply appreciate all you are doing.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, as you know, there is a great deal of discussion going on right now in different forums on whether to increase our debt limit and, as a part of that, how we can reduce this government's spending practices so that we won't have to keep extending the debt ceiling in the future. Those conversations include a lot of focus on reducing spending in the near term and finding ways to reform some of the entitlement programs so that spending will also be reduced over the long term because I think everyone agrees that the current way we spend money—40 cents of every dollar has to be borrowed—is literally going to result in bankruptcy if we don't bring it under control.

There are those who say: Well, actually, the answer to the problem is to increase revenues—meaning raise taxes. The problem with that is we didn't get into this problem because we didn't tax enough; we got into this problem because we have been spending too much.

The simplest way to think about it is that historically we spend about 20 percent of the gross domestic product. Under the Obama budgets, we are going to be spending—and we almost spend this much now—25 percent of the gross domestic product, and that is a spending increase that is not sustainable.

Even under the largest of deficits, when President Bush was President, it was less than $½ trillion. But under the Obama budget, it is $1.5 trillion almost exactly for every year for the last 3 years and on into the future. The result is that under this President we will have doubled all of the debt this country has accumulated from the time George Washington was President all the way through the time George Bush was President. We will double that under the Obama administration.

The problem is spending; it is not taxes. Evidence of that was presented last Thursday in an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. At the conclusion of my remarks, I am going to ask unanimous consent to have the article printed in the RECORD because I think it makes the point. I will quote from it or at least discuss some of the arguments in this piece right now.

It was put together by a Cato Institute senior fellow Alan Reynolds, who has written on this subject in the past and is a real student of the effect of tax rates on economic growth and on revenues for the country. One of the points he discusses in this op-ed is what happens when you raise tax rates, as some of our friends—particularly on the other side of the aisle—want to do as part of this deficit reduction exercise. Do you necessarily increase revenues if you raise tax rates? What are the impacts on the economy? What happens, on the other hand, if you are able to reduce tax rates?

Now, there is no plan on the table to actually reduce tax rates, but I think the arguments he presents make it clear that lower rates do not necessarily produce less revenue and, in fact, can have a salutary impact on economic growth and therefore job creation, which is, of course, what we are trying to be all about here.

He has studied tax rates for the last six decades, and here is some of the factual information he comes out with. The conclusion is this: Higher tax rates do not necessarily lead to more revenue. In fact, recent history has often shown the opposite. Here are some specific examples.

Back when the highest tax rate in this country was 91 percent—if you can just think about that, a 91-percent tax rate. Why would anyone work to make that last $1 when 91 cents of the $1 you earn goes to Uncle Sam? That was the highest tax rate. The lowest tax rate was 20 percent. Today, the lowest tax rate is zero and the next one is 10 percent and then 15 percent and so on. So this was a much more progressive Tax Code. Individual income tax revenues during that time were 7.7 percent of the gross domestic product.

President Kennedy came along and proposed cutting both the highest and the lowest rates. So they went from 91 down to 70 and from 20 down to 14 percent. What happened to the 7.7-percent revenues? They rose to 8 percent of gross domestic product. So the rates were reduced, but the revenue to the Treasury was increased.

What happened a few years later when that was done, when President Reagan first cut the top rate from 70 percent down to 50 percent? Did revenues fall? No. Revenues to the government increased to 8.3 percent of the gross domestic product.

Third example, 1986, when the top rate was slashed again from 50 percent down to 28 percent, almost in half. You would think revenues would decline. No. They remained almost exactly the same, from 8.3 to 8.1 percent.

So his research clearly demonstrates that the link between lower rates and lower revenues is very weak, if not actually a converse relationship. The relationship between higher taxes and economic difficulty could not be more clear.

Let's talk about what happens when you have increases in the tax rates. In the early 1990s, the top rate was increased to 31 percent—which, by the way, is more comparable to about 35 percent in today's dollars because of hidden taxes—the country fell into a recession and revenues actually dropped to just 7.8 percent of GDP. So you think you are going to raise more revenue and reduce the deficit by raising tax rates? Wrong. We raised taxes, revenues actually dropped, and the country went into a recession.

When the top two tax rates were raised later to 36 and 39.6 percent and taxes on Social Security increased as a part of the Clinton tax hikes, revenues again barely moved to 8 percent—so from 7.8 to 8 percent. The government actually collected more tax revenue when the top rate was just 28 percent.

It is simply not true that you can raise tax rates and therefore get more revenue to the Treasury and therefore reduce the debt and the deficit. It is especially not true if you are only talking about doing that for the very highest tax earners because they don't make enough to produce the kind of revenue that would be required to reduce the deficit that much.

To be sure, there are always fluctuations, and there is not a very specific causal relationship in all cases between rates and revenues collected. For example, during the technology bubble of the 1990s, revenues rose above 9 percent. We were on a roll. People made more money. The government made more money as a result. But, interestingly enough, this was only after capital gains taxes were cut from 28 percent down to 20. There is almost an inverse relationship between the capital gains tax rate and revenues collected. As that rate goes up, less revenue is collected. As the rate comes down, more revenue is collected because it is a tax on economic activity. The lower the tax, the more economic activity you have and therefore the more the Federal Government receives in revenues, even though the rate is lower.

Reynolds found a similar correlation between rates and revenues with capital gains as he identified with ordinary income taxes.

Just a couple of other statistics. When the capital gains rate was 28 percent, revenues were 2.5 percent of the GDP. After the rate was cut down to 20 percent, capital gains revenues rose to 4.6 percent of GDP. So when you cut the tax rate, then the revenues almost doubled.

As I said, capital gains are the most sensitive to rate reductions or rate increases of all our tax rates. Nonetheless, it is an impressive figure to demonstrate that at least you don't want to be raising tax rates even if you are not willing to reduce them.

In summary, after both ordinary income and capital gains tax rates were cut to 35 and 15 percent respectively in 2003, individual income tax revenues were 8.1 percent of GDP, which was higher than the period when the ordinary income tax rate was 39.6 and the capital gains rate was 28 percent. So almost no matter how you look at it, you can see this relationship, and it is almost an inverse relationship.

Again, I am not claiming that all tax cuts pay for themselves or that in all cases this is exactly the way it works out. But to assume we can solve part of our problem by raising tax rates and especially raising them on the people who are most able to move income around to avoid paying taxes or minimize their tax rates and who are the most susceptible to the capital gains rates and who are the people most able to invest in business and therefore help to create jobs—to suggest that increasing their tax rates is a good idea is obviously not true based upon the research Mr. Reynolds has done.

The bottom line, lower tax rates do not necessarily mean less revenue, higher rates do not always mean more revenue, and the facts frequently point to the opposite.

There is obviously more to consider than just how much revenue will be raised. Unfortunately, higher tax rates also have a very pernicious effect on economic growth and job creation, and Reynolds' research in this area is very clear as well. When surtaxes were imposed in our economy back in 1969 and 1970, our economy fell into one of the deepest recessions we have had until the one we are in right now.

During the bracket creep of the 1980 to 1981 period, when inflation forced taxpayers to pay higher rates, until that was fixed later, the economy again fell into a recession, and following the rate increases of 1990, the economy fell into a recession. So it is pretty clear higher taxes are the last thing you need to do or want to do during a time of persistently high unemployment and a struggling economy, as we have today. Yet, as I said, there are some Members of Congress and the administration who have proposed raising tax rates as a way to address the deficit.

I even read that an academic proposed a 70-percent rate. One witness before the Senate Finance Committee, believe it or not, even suggested that a tax rate of 90 percent would maximize revenue.

To show you how counterintuitive that is, let me just ask the question. What two tax rates produce zero revenue? Well, the answer is zero, of course, and 100 percent. If you are going to tax 100 percent of what somebody makes, he is not going to bother to make the money. It doesn't do him any good, and it doesn't do him much good if he only gets to save a dime out of a dollar that he makes if the government takes 90 percent. So it is not true that sticking the rich with a very high tax rate is going to bring in more revenue to the government. Those people don't have to make the money. They can shift it around so they can minimize their tax burden. Eventually, what that does is put an even greater burden on middle-income Americans who aren't that wealthy, who can't move their money around, who have to take it and spend it to support their families, send their kids to school or for health costs or whatever it might be. That is why you cannot solve this problem by raising taxes. You have to focus on the side where all the growth has been, which is increased spending.

At the end of the day, the American people believe wasteful Washington spending has to stop. That is why they are saying to many of us, don't raise the debt ceiling, at least until you have made sure we are not going to have to keep doing this in the future because spending keeps going up. Let's have a downpayment on significant savings now. Let's set the budget numbers for the next 10 years so they actually represent a reduction in spending, not an increase. Let's have entitlement reform that shows that, even after that 10 years, the expenses will continue to, if not fall, at least rise less quickly so our economic growth can manage any increase in costs. Let's do that in such a way that we absolutely put constraints on Congress and the President. We put ourselves in a straitjacket, so to speak, so we can't create exceptions and waivers and get around it in other ways.

Unless we do those things, I don't think most of the people on my side of the aisle are going to have an appetite for increasing the debt ceiling. I know I am not. I am going to look at the historical evidence that people such as Alan Reynolds point out to us, the evidence that clearly shows that higher tax rates do not necessarily translate into higher revenues; in fact, in many of the cases, it is precisely the opposite. It is why, beyond the obvious economic costs, it is foolish to propose higher rates as a solution to our fiscal crisis.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Wall Street Journal op-ed I mentioned.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 16, 2011]

WHY 70% TAX RATES WON'T WORK

(By Alan Reynolds)

The intelligentsia of the Democratic Party is growing increasingly enthusiastic about raising the highest federal income tax rates to 70% or more. Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich took the lead in February, proposing on his blog ''a 70 percent marginal tax rate on the rich.'' After all, he noted, ''between the late 1940s and 1980 America's highest marginal rate averaged above 70 percent. Under Republican President Dwight Eisenhower it was 91 percent. Not until the 1980s did Ronald Reagan slash it to 28 percent.''

That helped set the stage for Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D., Ill.) and nine other House members to introduce the Fairness in Taxation Act in March. That bill would add five tax brackets between 45% and 49% on incomes above $1 million and tax capital gains and dividends at those same high rates. The academic left of the Democratic Party finds this much too timid, and would rather see income tax rates on the ''rich'' at Mr. Reich's suggested levels—or higher.

This new fascination with tax rates of 70% or more is ostensibly intended to raise gobs of new revenue, so federal spending could supposedly remain well above 24% of gross domestic product (GDP) rather than be scaled back toward the 19% average of 1997–2007.

All this nostalgia about the good old days of 70% tax rates makes it sound as though only the highest incomes would face higher tax rates. In reality, there were a dozen tax rates between 48% and 70% during the 1970s. Moreover—and this is what Mr. Reich and his friends always fail to mention—the individual income tax actually brought in less revenue when the highest tax rate was 70% to 91% than it did when the highest tax rate was 28%.

When the highest tax rate ranged from 91% to 92% (1951–63), even the lowest rate was quite high—20% or 22%. As the nearby chart shows, however, those super-high tax rates

at all income levels brought in revenue of only 7.7% of GDP, according to U.S. budget historical data.

President John F. Kennedy's across-the-board tax cuts reduced the lowest and highest tax rates to 14% and 70% respectively after 1964, yet revenues (after excluding the 5%–10% surtaxes of 1969–70) rose to 8% of GDP. President Reagan's across-the-board tax cuts further reduced the lowest and highest tax rates to 11% and 50%, yet revenues rose again to 8.3% of GDP. The 1986 tax reform slashed the top tax rate to 28%, yet revenues dipped trivially to 8.1% of GDP.

What about those increases in top tax rates in 1990 and 1993? The top statutory rate was raised to 31% in 1991, but it was really closer to 35% because exemptions and deductions were phased-out as incomes increased. The economy quickly slipped into recession—as it did during the surtaxes of 1969–70 and the ''bracket creep'' of 1980–81, which pushed many middle-income families into higher tax brackets. Revenues fell to 7.8% of GDP.

The 1993 law added two higher tax brackets and, importantly, raised the taxable portion of Social Security benefits to 85% from 50%. At just 8% of GDP, however, individual income tax receipts were surprisingly low during President Bill Clinton's first term.

The Internet/telecom boom of 1998–2000 was the only time individual income tax revenues remained higher than 9% of GDP for more than one year without the economy slipping into recession (as it did when the tax topped 9% in 1969, 1981 and 2001).

But that was an unrepeatable windfall resulting from the quintupling of Nasdaq stocks—combined with (1) the proliferation of nonqualified stock options that have since been thwarted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and (2) the 1997 cut in the capital gains tax to 20%. Realized capital gains rose to 4.6% of GDP from 1997 to 2002—up from 2.5% of GDP from 1987 to 1996 when the capital gains tax was 28%.

Suppose the Congress let all of the Bush tax cuts expire in 2013, which is the current trajectory. That would bring us back to the tax regime of 1993–96 when the individual income tax brought in no more revenue (8% of GDP) than it did in 2006–08 (8.1% of GDP).

It is true that President Obama proposes raising the capital gains tax to 23.8%, which could raise more revenue than the 28% rate of 1993–96. But a 23.8% tax on capital gains and dividends would nevertheless be high enough to depress stock prices and related tax revenues.

Still, pundits cling to the myth that lower tax rates mean lower revenues. ''You do probably get a modest boost to GDP from tax cuts,'' concedes the Atlantic's Megan McCardle. ''But you also get falling tax revenue. It can't be said too often—and there you are, I've said it again.''

Yet the chart nearby clearly shows that reductions in U.S. marginal tax rates did not cause ''falling tax revenue.'' It is not necessary to argue that tax rate reduction paid for itself by increasing economic growth. Lowering top marginal tax rates in stages from 91% to 28% paid for itself regardless of what happened to GDP.

It is particularly remarkable that individual tax revenues did not fall as a percentage of GDP because changes in tax law, most notably those of 1986 and 2003, greatly expanded refundable tax credits, personal exemptions and standard deductions. As a result, the Joint Committee on Taxation recently reported that 51% of Americans no longer pay federal income tax.

Since the era of 70% tax rates, the U.S. income tax system has become far more ''progressive.'' Congressional Budget Office estimates show that from 1979 to 2007 average income tax rates fell by 110% to minus 0.4% from 4.1% for the second-poorest quintile of taxpayers. Average tax rates fell by 56% for the middle quintile and 39% for the fourth, but only 8% at the top. Despite these massive tax cuts for the bottom 80%, overall federal revenues were the same 18.5% share of GDP in 2007 as they were in 1979 and individual tax revenues were nearly the same—8.7% of GDP in 1979 versus 8.4% in 2007.

In short, reductions in top tax rates under Presidents Kennedy and Reagan, and reductions in capital gains tax rates under Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush, not only ''paid for themselves'' but also provided enough extra revenue to finance negative income taxes for the bottom 40% and record-low income taxes at middle incomes.

Mr. KYL. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was about 10 years ago that I received a call to my office in Chicago from a Korean-American mother who was concerned about her daughter. Her daughter had been brought to the United States at the age of 2, had grown up in the United States, all her brothers and sisters were born here as well, and her daughter had been accepted on a music scholarship. Turns out she was an extraordinarily talented concert pianist. She was graduating from high school and had been accepted at Juilliard School of Music and Manhattan Observatory School of Music, and in filling out the application, there was a question about her daughter's citizenship. Since she brought her daughter here on a visitor's visa at the age of 2 and never filed any papers, she wanted to know her daughter's status.

It turns out her daughter's status was very clear. She was undocumented, and the law was also very clear; that this 18-year-old girl who had lived here for 16 years was told she had to leave America. There was no recourse. She was not even being sent back to Korea because her family transited from Korea to Brazil to the United States. They wanted to ship her to Brazil, a country she was not even aware of with a language she did not speak, Portuguese. In that situation, her mother said: What can we do? I checked with the law, and it turned out there was no place to turn. Her daughter was without a country. That is when I introduced the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act is legislation which says if you came to the United States as a child, if you have been a long-term resident of the United States, you have good moral character, and you graduate from high school, we will give you two chances to become legal in America. You can either enlist in our military or you can finish at least 2 years of college. That was 10 years ago. I am still working to pass that legislation. Over the period of time I have worked on it, I have met hundreds, maybe more, of people like that young girl I just described. They are young people who have that kind of excited look in their eyes, they want to be part of this world. Most of them are college students or college graduates, but they cannot make the first move toward the life they want to live because they are undocumented.

That is why I continue to come to the floor of the Senate each week and tell their stories, urging my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, in the name of justice, to give these kids a chance. We have a pretty basic principle in America. We do not hold kids responsible for the wrongdoing of their parents. We tell kids you are responsible for your own life. Do the right thing. Go to school. Don't get in trouble, study, aspire to greatness. Go to college, and they do. These kids do too. But they have an obstacle most children in America do not have. They have no country.

Senator MENENDEZ of New Jersey, my friend and colleague, had a great statement on the floor, and I have used it many times. I credited the Senator the first time, but I will credit him again because he is here. He tells of these young people getting up every day and putting their hands to their heart and pledging allegiance to the United States of America, going to events where they sing along with the only National Anthem they know, and in the eyes of the law, in the eyes of America, they are not part of us. They are somewhere in the middle.

Is that right? Is it fair? Is it a standard we want to establish in this country when it comes to justice? I don't think so. We need these young people. They are not only bright and energetic, they can become tomorrow's leaders in our military. That is why Secretary Robert Gates, who is retiring this month as Department of Defense Secretary, supports this legislation. That is why so many others have stepped up in both political parties and said this is a smart thing to do, give these young people a chance to prove themselves.

I just had a discussion in my office about H–1B visas. These are visas we offer to foreigners, people who were not born in the United States, to come here and work because we need their talent pool to be part of an expanding American economy. What about the talent pool of these DREAM Act students? As I have told their stories on the floor, these are students who are extraordinary: chemical engineers, mechanical engineers, teachers, aspiring attorneys, but they cannot do any of those things because they have no citizenship status in America.

I wish to share the story of two of them and I know Senator MENENDEZ is

on the floor and this will not take long. The first is Diana Banda. This is her photo. Diana was brought to the United States in 1993 at the age of 3. She grew up in Oregon and dreamed of being a first responder. She volunteered with the American Red Cross at her community emergency response team. During her senior year in high school, Diana was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Thankfully, after a long struggle, she is cancer free. After her recovery, Diana is more determined than ever to pursue her dream. She is enrolled in a firefighting and paramedic program at the community college in Salem, OR. These students qualify for no Federal assistance. When they go to college, they pay for it out of their pockets. They sacrifice more than many students because they are determined to get an education.

Diana sent me a letter. This is what she said about her dreams for the future:

Although I love Mexico because it is the place I was born, I could not pack my things and move back to a place I know nothing about, a place I only know through old baby pictures and family stories.

Diana says:

America is my home. This is the place I love where everyone and everything I know is. I know nothing outside the United States. Whatever punishment I must pay, I am willing to do. All I ask for is a chance. Better yet I beg for a chance to prove that I am not a criminal, that I have much to offer this beautiful place.

Should we deport Diana Banda, a cancer survivor, a future paramedic, back to Mexico, a country she left behind when she was just a toddler? Should we accept her invitation to punish her? For what? For being part of the family who brought her here at the age of 3? It was not her decision; it was her parents' decision. Rightly or wrongly, she is in the United States. When you look at this photo and realize she could be part of our future, we realize what the DREAM Act is all about.

Let me introduce you to another dreamer. This is Monji Dolon. Monji's parents brought him here from Bangladesh in 1991 at the age of 5. As he grew up in his new home, Monji immersed himself in the study of computers and technology.

Monji wrote me a letter and said as follows:

For as long as I can remember, I have had an intense passion for technology. In middle school, that passion led to spending many nights constructing remote-controlled model and Van de Graaff generators. In high school, I fell in love with computers and the Internet, spending my senior year creating an online newspaper for my school.

Monji did not know about his immigration status until he started applying for college. He asked his parents what he should say in terms of his immigration status. That is when Monji learned he was undocumented. In 2008, Monji graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an outstanding school. Again, let me put in the record, these students who graduate from college do it facing sacrifices many students don't. They get no Federal assistance, none. Monji's prospects are limited, even though he graduated from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, an outstanding school, and he is being courted by the technology industry. They want to hire this bright young man. He has even been offered a job as a lead engineer for a startup company in Silicon Valley. Monji's prospects are constricted because of his immigration status. The DREAM Act would give him a chance to pursue his dreams and contribute his talent to the only country he has ever called home.

Here is what he told me:

I've turned down several great job offers from reputable companies because of my status. The DREAM Act would let me take my passion for technology to the next level by allowing me to move to Silicon Valley and pursue my dream as an Internet entrepreneur.

When you look at some of the most amazing technology in America today, you will find that many times it is the product of immigrants who came to this country and created companies that employ thousands of people. I do not know if Monji will be one of those persons. I think he deserves a chance. Would America be better off if we sent him back to Bangladesh, a country he has not been to in 20 years? Of course not.

There is so much discussion about America's economic future in the 21st century. Every year, with all these H–1B visas, we bring in talented people from overseas while at the same time our laws banish these talented people I just talked about back to countries they have never known as they have grown up. We could use people with Monji's talents in America. We can use them in technology, as we can use Diana's talents in the field of medicine.

I first introduced this bill 10 years ago. Since then I have met so many immigrant students who would qualify. As are Diana Banda and Monji Dolon, they are America's heart. They are willing to serve our country, even risk their lives for our country, if we would just give them a chance.

I urge my colleagues in this political town, this partisan town, on this issue: Let's put it aside. Let's support basic justice and fairness. Let's give these kids a chance. I am willing to stake my reputation as a Senator on the fact that America will be a better place when the DREAM Act becomes law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, first of all, I didn't come to the floor for this purpose, but I would be remiss if I didn't thank the distinguished Senator from Illinois, the Democratic whip, for his incredible commitment and passion to this issue. I have seen him just about every session take time out of every day to both dramatize and put a human face on this opportunity to turn some of America's greatest prospects into opportunity and prosperity for this entire country. I am thrilled he has adopted various of my lines, and I am honored by it.

It is true; these young people came to this country through no choice of their own. The only country they have ever known is the United States of America. They put their hands on their hearts and pledge allegiance to the United States, and the only National Anthem they have ever learned to sing or believe in is ''The Star-Spangled Banner.''

We have a tremendous opportunity. I wish to thank the distinguished Senator for his incredible commitment to this issue. I appreciate it very much.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to speak about something that I very passionately believe in, and that is my view in support of a significant and sustained reduction of American combat forces in Afghanistan beginning this July.

In short, I believe the time has come to move from a strategy of counterinsurgency to one of counterterrorism—a strategy that would rely on our specialized military forces to continue to engage those who present a real and continued threat to the national security of the United States and one that would allow us to bring home a majority of troops serving in Afghanistan.

After September 11, almost a decade ago, we were clearly justified in intervening in Afghanistan to defeat al-Qaida and bring bin Laden to justice for the atrocities they committed against Americans on our own soil. I supported President Bush at that time in that effort. I have a standard that if I am willing to send my son and daughter to fight for America on behalf of the Nation's national security interests, I will vote to send anyone else's sons and daughters. Not so in Iraq where I did not believe it was in the national security interests of the United States; and if I won't send my son and daughter, I won't vote to send anyone else's sons or daughters. But in Afghanistan nearly a decade ago, that is where the perpetrators of September 11 were, and it was the right engagement. Our original goals have largely been met in that respect.

Today, even according to the Director of the CIA, fewer than 100 members of al-Qaida remain in Afghanistan. Since September 11, we are painfully aware that the world is a different place, and we will always have to be vigilant. But the current threat simply does not justify the presence of 100,000 American troops on the ground. Bin Laden is dead, having hidden for years in Pakistan in plain view of the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence force, and the Pakistani military.

Clearly, the issue at hand is about terrorism not insurgency. Terrorism is a borderless issue represented by the

unimpeded movement of the Taliban into Pakistan and a safe haven in Abbottabad for al-Qaida's leader. In finding bin Laden and bringing him to justice, we have struck a serious blow to al-Qaida's network that permits us to now reconsider our mission and the wisdom of pursuing a broad and open-ended strategy of nation building in Afghanistan because, make no mistake about it, what we are doing in Afghanistan is nation building.

This is interesting. I have heard speeches on the Senate floor and in my previous service in the House by many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about how we should not be nation building, as though that is not a vital national interest. Well, that is exactly what we are doing. The costs of our current strategy are too high in lives lost, in futures unraveled by injury, and in taxpayer dollars spent.

Mr. President, 1,500 brave men and women have lost their lives in Afghanistan. Almost 12,000 have been wounded in action, at a cost—a continuing cost—of $10 billion a month—a month. Nonmilitary contributions to Afghan reconstruction and development from 2002 to 2010 have reached $19 billion—a number which is expected to surge as we transition to a civilian mission. But at the same time, reports from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on which I sit, and from the bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan place our billions of dollars in investment at risk of falling into disrepair because of inadequate planning to pay for the ongoing operations and maintenance; not to mention that from my own perspective, $19 billion later, I don't know what we have achieved in Afghanistan.

In my mind not only are the costs and lives and treasure far too high, but there is a growing consensus that absent a very long and sustained commitment involving many troops on the ground, we can't win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people or, for that matter, even President Karzai who, in my view, has not proven to be a good partner. Karzai most recently suggested that the U.S. and NATO forces risk becoming an occupying force that would be, in his words, ousted from the country—all of these lives later of American troops lost. To do what? To have a counterinsurgency effort. Which is what? Fighting insurgents to give the Afghan Government the opportunity to sustain itself, to defend itself, to govern itself, and we are an occupying force? We are an occupying force?

We have to ask, even if we are willing to make the enormous economic commitment required to build a democracy and to fund the necessary security elements at the cost of tens of billions of dollars per year, what is the likelihood of our success?

The Afghan Government is corrupt. Our working relationship with President Karzai continues to be challenged. Today I believe he made some other comments—either today or yesterday—again, that malign the very Nation that is there defending them with the sons and daughters of America, with the National Treasury of America—in a country that, by the way, has $1 trillion of precious deposits of various minerals that, if properly pursued, would be able to fund the Afghan Nation for years to come.

When they gave out their first contract, who did they give it to? Not the Nation that has defended them but the Chinese who have done nothing to stand up for the Afghan people.

So I look at a government that is corrupt, our working relationship with Karzai crumbling, our focus on building security forces challenged because its membership largely excludes Pashtuns in the south, which is the base for the Taliban. I am not certain there is any amount of money or a plan that can work under those circumstances. It seems to me for every Taliban fighter we kill, buy off, or convert another one will take his place, and more and more will stand up to fight an enemy that is perceived as infidels. I am not certain a counterinsurgency strategy is anything but counterproductive.

It is clear to me the present course is unsustainable, creates dependency, breeds corruption, and ignores the fact that at some point Afghanistan will have to stand on its own—on its trillions of dollars in mineral deposits—and build its own future. We are spending $10 billion a month on a counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan that does not have a clear path to a definable victory. I am not certain a counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan does anything but feed and grow the insurgency.

In short, I am not certain a counterinsurgency strategy is a winnable strategy. Therefore, it is my belief we need a tailored counterterrorism strategy to achieve and protect our national security interests and meet our broader fiduciary responsibilities. Since 2001 we have invested over $50 billion to help stand up a central government in Kabul and fund reconstruction projects across Afghanistan. So $26 billion has gone to standing up the Afghan security forces, including an additional $11 billion this year. To date, the Afghan National Army now stands at 164,000 men, and the Afghan National Police Force at 126,000. So combined, the Afghan National Security Forces now stand at 290,000 men strong.

We can't forever be the overprotective parent. The time has come to allow Afghans to secure their own future, to draw on the 290,000 men who have committed to securing their country's future, and to allow them the opportunity to defend their Nation and their people.

The fact is, Afghanistan is a rugged, multifaceted country with a long history of complex tribal relationships. It faces almost unprecedented challenges in building a vibrant, independent, and, hopefully, democratic nation from the rubble of more than a quarter century of war. We can guide a process to provide necessary, achievable, and sustainable assistance to bolster their efforts—and we should—but it is up to the Afghan people to stand up a government and a security force and to develop their own counterinsurgency effort.

Our primary goal—the goal that was crystal clear on September 12, 2001—was to address the imminent terrorist threat to America and America's interests. The phrase was ''to drain the swamp and address the new threats we face.''

The Taliban is a threat, but they are not the threat we rallied to address. Any counterterrorism strategy we employ now can necessarily deal with any Taliban issues that would be a threat to American security. But the primary threat to America and to American interests is posed by al-Qaida. It is a threat that is stateless, borderless. The notion that if we deploy enough forces in Afghanistan we will somehow lessen that threat, in my view, is farcical and falls on the conventional Washington wisdom that more is better.

In my view, better is better—a mission better focused on the threats, with specialized troops better trained to better locate and better destroy terrorist hideouts; a mission with resources better spent on projects that are necessary, achievable, and sustainable. In short, we need a better, not a bigger, mission.

In my view, we must accelerate the transfer of nation building and nation protecting to the Afghan people and their government. We must remain ever vigilant and ever prepared to protect our national security interests and eliminate any new terrorist threats that emerge. We should continue to identify areas where our advice and assistance can strengthen the Afghan Government and the institutions of democracy. But our mission should be one of counterterrorism, not counterinsurgency.

We need to concentrate our resources on the real threats in the region—threats to U.S. citizens and U.S. interests and threats that could destabilize Pakistan and place nuclear materials at risk, which would be a very real and present threat to national security and the security of the region—a threat we cannot abide.

We entered Afghanistan to address a threat vital to the national security of our country. By reforming our mission, targeting our unique military resources, and refining our assistance mission to focus on sustainable and achievable outcomes, we can achieve that goal with fewer troops and less money.

For those reasons, last week I joined with my distinguished colleague Senator MERKLEY of Oregon and many other Members in urging the President to begin a sizable and sustained reduction in U.S. combat forces from Afghanistan this summer. It is time to

bring our men and women home. It is my belief this is the best and most responsible policy for America—a policy that seeks to protect our national security while meeting our fiduciary responsibilities, and serving the interests of the service men and women and their families who have sacrificed so much on behalf of a grateful Nation. It is time. It is time.

With that, I yield the floor.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this year, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. I am pleased that today, June 20, the international community is celebrating World Refugee Day, an important opportunity to recognize the continuing plight of the millions of refugees around the world who deserve our protection.

It is also a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of refugees who have been resettled and are building new lives in the countries that welcomed them.

The theme of World Refugee Day 2011 is ''Real People, Real Needs.'' This theme reminds us that each individual refugee has a story to tell. Every refugee has experienced persecution, causing him or her to flee a home, a community, and a nation, because the circumstances are so dire that flight is the only option. Conflicts around the world are displacing persons, such that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees now counts over 43 million persons who have been forced from their homes, which include refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons. For many of the world's 15.4 million refugees, resettlement is the only hope they have of rebuilding a stable life and home.

The United States has long been committed to resettling refugees, but our resettlement program was strengthened by the enactment of the 1980 Refugee Act. Over the past 30 years, more than 2.6 million refugees and asylum seekers have found safety in the United States. And since 1989, almost 5,600 refugees have been resettled in my home State of Vermont. We are fortunate to have the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, with its decades of experience and award-winning volunteer program, leading this effort. Over the last 5 years, many of these new Vermonters have come from Bhutan, Burma, and the Congo. Their culture is enriching my historically Anglo Saxon and French Canadian State.

Throughout this challenging time, I have remained proud of the role that our Nation plays in protecting refugees abroad and in helping many resettle in the United States. In a time of tight budgets, I was pleased to be able to protect funding for refugee assistance and resettlement programs in the fiscal year 2011 appropriations continuing resolution, when many other programs were cut.

The United States is a leader in international refugee protection. I am proud of that commitment and will work to ensure our government maintains this strong financial and political support. There is more that we can do, however.

I regret that the United States is not in full compliance with its obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Changes to the law and a handful of court opinions issued in recent years have eroded protections for some of the most vulnerable asylum seekers.

Last week, I reintroduced the Refugee Protection Act, S. 1202, to restore the legal foundation of the United States for protection of refugees and asylum seekers. The Refugee Protection Act will correct serious shortcomings in current law, such as the overly broad definition of material support for terrorist groups.

The Refugee Protection Act does not diminish the rigor of security and background checks of incoming refugees, but it recognizes that the current law sweeps in a large number of persons who were victims of persecution at the hands of terrorist organizations, not supporters of those terrorist groups.

The Refugee Protection Act also repeals the 1-year filing deadline for asylum seekers in the United States. This deadline was unnecessary when it was added to the law in 1996 and remains unnecessary now.

Under court decisions interpreting our law, certain groups of asylum seekers can face improperly high barriers to protection. For example, the Board of Immigration Appeals has required seekers who base a claim on persecution of their social group to show that the group is ''socially visible.'' This requirement is not a part of the statute or implementing regulations. Moreover, it is unnecessarily onerous for certain groups who take great pains to conceal their membership in the social group. For example, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered individuals from certain countries may have to hide their identity to avoid physical attacks or extreme social isolation. Women from certain cultures must conceal that they have not been forcibly circumcised or face the threat that tribal leaders will subject them to this violent and dangerous practice.

Our law grants asylum to those who have experienced persecution or have a well-founded fear of future persecution. Therefore, courts should not require these individuals to risk serious harm by exposing their membership in the persecuted social group in the home nation. Social visibility may be a factor in some cases, but must not be a baseline requirement to prevail on an asylum claim.

I thank Senators LEVIN, AKAKA, and DURBIN for their support of the Refugee Protection Act of 2011. I also thank Representative ZOE LOFGREN for introducing a companion bill, H.R. 2185, in the House of Representatives.

I hope that on World Refugee Day others will join us in helping to reform our domestic laws to help the victims of persecution worldwide.

LUKAS ROBERT CORWIN

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, as we discuss and debate the future of medical care for all citizens in our Nation, it is appropriate to take a few moments to salute heroes who make a truly life saving difference.

June 3, 2011, was a very special day for me and my wife Charlene. We received the joyous news that a great-grandson, Lukas Robert Corwin, had been born in Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN. I was privileged to visit Lukas early in the morning on the next day and to congratulate his proud parents, Jonathan and Christie Corwin.

At that time, we had been informed that Lukas would require heart surgery in a few weeks and would probably remain in the hospital until the date of surgery. Suddenly, just 2 weeks after his birth, it was apparent that Lukas could barely breathe and that his heart rate had dropped into the 40s. His evening nurse performed oral care. Dr. Turrentine determined that the surgery must occur immediately and we prayed as Jonathan and Christie accompanied Lukas to the surgical area with the support of Ariana, Christie's favorite nurse, Chrissy, Lukas' evening nurse, Andrew, a medical student, Abby, another nurse, and Dr. Turrentine.

These remarkable medical heroes for the next few hours performed miraculous procedures that brought the ordeal of Lukas to a very successful conclusion. I salute all of the life saving procedures and the gifted persons who were able to use them so well in truly saving the life of a beautiful little boy. Our prayers are now with Lukas, his parents, grandparents, and the dedicated teams of life saving persons at Riley Hospital.

TRIBUTE TO GERRY COUNIHAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Gerry Counihan, an extraordinary man and a wonderful example for us all.

Gerry is a familiar face and a friend to the Members of this body.

Each of us who have made the trip into this historic Capitol Building and boarded the elevator to cast a vote on this floor has been warmly welcomed or helped in some way by Gerry.

Gerry's life has had its share of challenges.

He was born with a learning disability, but with his trademark determination and optimism he beat the odds and graduated from Franciscan University in 1988.

Gerry first came to work here on Capitol Hill in 1991, and he returned in 1997 to take a job as a tour guide.

His enthusiasm and his love of American history made him an outstanding guide and a dedicated public servant.

Gerry also helped many visitors to our Capitol cope during a time of tragedy.

He gave the first public tour of the Capitol after two police officers were killed in 1998.

In 2001, Gerry gave the first tour when the Capitol reopened following the terrorist attacks of September 11.

In my opinion, this is a testament to the dedication and the patriotism Gerry has shown during his many years of service to our country.

In May 2007, Gerry was the victim of a brutal home invasion and assault. After this senseless act of violence, he was told by his doctors that he may never walk again.

But Gerry has never taken no for an answer.

After months in the hospital and grueling rehabilitation, Gerry returned to the Capitol, eventually taking a job as an elevator operator.

Again, Gerry impressed all of us in the Senate with his dedication and his generous spirit.

Gerry will soon begin a job at the Department of Health and Human Services. I know I speak for all of us when I say that HHS is lucky to have him.

Gerry makes the Senate a brighter place, and I am truly sorry to see him go. I admire his optimism, his dedication, and especially his courage in the face of adversity.

I wish Gerry well as he moves onto this exciting new challenge.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LAURA ZISKIN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Laura Ellen Ziskin, one of Hollywood's most influential film producers, activists, and philanthropists. Laura Ziskin passed away on June 12, 2011, at her home in Santa Monica, CA, after a 7-year battle with cancer. She was 61 years old.

A native of the San Fernando Valley, Laura Ziskin was born on March 3, 1950, to Mae and Jay Ziskin. In 1973, Ziskin graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and began working in the entertainment industry first as a game show writer, and then as a personal assistant to producer and director Jon Peters, with whom she would work on the 1976 Barbra Streisand remake of ''A Star Is Born.''

Over the next three decades, Laura Ziskin became one of the world's most successful female producers. Ziskin's fame quickly grew with her production of 1985's ''Murphy's Romance,'' 1988's ''D.O.A.,'' 1990's megahit ''Pretty Woman,'' and 1991's ''What About Bob?'' Ziskins films were both critically acclaimed and well received, with ''As Good As It Gets,'' 1997, ''The Thin Red Line,'' 1998, ''Fight Club,'' 1999, and the recent blockbuster Spider-Man films. In 2002, Laura Ziskin would also become the first woman to ever produce the Academy Awards—again repeating the feat in 2007.

Laura Ziskin devoted her time and celebrity to improving the lives of others. She gave her support by serving on the boards of organizations such as the National Council of Jewish Women and Education First and was honored by many others, such as the Big Sisters of Los Angeles, the Women's Image Network Award, the Producers Guild of America, City of Hope, and her own alma mater, USC's School of Cinematic Arts. I was also proud to present her with a ''Woman Making History'' Award for her wonderful work.

When Ziskin was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, she immediately became heavily involved in creating a new model for cancer research. In 2008, she founded the nonprofit Stand Up To Cancer, SU2C, in collaboration with friends and colleagues, Katie Couric and Sherry Lansing and the Entertainment Industry Foundation, among others. Ziskin used her film production skills to be a driving force for raising funds for cancer research and support services, including by producing television specials in 2008 and 2010 that aired on major international networks.

Throughout her illness, Laura never quit either her professional or charitable work. She touched the lives of countless individuals and families who struggle with cancer by giving them hope that one day, there will be a cure. In one of her last blog postings, she urged others to take a stand. She wrote, ''Take a stand—for yourself, for a loved one . . . for anyone in the fight. Let's make everyone diagnosed with cancer a survivor.''

Laura Ziskin is survived by her partner, Alvin Sargent, her daughter, Julia Barry, and her son-in-law, Eli Dansky.●

FIGHTING BLINDNESS

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for most people, it is a given that they are able to see the many wonderful sights the world has to offer. But in this country, more than 10 million people are affected by retinal diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration, that result in blindness. These people are being robbed of their vision, plain and simple. By 2020, as the population continues to age, that number is expected to reach 15 million. These diseases might not attract much attention, but their impact on the lives of our friends, family members, and constituents is significant.

Later this month, in Baltimore, MD, the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a private nonprofit that has raised more than $425 million in research funding, will host its national VISIONS Conference. It will gather together visually challenged people from across the United States, as well as eight other countries, along with renowned researchers committed to finding treatments and cures for these diseases and physicians providing patient care.

The Foundation will also celebrate its 40th anniversary by looking back on four decades of breakthroughs, progress, and hope in the field of retinal disease research. There is a lot to celebrate, as recent advances in research, including a number of clinical trials, have given new hope for restoring vision. Results from one breakthrough study funded in part by the Foundation Fighting Blindness show that gene therapy restored vision in patients suffering from a severe retinal disease. In fact, a 9-year-old boy who had lost his vision almost completely was able to play baseball and read the chalkboard in his class for the first time.

This life-changing work is possible thanks to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which, through various fundraising efforts, provides the capital necessary to launch innovative, results-oriented research—the kind of research promising enough to draw funding from other sources, such as the National Eye Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health. Now, as the momentum continues to build, a partnership between the private and public sectors is crucial to eradicating blinding diseases.

I congratulate the Foundation Fighting Blindness on its 40th anniversary. With the help of this organization and the National Eye Institute, research will continue to flourish until cures are realized.●

BOWDLE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Bowdle, SD. Bowdle, like many of the cities in South Dakota, was founded for its position along the railroad tracks.

Alex M. Bowdle, an employee for Chicago & Milwaukee Railroad, founded Bowdle in 1886. He chose the location for its readily available access to clean water. This water was essential for the trains to use in their boilers, and helped to keep the trains moving on schedule. The water also greatly benefited area farmers who needed it for irrigation of their crops.

Bowdle through the years has continued to be a thriving community. Their commitment to education can be seen in the graduates of the Bowdle School District. In addition city of Bowdle has many outdoor recreation options including pheasant hunting and the Bowdle Golf Club, which residents believe is one of the best courses in the State.

Bowdle's residents have a strong local community and take pride in their city. To celebrate the momentous occasion the city is planning to hold a street dance with live music, along with many other events to bring the surrounding community together to share stories and experiences of the beloved city of Bowdle.

I am proud to publicly honor Bowdle on this memorable occasion. Small

communities such as Bowdle are part of the backbone of our great State, and help to preserve our rich frontier history and deep-seated character. Bowdle exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community.●

BRYANT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Bryant, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Bryant is a community-oriented town located in Hamlin County and will be celebrating its quasquicentennial the weekend of June 24 to 26.

Founded in 1887 upon the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroads, the small town embraced its origins and was named after the local railroad official. Bryant prides itself on its fire preparedness and is home to a dedicated volunteer fire department.

The importance of community to the town is evident in the presence of their well-maintained auditorium and parks which host town gatherings, baseball games, dances, craft fairs, and suppers. Bryant will celebrate this milestone with many activities including a car and tractor show, a parade, and even fireman's games.

South Dakota is built on the values and spirit of small communities like Bryant. It is because of our small tight-knit communities that many choose to call South Dakota home. I congratulate the citizens of Bryant on their accomplishments over the last 125 years and look forward to seeing their future endeavors.●

CONDE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Conde, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Located in Spink County, this small, close-knit community will be celebrating its quasquicentennial the weekend of June 24 to 26.

The building of railroad branches in South Dakota by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad created growth for numerous towns. Amongst the newly established area, the town of Conde was founded in 1886. This railroad town was formerly known as Coral until April 15, 1882. A railroad official's wife selected the name in honor of the Conde family of France and the French town of Conde.

Conde, SD, ''The Place to Call Home,'' is known for its beautiful scenery and outdoor activities. Conde is settled in the rolling Coteau Hills and is an excellent area for Ring Neck Pheasant and White Tail Deer hunting. The city of Conde still has a variety of businesses located in this community. Conde will commemorate its anniversary with a weekend of events. The community has planned to host live music bands, an all-school reunion, a 5K ''Roll and Stroll'' through the beautiful town of Conde, and plenty of food vendors.

Conde exemplifies the hometown community spirit of South Dakota. After 125 years, the community of Conde is still thriving, and it is my honor to publicly congratulate the citizens of Conde on reaching this commendable milestone.●

HECLA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Hecla, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. This small town in Brown County has flourished from its humble pioneer origins to a vibrant South Dakotan community.

The completion of the Dakota Central Railroad, known later as the Chicago Northwestern, breathed life into this region of Brown County, and the community of Hecla was born in 1886. The railroad was essential to the progress of the town as it provided a means to get supplies, export harvests, and transport mail. Mystery surrounds the naming of Hecla as the railroad crew decided to name the town after the volcano, Mt. Hekla, in Iceland for unknown reasons.

Today, Hecla is a progressive small town community. It features several local businesses, including grain elevators, lodging sites, banks, restaurants, meat processors, and insurance agencies, and is home to several churches. Hecla will be commemorating its anniversary with a celebration on the weekend of June 25th-26th. The town plans to celebrate with many events including a parade and a dance to be held on Hecla's Main Street. The events of the weekend promise to provide great opportunities to celebrate such a historic milestone.

Most South Dakotans call small towns like Hecla home. Even 125 years after its founding, Hecla still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community. I am proud to publicly honor Hecla on this memorable occasion and congratulate the people of Hecla on their achievements.●

LANGFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Langford, SD. Langford served historically as a city born from the railroads, and for many residents was the first stop to a new life on the prairie.

Founded in 1886, Langford was settled as the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company continued to lay their track across the prairie. Sam Denton originally surveyed the 190-acre plot overlooking the South Dakota countryside. John A. Edmunds' hardware store was the first business established in Langford. The store was delivered prebuilt as a shanty. The very next day a blacksmith shop was opened with several churches soon to follow.

From its earliest days, Langford has been marked by a strong sense of community with residents gathering frequently in the Langford Opera House, now the Legion Hall. Langford at one time boasted five schoolhouses, and still continues this commitment to education with the Langford Area School District.

Residents plan to celebrate the 125th with many activities, including a parade, car show, softball tournament, and a Sunday service. Main Street in Langford will be filled with the pride of all the residents from the area, past and present.

A hundred twenty five years after its founding, Langford continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Langford on this memorable occasion.●

TURTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Turton, SD. This small town in Spink County embodies the very values that South Dakota was founded upon.

Named after Joseph Turton, one of the town's first settlers from England, the town was founded in 1886 and formally incorporated in 1907. Situated along the Groton branch of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, Turton was originally established as a railroad town. The railroad was essential to the development of the vibrant town as it provided necessary supplies and a means to transport goods. Today, Turton is best known for their beautiful Catholic church, which was built in 1893, and is still in use today.

Residents of Turton will kick off the town's quasquicentennial celebration and their annual St. John's Day with the Turton Community Golf Tournament, street dances, games, and banquets. To wrap up a fun filled weekend, Turton has planned a Sunday morning mass and breakfast.

Small towns like Turton symbolize what it means to be a South Dakotan community. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Turton, and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the town on this historic milestone.●

TEEN VOICES

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD the remarks of my friend Donna Brazile at the 20th anniversary celebration for Teen Voices. Teen Voices is a journalism mentoring and leadership development program for teen girls which was founded in Cambridge, MA, and creates publications which reach hundreds of thousands of young women across the world. Donna's words do great justice to what a terrific program Teen Voices is as they celebrate an important milestone, and I believe this occasion deserves special recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The information follows.

REMARKS OF DONNA BRAZILE, APRIL 14, 2011

Now, Karen, I noticed that as soon as I started speaking you turned the music off. It reminded me of a few weeks ago when I was at the White House—let me start by bringing greetings from President Obama, who's in Chicago tonight. President Obama is having a rally tonight and he wanted to know why I couldn't come to Chicago to introduce him. I said, ''I'm going to be hanging out with Teen Voices and trust me, I want to be in Boston tonight, Mr. President.'' But I was invited a few weeks ago and some of you who are young enough to remember the Motown sounds, the President invited me, and it was one of those weekends when I wanted to see my sisters. I have five sisters. So I said, ''I really need three tickets.'' And he looked at me and said, ''Donna, this is Motown. Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, John Legend, Arthur Rees,'' and the list went on and on and on. So I said, ''Well, alright, then give me four tickets!'' And he said, ''Well I'm only going to give you one ticket. One for yourself, and one for a guest.''

Well, I have six sisters. I mean five of us and you know, my brothers. I said, ''Please give me a couple extra tickets.''

He said, ''Sorry, you know, we have rules. And you cannot get but one ticket.''

So I waited, I called the next week. And they said this was the public liaison office so they gave me one ticket. So I called the political engagement office. I thought, clearly they must have an extra ticket. And they gave me another ticket! So I called my sister, Lisa, and I said, ''Lisa, you can come.'' I already told my older sister she could come. And then I have another sister. She's number—Sheryl, Sheila, Donna—she's number seven! So I said, ''Dmitri, guess what, you can come!'' So there were four Brazile women in the house. So of course, we got there right before the performances. And then they said, ''Well, you all have to go back there.'' And I'm like, ''No, no, no. That's not right. We don't care. Because we're going to dance.'' And of course, they seated us way in the back. But the performers had to come out. So as John Legend came out my sisters were blowing kisses. They didn't want autographs (we're not into autographs from Louisiana). We want hugs. So the Jonas Brothers came out, and I whisper, ''That's Nick Jonas!''

''What! What! My daughter loves him! Hey baby!''

I said, ''No, this is the White House, you don't do that. This is a dignified place, this place has been here for 200 years.'' And so the night went on and on. And you know, back in the day, for those of you who are a little young, every time a new song came out—we had to twists and we did the jerks. And then with Jackson 5—I want you back, I want you back. So we knew all of the songs. Well, one song came on and of course, this was a rendition of ''Dancing in the Street'' and my sister decided this was her moment to do a dance that I had never seen. And a dance the Secret Service had never seen. So, the reason why, when the music started playing, I just wanted to give you all a warning, if my sisters were here, they would have come up with a song. So it's now like midnight, and I say ''Girls, the President has gone up. I know Stevie Wonder is still here, but we've got to go home, so come on, let's go.''

And my sister goes, ''Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop.''

I said, ''Where'd you all get that?'' And then the Marine Band, who knew the Marine band could actually play jazz tunes, and then she's teaching the Marine Band—''Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop.''

The next day I saw the President, I was at a meeting and I was trying to pretend I didn't know those women. I said, ''I know Mr. President was taped so hopefully you can edit my sisters out.'' Of course, when it was on PBS, they didn't edit us out. Alright, my sisters—I just wanted to let you all know if you go to the White House and decide to hang out for a party or an event just remember—''Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop.'' But . . . I'm chair of the Democratic Party. My dad is 80 years old. I called him and I said, ''Guess what. I'm chair of the Democratic party, one of the oldest political parties in the country.''

He said, ''It's a job.''

I said, ''Well, but it doesn't pay.''

He said, ''Well, that's like most jobs.''

There are some perks and I took advantage of one of them just a night ago. I just want to let everyone know a little bit about it. And you know, some people want a car to drive. Not me. First of all, I want a man dropping me off. So it's bad enough I live one block from the head of the CIA and I have to explain to people who visit me why the cops are outside. I say, ''No, nothing's going on at the house. It's the CI—wait, never mind—it's okay, just come on in, it's alright.'' So no, I don't want a car to drive. That's too tacky, that's not me. I mean, I'm a girl from New Orleans. I can roll.

So they say, ''Well, do you want a phone?''

I mean, well, I worked for Al Gore. He created the Internet; of course I want a phone. ''So what do you have?''

''AT&T.''

''No, no, no. Dropped service. I'll stick with Verizon.'' And so they start listing all these other things, and I say no letterhead, no business card, no office, no secretary, no assistant.

They say, ''Donna, what do you want?''

I say, ''I hear you have tickets for the Easter egg roll.'' And, I want to tell you this story because when I worked for Bill Clinton and Al Gore back in the 1990s, I was involved with the inaugural as well as the campaign. I went into the office one day and they said, ''Donna, what do you want?''

I said, ''All of the leftover tickets.'' Some people didn't make it; they didn't sell all the seats, and so on. So here you have rows of all the dignitaries all in the diplomatic core, all these people from the government, all these people looking good. And then you have rows of little kids. Rows and rows. And that was me. I said, ''Absolutely. I'm going across the bridge to Southeast, Washington D.C., and I am going to give tickets out to kids, who like myself, their parents are not rich. They don't have connections. But one day, one of these kids, one, maybe one, will grow up and become President of the United States.'' And I want to say that I gave them a ticket. I gave them an opportunity. So when President Obama won, and you all know I'm one for tickets—This is not my speech, I'm going to get to my speech. But I just wanted to let everyone know how I roll.

And so, this is why, at my age of 51, I have 300 children, don't ask me how I did it. I did it, I got 300, they are really well taken care of, different daddies; it's a long story. But when you've worked on as many campaigns—Karen mentioned my 7 presidential, my 58 congressional, and my 19 state and local campaigns, I worked on campaigns in 48 states. I've lived here twice in my life, 2 more states and I will become Miss USA. I've done a lot of work in my life, okay? I mean, I've worked in Alaska, I was up there. I was in Juneau. I've been to Utah, I've seen the mountains. So I've been all over the place, but I still keep it real. I'm still that little girl, that little girl who grew up poor. To a mother who was a maid, a father who was a janitor. And I was proud of my parents, my parents worked very hard. They wanted us to have everything; they wanted us to have the best of life. Sometimes, they couldn't afford it. But often times, they would put a little away. That's why I tell people I can wait. My mother used to say, ''It's a little away. How fast you need it?''

''Tomorrow.''

''Oh, no, no, no. How fast you need it?''

I'd say, ''Okay, next month.''

She'd say, ''Oh, I'll get it out by next month, don't worry.'' And then, my mother, or my father, would go out and work an additional job or longer hours so that we could get what we needed in order to be the people that we are, or the kids that we wanted to be, the grown-ups that we wanted to be as well.

But, I would get my tickets, so my kids would come in, and I'd say, ''Hey B.'' And by the way, I used to carry a big purse. Whenever you see my carrying a big purse, I'm coming after some tickets. That's not a bag, that's a ticket basket. And I would walk into (something?) headquarters—you heard the song ''Ain't too proud of the bag.'' I need it for my kids. So I had 700 tickets from the President, and let me tell you, everybody, every dignitary was hitting me up. They'd say, ''Donna, got tickets?''

I'd say, ''No I don't.''

Ohhh she's lying! And then I learned how to, for my purple ticket, oh so you want my purple give me 2 of your golds! Why! Because my purple ticket gets you up front but you give me 2 so think about it! I would get those big tickets so I could get 5 smaller tickets so I could get more people in. All I cared about was getting more people in. So I thought about it the other day, because I'm always into tickets. I'm a ticket person—so I said, ''How many tickets can I get as the chair of the Democratic Party? I need my tickets.'' And then I learned I got 10 tickets, I thought, oh thank you, Lord, I got 10. Now you all know I'm starting at 10. Watch me. Now the chair gets 10, how many does the Vice Chair get? I'm still Vice Chair!

And then I'm going to call my congresswoman, and then I'm going to call the congress people from Alaska. Nobody's coming here for an Easter egg hunt. And Washington State; and you know you can always hit up California; you know I'm going to hit up Kansas. I can't hit up Hawaii because that's where the President is from. But I'm going to get my tickets and you know, I'm giving them to the kids, like myself, kids who have grown up poor, kids who need to be able, because they live in Washington, D.C., to say that ''I went to the White House. I was at the White House and I saw the President, I saw the First Lady, I saw his two little daughters, and I met Bo.'' That's the dog, for those of you who don't know.

But I'm honored to be here with you, I had to tell my tickets stories. Everyone who knows me back in DC calls me the ticket lady. And I love tickets—not parking tickets—but tickets. But it is an honor to join you tonight as you celebrate 20 years. I've had some time to read up on Jenny and all of the work that you all have done and have committed to do. You are an inspiration. You have empowered millions of young girls who not only read your magazine but those who also contribute to it and those who want to be a part of it. You are a source of inspiration and extortion of empowerment and I want to thank the Board. I'd like to thank Lisa. I'd like to thank all the sponsors and of

course Denise and Seema. And yeah, I've been checking out your shoes. They come in size 11, baby?

But I also want to thank you for helping young girls find their voices and helping them amplify their message and lifting them up. Your message is one of hope and change. I want to say, I remember what it's like to be young—it was just 2 weeks ago—the grey hair may throw you off a little bit, but the truth is, I'm still 15 at heart. Now, notice I said 15, not 18. Fifteen not 13. Because, I believe at 15, I had a life-changing, what I call, experience.

My grandmother, who took time to raise most of us, because my parents were busy working, she got sick that year. And throughout our childhood, Grandma was the rock; she was the foundation in our house. My grandmother was from Mississippi. She was the daughter of former slaves. And though she had lived to see so many changes take place in her lifetime, she had 12 kids. In fact, my daddy was number 12. My grandmother had my father when at the age of 48—yeah I guess that's made him the way he is.

But my grandmother, in my judgment, was my role model. She was my rock. She was my inspiration. I wanted to be just like Ramon, because she knew everything. I would get up in the morning at 4 o'clock—''Ramon, what are you doing?''

She'd say, ''I'm soaking the clothes.''

''Well, okay.''

''We going to go hang them up outside.''

''Well, okay.'' I did that. At 5:30, she was in the kitchen making buttermilk biscuits. As you can tell, I ate a couple of them. They were the best buttermilk biscuits in the world. She made her biscuits from scratch. But by 7:00, before we went off for school, Ramon told me that I had to read the newspaper with her. Her eyesight was failing. So I would read the newspaper, from front to back. The classified section, the sports section, and of course, I read the opinion columns. I was excited to know what was going on in the world and Grandma even taught me how to read the comics, and of course, her horoscope—every day.

But when Ramon took sick, it really changed my life. All of a sudden, I had to grow up. All of a sudden, I had to learn how to take care of her. Along with two of my other siblings, we took turns watching over her, bringing her soup, bringing her water, helping her get up, and of course, helping her put on her petticoat and slippers so that she could sit in her rocking chair. A few months before we were to return back to school, Ramon took a turn for the worst. And my mother and father sat down along with Dr. Beam and said ''Ramon Frances has to go into a nursing home. We can't afford to take care of her—you're going back to school, and she will need help.'' And so I talked to my baby sister, Lisa, and I said, ''Lisa, you like to comb hair. I can help bathe her. Sheryl can make sure that her clothes—my grandmother liked all her clothes ironed, we could not just put on anything. After all, she did make our slips.'' She made everything but our underwear.

She was the most important person in my life because she taught me responsibility at a very young age. But, she also taught me to pursue my dreams, and not to be afraid of what was out of our homes. Ramon was one who believed in the future; she was one who taught us not to be fearful of anyone. One of the best pieces of advice I've ever received, and God knows if it comes in handy now, is she said, ''Donna, it's not what they call you. It's what you answer to.'' And so, as a cable call girl on CNN, when they call, I go! I got called last night—MSNBC—for three weeks, I can go on MSNBC and Fox, so I'm having fun. Anderson called me last night, ''I miss you!''

''Baby, I know you're my boo, but I'm going to see what's going on at MSNBC and Lawrence O'Donnell and Debbi Gregrory, and George Will-Karen.'' I told George the other day, ''I wanna see you in jeans before you retire.'' I want to tell you all something about conservative men. If any of you all are in the room, I know your secret—it is Victoria, it's out. George Will, George Will has a soft spot. His soft spot is that he is really a baseball fan, he loves sports. And George Will loves anyone who knows sports. And so I often bring in my baseball metaphors and my football metaphors and that's how I get George to really warm up to me. And then I do my zingas.

But my grandmother taught me another important lesson. And at a very early age, she taught me that lesson. She taught me to listen. She taught me to listen to what other people were saying. So I know what it's like to grow up in a household where people don't talk to you, or listen to you. I know what it's like to grow up and not know what it is you wish to do with your life. I know what it's like to be silenced, even when I'm screaming my head off sometimes to get people to listen—I know what it's like to have people think that you have nothing to say. And I know what it's like, because I experienced it also as a child growing up down in the segregated deep South.

I can remember when I was often the youngest person because I was so active in politics back in my native state of Louisiana. So often they would invite young people in the room just so the picture would look right but they really didn't want us to say a word. They didn't want us to even give our input. And it used to drive me crazy when I was growing up, to just be out in the world not knowing if I could make a difference, not knowing what the sound of my voice would do if I was able to contribute. But it was my grandmother who kept pushing me and others out the door. And she gave me all of the courage I needed to go out there and to try to make change in the world.

So I want to first of all say to all the teens in the room, and those who still, like myself, are young at heart—you have so much to give. The world is waiting for you. The world needs you. And why you? Because there's no one better. And why now? Because tomorrow is not soon enough. This is your moment. This is your time. This is a time that not only can you find your voice but you can find it in ways that will allow you to soar and to make a difference.

I didn't wait until I was 18 before I decided to find my voice. I started writing poems at an early age hoping that someone would discover me. Perhaps I didn't know the rhymes at the time but I had a story, I had something to say and I wanted to share it. I wanted someone to listen to me. Then again, my mother bought a tape recorder one year for Christmas. She said, ''What do you want Donna?'' I said, ''Donna wants a tape recorder.'' And so my nickname became ''Tape Recorder.'' And I recorded every conversation and then I put music to it and made it a soap opera for everyone to listen to.

And so I wanted to be in the world, I wanted my voice heard. And so this is your moment to begin the dream about your future. And what kind of future are you looking to have? And what do you want to do with your life?

You have to begin thinking about all of these questions early because the world is not going to wait for you to catch up with it. You have to begin to hurry history and catch up with the world, especially now with all of the technology at our disposal. We can talk to someone on Skype all the way across the world. We can text right now and reach out to people standing in line waiting for a (something). And yes, we can find out with our own Twitter accounts and Facebook that we can be part of a revolution taking place thousands and thousands of miles away from here. So you are the future, and it's time that you learn that ''the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'' The First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, when she said that, she could not envision that we would live to see so many changes in this country, yet we still have a long way to go.

So I want to leave you with some ingredients, and I want to pour them into you right now. Because this is the moment for you, many of you, who are ready to enter the world, ready to make a difference, ready to use your voice, out there to try to stir things up. When I was a young girl, I used to tell my grandmother, ''Ramon, I want to be like Harriet Tubman.'' Harriet Tubman was one of my favorites. I figured anyone who ran away from slavery was a good role model to have.

So I said to Ramon I wanted to be a leader. I wanted to be a leader like Harriet Tubman. So some of you are probably thinking, ''Wow, how can I become a leader?'' So this is what I knew about being a leader. A leader is defined as someone who is in command, as someone who guides, a person in a position of influence or importance, a role model. Now let me say, I'm a leader. Not only am I elected to an office that allows me to help guide the oldest political party in the country, I'm also a party leader that helps devise political strategy, a campaign consultant who has also helped to organize and manage campaigns at every level. But I'm also an owner of a small business that employs staff, consultants, and interns, I also teach at a major college. So the foundation of good leadership is being honest and fair. A leader is someone who listens as well as asks questions. A leader has courage and a leader treats others with respect and dignity. A leader admits to mistakes and takes responsibility for his or her actions. And a leader has integrity and can be trusted. A leader also inspires and motivates others to take action in the pursuit of the common good. Now, there are more traits; leaders are often problem-solvers because they seek solutions and leaders are also visionaries because they help to set long-term goals.

So it's important to learn how to use your voice to become a leader, and that you begin to see yourself as a leader and as someone who can become successful because you are important and because we need you. We need more young women, more young women willing to serve in public office. We need more young women willing to write news articles, tweet, posting blogs and stories on Facebook, and not just that stuff that makes your friends happy. But the stuff that can really make other people think. And so, here are my other ingredients.

Believe in the power of your dreams. If you don't, no one else will.

Second, be true to yourself. I've done a lot in my life because someone else wanted me to do it or I thought about it. Sometimes it turned out well, sometimes of course it hasn't, but I have never ever given up on any of my dreams. I keep working toward them. And when I finished writing that first book, I will see a minority or woman as president and four years later, we have our first bi-racial president. And if I continue to work hard, one day, you all will be invited to the White House as we inaugurate our first female president, or Hispanic, Asian-American, person of color, and so on.

So you have to live your dreams, you just can't dream and then walk out of the room and expect someone to stir up all the ingredients. You gotta go into the arena and stir

it up. Sometimes, you have to bring your own pot and sometimes you have to bring your own fire. It's called Tabasco, for those of you who don't know.

Number three: Never accept no as a final answer. I've been told ''no, no, no;'' I know ''no'' in just about every language. I often tell people after they say no, ''That's a yes, isn't it?'' Nah, figure out a way. Go around it, go beneath it, go above it, go below it, just find a way. Find a way, find a path. If you really want to do something, go for it. You can't stop at no. A friend used to tell me that no is just a prelude to yes. Now, when I hear no, I think ''Good, now I'm just one step closer to yes.''

Now number four: When you stumble get back up. I have stumbled a lot. My knees are good, my elbows are even better, sometimes I've had to work my way up, because I've had some hits. I have fallen. But you get back up, it's as simple as that. You're gonna fall, you're gonna fail, you're gonna make mistakes, people will not always listen to you—I've got three minutes left, I am not Baptist—I am Catholic; I need five, and Ill wrap it up in four.

Number five: Keep a little spice handy. Life gets boring. It is really boring sometimes. But never be afraid to spice it up. Were all unique, no two of us are exactly alike—but think about your limits. And then push them a bit. What makes you uncomfortable? Sometimes you gotta know that so you can just add those missing ingredients that might give you some spice. For me, I was scared of horses. I had to spice up my life and I had to ask myself—why? What's keeping me from embracing something that I'm scared of? It was fear. Took me until I was in my mid-40s, but I conquered that fear. I had that horse following me, and I didn't even have an apple.

And let me tell you number six. Courage isn't the absence of fear; courage is facing your fear and overcoming it. Sometimes, you know what you're scared of before you even know what you like! Don't let your fears stand in the way of your success.

And then there's number seven. This is about faith. Because when I was a little girl I had so many people invest what I would call and consider now a lot of energy into me. They'd say, ''Donna, you gotta do this.'' I'd respond, ''Okay!'' They'd say, ''Donna, can you make this happen?'' I'd say, ''Yes!'' And they would run off, and I'd be thinking——AHH! I would freak. But I remember when Dr. Martin Luther King, who inspired me as a little girl, said ''Faith is taking one step, even when you cannot see the entire staircase.'' And for me, I often have to just take that one step, and then it comes right there. It just, it appears.

And Mrs. King, his wife, I was just over 21 when I met her and worked for her as a young girl. And Mrs. King said, ''Donna, we want to make the birthday a national holiday.'' And I said, ''Okay!'' Everybody else, from the time Dr. King died in 1968 'til 1981, they just said, ''We'll, maybe,'' and then Ronald Reagan was elected and they'd say, ''Well that'll never happen.'' And a bunch of us, we were all young, were just out of college, we said, ''We have time.'' We'll do it.'' And within 18 months, we had a holiday because we had faith.

And so, let me close up a little bit by saying that I learned growing up, with a large family, with brothers and sisters, with parents, grandparents and others, with neighbors who loved us, and with friends who would always stand by our side—I learned that I could really go to the next step. That I could move beyond the limitations placed on me simply because of where I was born. I knew that when I was a kid that no matter what people said about my skin color, what they said about my hair, what my sisters continue to say about my hair. I'm like, ''Will you all stop?'' They say, ''Donna, it looked like (something) last night.'' And I say, ''Your TV, maybe you should get HDTV. Maybe you should get rid of that box.'' But I know they're telling me with love to get myself to the beauty parlor. But I learned as a little kid, it's not what people say, and it's not what people see about you. My grandmother was right. It's what you believe in. It's not what they call you, it's what you answer to.

So let me close with a poem that continues to inspire me every time I read it. It's Maya Angelou, called ''Still I Rise.'' And I close with her words:

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise . . .
Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

To my friends, to the young ladies, to the sponsors, to all the supporters of this great organization, it's now your turn to let these young women rise, to give them the wings that they need so that they will soar and make a difference. To rise up to your full potential, to rise until you feel the air surrounding you. Rise up, rise high, and make us all proud. Thank you and God bless you.●

WDEV RADIO

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as one born in Montpelier, VT, I grew up listening to WDEV in Waterbury. My mother and father were friends of the owners of the station and I still remember days as a child going to visit.

Living now in Middlesex, VT, I—like everyone else in our area listen to WDEV to find out what is happening throughout central Vermont. At a time when more and more radio stations nationwide go to a canned format, WDEV is one that has not forgotten over the decades that it is a mainstay of the community.

Recently when we were facing horrible flooding and storms in Vermont, the lifeline for all of us was WDEV. Only there could we find out what was happening on the weather, what was happening on road conditions, and what we would face. Stefan Hard of the Times Argus wrote an excellent story about Chris Bouchard and Roger Hill and what they did to keep us all safe and informed. I talked with my friend Ken Sauier, about what they had done and said I intended to speak on the Senate Floor, and now, Mr. President, I ask that the article by Stephan Hard be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Times Argus, June 6, 2011]

STORM-CENTERED

(By Stefan Hard)

For weather forecasters Chris Bouchard and Roger Hill, who were on duty May 27, the historic storms of that day quickly pushed their workdays into overdrive and overtime and gave them a first-hand taste of the crazy weather they were reporting on. Looking back, they are both in awe at the level of destruction caused by the storms' related flooding, but are grateful that no one was killed.

Hill prepares forecasts for Radio Vermont, WDEV, for utility companies, and for his WeatheringHeights.com website; Bouchard is a staff meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museums Eye on the Sky forecast center.

Both men knew from early in the day, May 27, that the weather could be turning severe.

''It was clear to us for several days that there was a possibility for severe weather on Thursday-Friday,'' said Bouchard. ''On the day of the event in the morning, it looked pretty clear that we were going to get supercell thunderstorms, large hail, damaging winds and possibly even tornadoes.'' Bouchard reported as such during his 12:55 p.m. weather report on Vermont Public Radio. The first supercell of the day passed just north of Burlington at about 3p.m. and left large hail on the ground as it passed over Lowell. Bouchard continued his warnings through the afternoon.

By 6:30 p.m., storms were beginning to hit central Vermont, and power was knocked out at Hill's home and forecast center in Worcester. Hearing tornado warnings on the radio for Caledonia County and without power to run his phalanx of computers, Hill decided to head to the WDEV studios in Waterbury, where the station had back-up power and where Hill could get his own evaluations and warnings directly on the air in the midst of what he had already determined could be life-threatening conditions due to the continued risk of tornadoes, dangerous lightning, and with already-saturated ground from recent rains, a real possibility of catastrophic flash floods. He hopped in his car and headed for Waterbury.

''I felt a need and a responsibility to do this,'' said Hill. ''I've haven't had anybody die on my watch and I didn't want that to happen this time,'' he said.

Hill forgot to take his cell phone charger and didn't leave a note for his wife, Michelle, as to where he was going. ''My wife is very upset with me,'' he said. ''She didn't know where I was until she heard me on the air.''

Driving through Middlesex, Hill encountered a downed tree across the road and had to reroute and rain and hail fell and tornado warnings continued come across on the crackling radio. When he got to the station offices in Waterbury, the door was locked (after business hours) and his cell battery was dead, so he couldn't call on-air host Lee Kittell to let him inside, and Kittell was unable to check and see emails that Hill was sending from his netbook, which still had a charge. Kittell was very busy and lightning temporarily knocked out the station's computer system. Hill resorted to running down the street to use the phone at a convenience store to call Kittell to let him in. Once inside, Hill and Kittell reported on the storm continuously, except for a half-hour break for the audio track of WCAX–TV news at 11, until 1:45 a.m.

Callers kept the phone lines lit up all evening with reports of continuous lightning, ball lightning, hail the size of golf balls, trees down, power outages, and worst of all, flash flooding in Barre and Montpelier. Hill, stunned, kept seeing a line of ''training echo'' thunderstorms streaming

into central Vermont all night and his on-air voice became increasingly ominous.

''I felt stupid, but I got to the point where I was just saying, Oh, my God!''

Meanwhile, Bouchard had finished his forecasting shift at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, and had taken to the road, storm chasing, and didn't have the need to let anyone know where he was going. ''I went to Barnet, because that's where it looked like the action was going to be,'' he said. Bouchard stopped in several locations, setting up his tripod just outside his car to get pictures of clouds that might produce tornadoes, and lots of lightning. Bouchard said at one point, he grabbed his tripod and camera and jumped in his car just as lightning bolts crashed to the ground uncomfortably close. Bouchard never saw a tornado, and none were confirmed from that storm outbreak, but he got some striking lighting photos, some of those will part of a show of 32 of his best lightning images at the Fairbanks Museum at the end of the month.

Hill, his cell battery dead, his netbook battery now dead, and his own batteries running low, headed home from WDEV at about 2 a.m. after receiving, along with Kittell, countless calls from listeners praising the duo for staying on the air with information. Of course, on his way home, Hill couldn't update his wife on his progress through the continuing storms, so, when he finally made it home, he faced a storm of another kind.

Happily, Hill and his wife, Michelle on Sunday were beginning a belated celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary, taking a few days off, including a little travel. Hill has planned a small detour in their travels to see, first-hand, the level of destruction in Springfield, Mass., where, last week, two tornadoes struck in another example of powerful, training echo thunderstorms.●

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS MAXIM

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, Mahatma Gandhi once said, ''Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from an indomitable will.'' Today, I recognize and pay tribute to Nicholas Maxim, an extraordinary young man from Readfield, ME, and the living embodiment of Gandhi's words. Nicholas, a fifth grade student at Readfield Elementary School, was recently presented with a national award for his outstanding penmanship. He earned the award when, unbeknownst to him, his principal submitted a sample of his handwriting to Zaner-Bloser, an Ohio-based company that holds an annual handwriting contest.

While this national honor would, in and of itself, merit the high praise and recognition of this esteemed institution, this accomplishment is even more compelling and impressive when one considers that Nicholas was born without lower arms or hands. His writing sample, which stood out among the estimated 200,000 entries, was executed by balancing the writing utensil between his two upper arms—the manner in which he routinely writes, given that he rarely uses his prosthetic devices for such purposes.

Nicholas' sample was so outstanding, and his story so compelling and inspirational, that Zaner-Bloser created a new award category in his honor—the ''Nicholas Maxim Special Award for Excellent Penmanship.'' Fittingly, Nicholas was the first recipient of this special award earlier this year. His story caught the attention of many of the national media outlets but, despite all the attention and accolades, Nicholas retained his humility and unassuming style. Preferring to stay out of the limelight and seemingly content to allow others to talk about his myriad accomplishments, Nicholas represents Maine and our Nation with unwavering modesty that speaks volumes about his character and personality.

During my congressional career, I have often spoken about the primacy of maintaining one's values and integrity, setting high expectations and goals, and believing in one's self. I further contend that there are certain constants that are timeless, and one of them is that the greatest limits that will be placed on our lives are the ones which we place upon ourselves. A courageous and persistent young man, Nicholas is truly an inspiration to us all, as he has never allowed his circumstances to limit what he can achieve. As a testament to this fact, one of Nicholas' favorite pastimes is writing and drawing comic strips. Delightful and humble, Nicholas innately possesses an unconquerable resolve that is hidden beneath an unpretentious exterior. His sister captured the essence of these character traits when, to the Kennebec Journal, she said about him, ''He is who he is and does what he does not to get attention . . . It's for me to see him being who he is that's an inspiration.''

Undeniably, Nicholas Maxim stands as a shining testament to the power of the human spirit. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him for demonstrating to children and adults alike, across the State of Maine and, indeed, our Nation, that by placing no restrictions on your horizons, you broaden the range of possibilities that exist for you and the trajectory you envision for yourself.●

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Community Foundation of North Louisiana on the occasion of its 50th anniversary on June 26, 2011.

The Community Foundation of North Louisiana has had a widespread impact in our State, and I applaud its exceptional efforts to enrich Louisiana communities.

Since 1961, the Community Foundation has been committed to providing emergency aid during disasters, strengthening communities and nonprofit organizations through programs like the Endowment Challenge Program, and establishing partnerships such as the Aspen Ideas Mini-Festival that bring citizens and local leaders together.

Endeavors such as the Genius Fund, the Women's Philanthropy Network, and the Northwest Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster are further examples of how the Community Foundation's generosity has successfully improved the community and the lives of so many Louisianans.

Under the leadership of COL James Hellums Tucker, Jr., the foundation has grown from an organization with a modest $21,000 to one that has endowed more than $75 million. And through its goodwill and philanthropy, has awarded more than $40 million for more than 4,000 grants and scholarships so that organizations and students can achieve their goals and realize their dreams.

Again, I am proud to honor and applaud the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, the oldest in the State, on 50 years of charitable giving and congratulate them for their many contributions to our State.●

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13159 OF JUNE 21, 2000, WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON JUNE 17, 2011—PM 11

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2011.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation

continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 17, 2011.*

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–2193. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the annual audit of the American Red Cross; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2194. A communication from the Deputy to the Chairman, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Securities of Nonmember Insured Banks'' (RIN3064–AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2195. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals: U.S. Navy Training in the Virginia Capes Range Complex and Jacksonville Range Complex'' (RIN0648–BB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2196. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Retention Standard; Emergency Rule Extension'' (RIN0648–BA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2197. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries'' (RIN0648–XA393) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2198. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Gag Grouper Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2199. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Access Area'' (RIN0648–BB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2200. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Priorities and Allocations System Regulations'' (RIN1901–AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2201. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Race to the Top Fund'' (RIN1810–AB10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2202. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendments'' (Docket No. FDA–2011–N–0318)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2203. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, New York, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2204. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Wah Chang facility in Albany, Oregon, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2205. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to imported foods; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2206. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Implementation of Information Technology Security Provision'' (RIN3090–AJ15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–37. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas memorializing its support for the conservation of Castner Range; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 306

Whereas, the Castner Range in El Paso is one of the most rugged pristine landscapes in Texas, encompassing 7,000 acres of undeveloped desert and foothills; and

Whereas, the land was previously known as the Castner Range Complex at Fort Bliss and was used as a United States Army artillery range, but the Department of Defense ceased operations there in 1971; unexploded ordnance remained behind, rendering the land unsuitable for development, and under the stewardship of the army, it has been allowed to rest in its natural state; and

Whereas, since 1995, the army has been clearing old artillery rounds from the surface of the land; surface clearance, as opposed to subsurface clearance, was found to offer the best risk-reduction-to-cost ratio and is most compatible with a minimal-disturbance future land use, such as passive recreation on protected parkland; and

Whereas, although the Castner Range is off-limits to the public, El Pasoans have long cherished the area for its surpassing beauty; bordering Franklin Mountains State Park on the west, the range contains some of the most geologically complex and visually striking parts of the Franklins and is prized for its Mexican gold poppy, which carpets the lower slopes in brilliant color in the spring; and

Whereas, also remarkable for its biodiversity, Castner Range provides a number of distinctive animal habitats, and its unique soils and location combine to make this the only known site in Texas where several rare plants can be found; moreover, the range holds the greatest concentration of springs in the Franklins, supporting unexpectedly lush pockets of vegetation; and

Whereas, Castner Range is further distinguished by military history and archaeological sites; and

Whereas, in 1981, the Texas Legislature provided for the adjustment of the boundaries of Franklin Mountains State Park in anticipation of the future addition of Castner Range lands, an idea strongly favored by area residents; both the El Paso City Council and the El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously passed resolutions in recent years advocating that the Castner Range be left undeveloped and be conserved for recreational use; furthermore, the Franklin Mountains State Park management plan takes the range into account, envisioning a network of trails in the canyons and lower elevations, and the U.S. Department of Defense recently made a $300,000 grant to the Frontera Land Alliance to collect data concerning a conservation conveyance for the area; and

Whereas, the Castner Range is one of the Lone Star State's unequaled treasures, and its conservation will provide enormous benefits to future generations of Texans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby express its support for the conservation of Castner Range; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the commanding general of Fort Bliss, to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–38. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas congratulating President Obama on his proven and successful policies in the war on terrorism and in homeland security; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1694

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden, a sworn enemy of the United States of America, coordinated a series of monstrous and cowardly terrorist attacks that resulted in the tragic loss of 2,977 innocent lives, leading to an engagement in a war on terrorism across many fronts; and

Whereas, on May 1, 2011, after nearly 10 years of bin Laden's evasion of military and intelligence forces seeking his capture, President Barack Obama declared to the nation and the world that bin Laden had finally been killed, and that ''Justice has been done.''; and

Whereas, the president's patience, leadership, wisdom, and determination have led directly to the demise of the most wanted man in the world and have hardened this nation's resolve to defeat the forces of malevolent fanaticism, and by destroying the mastermind behind the worst terrorist attack on American soil he has struck a significant and historic blow against Al Qaeda; and

Whereas, following the death of the perpetrator of the attacks, the family members and friends of those who lost their lives in the attacks on September 11 are able to achieve a greater sense of closure; and

Whereas, after months of meetings of the National Security Council, led by President Obama, who directed intelligence officials to zero in on bin Laden's whereabouts, intelligence officials devised and carefully carried out a clandestine operation, which had frequently been rehearsed in an effort to minimize casualties, both civilian and military; and

Whereas, as commander-in-chief of our great nation, he boldly gave the final authorization to commence the operation to brave and highly trained members of our nation's armed services; and

Whereas, upon hearing the news of bin Laden's elimination, in an impressive show of unity and in defiance of the fanatics who still today seek to destroy our free way of life, jubilant citizens expressed pride in our nation and our president by spontaneously celebrating the news in cities across the country, singing ''The Star Spangled Banner'' and loudly chanting ''U-S-A,'' and former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have offered him their congratulations; and

Whereas, domestically, he has acted with both initiative and organizational acumen toward the precautionary defense of our citizens and has successfully prevented a terrorist attack on American soil during his service to our nation as president; and

Whereas, internationally, he has wisely exercised the use of diplomacy to nurture collaborative relationships with other nations, which has helped improve the freedom and safety of the world's people; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush had the near universal support of the freedom-loving peoples and countries of the world after the attacks on September 11, 2001, when he famously pledged to defend freedom against fear, saying ''We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail,'' and President Obama had the strength and wherewithal to see that pledge through to fulfillment; and

Whereas, legislators in Texas reaffirm the solemn creed that we are one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, who stand strongly behind the president with respect to these several issues as he confronts the grave problems of national and international security; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby congratulate President Obama on his proven and successful policies in the war on terrorism and in homeland security; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commend the intelligence personnel who diligently and quietly toiled for years to uncover the whereabouts of bin Laden and whose achievement, while historic, may never be fully known to the public; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commend the members of the 82nd armed forces who successfully and heroically carried out an incredibly sensitive mission with no military losses and with a minimal loss of civilian lives; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, to the governor of Texas, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United State's of America.

POM–39. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress to fully support the vital operations and joint force structure at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 784

Whereas, Ellington Field plays an important role in the Houston-area economy while contributing to the defense of our nation; and

Whereas, Ellington Field was constructed in 1917 and served as a training base for military air personnel during World War I and World War II and as a navigator training school in the 1950s; NASA became a tenant there in 1962, and in 1984, Ellington Field was taken over by the City of Houston; today, it continues to provide support for military reserve and guard units even as it serves as a base for a variety of commercial operations; and

Whereas, featuring commands from all five Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security military services, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base has grown to include more than 6,000 active, reserve, and guard members; it is home to the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, which is at the forefront of the trend toward unmanned aircraft that is transforming the Air Force and Air Guard; and

Whereas, the region served by the Ellington Field JRB is vital to national security and the only one in the country containing all 17 national asset categories identified by the Department of Homeland Security as prime potential targets for global terrorism; a $100 million expansion now in progress is vastly increasing the defense capabilities of the base and will have an enormous economic impact on surrounding communities, with estimates ranging to nearly $700 million; and

Whereas, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base provides a strong stimulus to the Houston-area economy and is poised to take on an ever-greater role in the defense of the Lone Star State, the Gulf Coast region, and the nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to fully support the vital operations and joint force structure at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to the Secretary of Defense, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–40. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas expressing opposition to H.R. 3424 and to any other proposal that would limit the use of reinsurance by non-U.S.-based insurance companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 243

Whereas, the insurance business greatly depends on affiliated reinsurance for managing and spreading risk; and

Whereas, purchasing reinsurance from affiliates is a means for large insurers to manage capital and also serves an important risk-transfer purpose, providing significant additional primary insurance capacity, particularly for crop, windstorm, general liability, products liability, and aircraft insurance; and

Whereas, non-U.S.-based insurance companies with U.S. affiliates purchase reinsurance from parent and sister companies domiciled abroad, but a bill introduced in the United States Congress would penalize them for doing so, even though U.S. and foreign-based insurance groups currently pay functionally equivalent taxes on reinsurance transactions; given the average tax burden of 25 percent in European countries, such legislation would render most offshore reinsurance transactions prohibitively expensive, and the U.S. market would see a capacity shortfall and increases in premiums for consumers; and

Whereas, a major study by the Brattle Group, an economic research and consulting firm, concluded that the proposed policy would result in a 20 percent reduction in the supply of reinsurance for consumers in the United States, in turn leading to annual cost increases of $10 to $12 billion; in addition, a broad coalition of industry and consumer groups have spoken out against the proposal; and

Whereas, taxation proposed in H.R. 3424, 111th Cong. (2009), discriminates against the use of offshore affiliated reinsurance by foreign-based companies and, if enacted, will severely undermine the risk management practices at the heart of international reinsurance markets; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby express its opposition to H.R. 3424 and to any other proposal that would limit the use of reinsurance by non-U.S.-based insurance companies; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–41. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1955

Whereas, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed granting endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard, a measure that would have a significant negative impact on the Lone Star State; and

Whereas, the business climate in Texas has been consistently ranked as the nation's best, and the oil and gas sector is crucial to its continued vitality; Texas is the nation's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and it holds 30 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves and almost a quarter of its oil reserves; the oil and gas industry contributes $30 billion annually to the Texas economy and employs more than 315,000 Texans at some of the highest salaries in the state; and

Whereas, despite its resilience, the Texas economy has not been immune to the global economic recession; there have been significant job losses over the past two years, and recently high gas prices have posed new challenges; the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to take these factors into account in its proposal to grant endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent oil-producing areas of West Texas; and

Whereas, in addition, the service has failed to consider that approximately 75,000 acres identified as habitat for the lizard are owned and managed by The University of Texas for the benefit of higher education; university officials have estimated that the listing could stop the drilling of approximately 1,000 oil and gas wells and eliminate the production of seven million barrels of oil equivalent annually; and

Whereas, the Texas Legislature and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have traditionally recognized the private landowner as the primary steward of our state's natural resources, but the Fish and Wildlife Service has not adequately consulted with the State of Texas, Texas landowners, or other stakeholders; moreover, the service has failed to fully consider issues unique to species protection and habitat conservation in Texas; and

Whereas, listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species would inflict severe economic damage, harm property owners, and undermine higher education in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives direct the agencies of the State of Texas to cooperate with the efforts of the Texas Endangered Species Task Force to investigate the scientific basis of the proposed listing and the potential burdens on private property rights and economic development in the state; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–42. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas expressing support for the inclusion of Taiwan in the United States Visa Waiver Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1483

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States enjoy a friendly and mutually beneficial relationship, and solid commercial, educational, and cultural ties can be further strengthened by the inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; and

Whereas, a full-fledged, stable democracy, Taiwan shares with the United States a commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a market-based economy; moreover, Taiwan is our ninth-largest trading partner and a key export market in almost every major sector; trade in commercial goods between Taiwan and the United States totaled nearly $62 billion in 2010; and

Whereas, the two nations have long maintained close and productive cooperation in science and technology, and since 1979, they have signed more than 190 science and technology agreements under the framework of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office and the American Institute in Taiwan; Taiwan has worked very closely with the United States in the field of education, and in 2010, more than 26,000 Taiwanese studied in our colleges and universities; and

Whereas, these important relationships generate significant interpersonal contact and travel, and in 2009, people from Taiwan paid more than 500,000 visits to the United States; if admitted to the Visa Waiver Program, holders of Taiwan passports could travel to the United States without the expense and time-consuming process of obtaining a visa, which is expected to boost the number of visits for both sightseeing and business purposes; Taiwanese travel to the United Kingdom and New Zealand spiked by 35 to 40 percent after those countries waived visa obligations, and it is estimated that waiving visa requirements for Taiwanese travels in the United States could increase tourism revenue by as much as $1.8 billion; and

Whereas, in order to gain entry into the Visa Waiver Program, a country must have a visa refusal rate below 3 percent, and only 2.2 percent of Taiwanese visa applications were rejected by the United States in fiscal year 2010; about 100 countries, including Japan and members of the European Union, offer Taiwan visa exemptions on the basis of reciprocity and out of confidence that citizens of Taiwan are law-abiding and unlikely to overstay; and

Whereas, Taiwan has already exempted U.S. passport holders from visa requirements for visits up to 30 days; by extending similar privileges, the United States can facilitate people-to-people contacts, enhance cultural links, and expand business opportunities and tourism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby endorse the inclusion of Taiwan in the United States Visa Waiver Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–43. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011, the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011, or a similar instrument; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 94

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a person who had worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit; and

Whereas, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefits, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO often reduces spousal benefits so significantly it can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively impacts approximately twenty-seven thousand one hundred forty-four Louisianians; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hard-working individuals to lose a significant portion of the social security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts approximately twenty-five thousand three hundred twenty-two Louisianians; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, many workers rely on Social Security Administration Annual Statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and

Whereas, because the Social Security benefit statements do not calculate the GPO and the WEP, many public employees in Louisiana are unaware that their expected Social Security benefits shown on such statements will be significantly lower or nonexistent due to the service in public employment; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and because of the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise that quality of life; and

Whereas, retired individuals negatively affected by GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes have to turn to government assistance programs; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1332), the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011 (S. 113), or a similar instrument; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–44. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011, the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011, or a similar instrument; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 93

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a person who had worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit; and

Whereas, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefits, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO often reduces spousal benefits so significantly it can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively impacts approximately 27,144 Louisianans; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hard-working individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts approximately 25,322 Louisianans; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, many workers rely on Social Security Administration Annual Statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and

Whereas, because the Social Security benefit statements do not calculate the GPO and the WEP, many public employees in Louisiana are unaware that their expected Social Security benefits shown on such statements will be significantly lower or nonexistent due to the service in public employment; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and because of the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise that quality of life; and

Whereas, retired individuals negatively affected by GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes have to turn to government assistance programs; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1332), the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011 (S. 113), or a similar instrument; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–45. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Iowa memorializing its support of the positive impact of the CSBG program in Iowa and its opposition to federal action to reduce CSBG funding disproportionately compared to the rest of the federal domestic discretionary budget; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Whereas, in state fiscal year 2010, 365,752 Iowans in 140,333 households were helped in their fight against poverty through services funded by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program; and

Whereas, more than 96 percent of the families receiving services were at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level or $35,427 annual family income; and

Whereas, more than 76 percent of the individuals served by the 18 community action agencies were working or received social security as their source of income; and

Whereas, those 18 community action agencies have 127 service centers throughout all 99 Iowa counties; and

Whereas, each community action agency is governed by a community-based volunteer board of directors consisting of elected officials, private sector representatives, and low-income Iowans; and

Whereas, Iowa's 18 community action agencies employ 3,350 Iowans; and

Whereas, CSBG funding for the 18 community action agencies brought in $2.3 million in local funding, $13.6 million in private funding, $13.9 million in state funding, and $222.9 million in federal funding to Iowa's local communities; and

Whereas, CSBG funding for Iowa's 18 community action agencies helped generate $17.7 million in in-kind goods and services and donated items; and

Whereas, the 18 community action agencies received $7,154,281 in CSBG funding enabling the community action agencies to operate their service centers and to administer state and federally funded programs; and

Whereas, President Obama has proposed a 50 percent reduction in CSBG funding and making the allocation of the remaining funds competitive instead of continuing the current allocation formula that brings stability to Iowa's community and economic development initiatives; and

Whereas, the Iowa House of Representatives supports efforts of the United States Congress to effectively reduce the federal deficit while promoting the current and future economic security of all Iowans; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives supports the positive impact of the CSBG program in Iowa and opposes federal action to reduce

CSBG funding disproportionately compared to the rest of the federal domestic discretionary budget; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Iowa congressional delegation.

POM–46. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas memorializing the legacy of public service to the community of Campbellton Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 523

Whereas, the Campbellton Post Office in southern Atascosa County, Texas, has played an essential role in the lives of area residents for more than 130 years, but the United States Postal Service has placed it on a list of facilities to be closed in 2011; and

Whereas, John Campbell established the post office in his general store in 1874, and five years later, moved them both to the new town of Campbellton; Mr. Campbell was officially appointed the first postmaster and was succeeded over the years by a number of his descendants, including William Campbell, Edward Campbell, Louise Campbell, and Alyce Campbell; and

Whereas, its present postmaster, Lydia Rodriguez Castillo, began her long tenure in 1971; a postal service hiring freeze prevents her position from being filled when she retires, yet the postal service has targeted the branch for closure in part because it lacks a permanent postmaster; and

Whereas, residents of the rural area and hamlets served by the Campbellton Post Office rely on it for business communications as well as for their personal mail, and the post office is particularly important to the elderly; if it should close, customers would have to travel some 20 miles to send packages, check post office boxes, or mail important documents; accordingly, patrons and civic leaders have formed a committee and started a petition to support the preservation of this integral institution; and

Whereas, throughout the history of Campbellton, the post office has been part of the fabric of the community, and its closing would deprive citizens of ready access to vital services and diminish their quality of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby honor the legacy of public service to the community of the Campbellton Post Office; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the U.S. Postal Service to continue operating the Campbellton Post Office in Atascosa County, Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to the United States postmaster general, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 978. A bill to amend the criminal penalty provision for criminal infringement of a copyright, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1232. A bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to facilitate the accelerated development and deployment of advanced safety systems for commercial motor vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1234. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1235. A bill to recognize the memorial at the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national memorial of Navy SEALS and their predecessors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1236. A bill to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 277

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 385

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 385, a bill to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 528

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to provide driver safety grants to States with graduated driver licensing laws that meet certain minimum requirements.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to repeal the Federal sugar program.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 851

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to establish expanded learning time initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the perfiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for nonregular service.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 951, a bill to improve the

provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1018

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1018, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, and the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 to provide for implementation of additional recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–416).

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible dependent beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Future Farmers of America Organization and the 85th anniversary of the founding of the National Future Farmers of America Organization.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should take certain actions with respect to the Government of Burma.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

S. RES. 165

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 165, a resolution designating July 23, 2011, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''.

S. RES. 185

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 185, a resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, reaffirming opposition to the inclusion of Hamas in a unity government unless it is willing to accept peace with Israel and renounce violence, and declaring that Palestinian efforts to gain recognition of a state outside direct negotiations demonstrates absence of a good faith commitment to peace negotiations, and will have implications for continued United States aid.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 201, a resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

S. RES. 202

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 202, a resolution designating June 27, 2011, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.''

S. RES. 211

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 211, a resolution observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join with Senator PORTMAN to introduce the bipartisan Second Reauthorization Act. This bill builds on recent successes and takes important new steps to ensure that people coming out of prison have the opportunity to turn their lives around, rather than returning to a life of crime. That saves taxpayer money and makes us all safer.

This important legislation improves Federal reentry policy and authorizes assistance to collaborations between state and local corrections agencies, nonprofits, educational institutions, service providers, and families to ensure that offenders released into society have the resources and support they need to become contributing members of the community. The reauthorization bill builds on the success of the Second Chance Act by continuing, improving, and consolidating its programs.

Four years ago, I joined with then-Senators BIDEN, Specter, and Brownback as an original cosponsor of the Second Chance Act, and I was pleased to help move that legislation through the Senate. The Senate recognized the value of the Second Chance Act when, after a great deal of work and compromise, the bill passed unanimously. I hope this reauthorization bill receives the same bipartisan support.

In the past few decades, Congress and the states have passed new criminal laws creating more and longer sentences for more crimes. As a result, this country sends even more people to prison every year, costing millions and millions of dollars. There are currently over 2 million people in jail or prison, and more than 13 million people spend some time in jail or prison each year. Most of these people will at some point return to our communities.

Last July, I chaired a hearing on the Second Chance Act, and the Committee heard about the great strides many states are making with innovative prisoner reentry programs. Commissioner Andrew Pallito from the Vermont Department of Corrections testified and shared with us his experience with reentry programs in Vermont. The Vermont Department of Corrections and many others in Vermont have strongly supported the Second Chance Act, which gives me confidence that it represents an important step in making our country safer.

The Second Chance Act authorized grants for key reentry programs and required that these programs demonstrate measurable positive results, including a reduction in recidivism. Preliminary studies show that these programs are already working well.

The reauthorization bill that we propose today improves, consolidates and reauthorizes the state and local government grant programs created by the Second Chance Act. It is intended to ensure that funding is available for planning and implementation of key reentry projects so that evidence-based methodology is employed to ensure meaningful reductions in recidivism rates. It is designed to ensure that all states have the opportunity to develop and benefit from these important programs.

The bill also consolidates several programs that were underutilized into one grant program with multiple purposes. This will ensure that Federal dollars are effectively spent on programs that link probation with swift and certain enforcement, like the very successful HOPE program in Hawaii.

The Second Chance Act authorized research into educational methods used in prisons and jails. This reauthorization bill asks the Attorney General to review that research and establish best practices for prison education. It then reallocates the authorized funds previously used for research into a grant program to implement these best practices in prisons and jails. The bill also adds nonprofit organizations as eligible grant recipients for programs promoting family-based substance abuse treatment.

This legislation makes modest improvements to Federal reentry policy that have the added benefit of reducing Bureau of Prison costs. It continues the successful Elderly and Family Reunification for Certain Non Violent Offenders Pilot Program and modestly expands the pool of inmates eligible to apply for the program. More than 60 inmates have now participated in this program, and not a single one has reoffended.

The bill also creates an incentive for inmates to participate in rigorous recidivism reduction programming by awarding a credit of up 60 days per year toward completion of their sentence for participation in such programs. The incentive is modeled on that currently awarded for successful participation in residential drug abuse treatment programs.

Finally, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act promotes accountability by requiring periodic audits of grantees to ensure that Federal dollars are responsibly spent. Grantees with problematic audits will not be eligible for funding in future years.

As a former prosecutor, I believe strongly in securing tough and appropriate prison sentences for people who break our laws. But it is also important that we do everything we can to ensure that when these people get out of prison, they enter our communities as productive members of society, so we can start to reverse the dangerous cycle of recidivism and violence. The Second Chance Reauthorization Act will help break this cycle.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1231

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE OFFENDER STATE AND LOCAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney General shall make grants to States, local governments, territories, or Indian tribes, or any combination thereof (in this section referred to as an 'eligible entity'), in partnership with stakeholders, services providers, and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of strategic planning and implementation of adult and juvenile offender reentry projects.'';

(2) by striking subsections (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

''(d) COMBINED GRANT APPLICATION.—The Attorney General shall develop a procedure to allow applicants to submit a single application for a planning grant under subsection (e) and an implementation grant under subsection (f).

''(e) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Attorney General may make a grant to an eligible entity of not more than $75,000 to develop a strategic, collaborative plan for an adult or juvenile offender reentry demonstration project as described in subsection (h) that includes—

''(A) a budget and a budget justification;

''(B) a description of the outcome measures that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the program in promoting public safety and public health;

''(C) the activities proposed;

''(D) a schedule for completion of the activities described in subparagraph (C); and

''(E) a description of the personnel necessary to complete the activities described in subparagraph (C).

''(2) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a planning grant under this subsection shall submit to the Attorney General an application that shall include a commitment by the applicant to partner with a local evaluator to identify and analyze data that will—

''(i) enable the grantee to target the intended offender population; and

''(ii) serve as a baseline for purposes of the evaluation.

''(B) PROCEDURE.—The Attorney General shall develop a procedure to evaluate the qualifications of a local evaluator described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) MAXIMUM TOTAL GRANTS AND MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—

''(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Attorney General may not make planning grants and implementation grants to 1 eligible entity in a total amount that is more than a $1,000,000.

''(B) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Unless all eligible applications submitted by a State, or unit of local government within such State, for a planning grant have been awarded funds under this section, the State, in combination with the all of the grantees within the State (other than Indian tribes), shall be allocated for each fiscal year not less than 0.75 percent of the total amount appropriated in the fiscal year under this section for planning and implementation grants.

''(4) PERIOD OF GRANT.—A planning grant made under this subsection shall be for a period of 1 year, beginning on the first day of the month in which the planning grant is made.

''(f) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

''(1) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring an implementation grant under this subsection shall submit to the Attorney General an application that—

''(A) contains a reentry strategic plan as described in subsection (h), which describes the long-term strategy and incorporates a detailed implementation schedule, including the plans of the applicant to fund the program after Federal funding is discontinued;

''(B) identifies the local government role and the role of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that will be coordinated by, and that will collaborate on, the offender reentry strategy of the applicant, and certifies the involvement of such agencies and organizations;

''(C) describes the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program funded with a grant under this subsection, and specifically explains how such measurements will provide valid measures of the impact of that program; and

''(D) describes how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Attorney General may make a grant to an applicant under this subsection only if the application—

''(A) reflects explicit support of the chief executive officer of the State, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe applying for a grant under this subsection;

''(B) provides extensive discussion of the role of State corrections departments, community corrections agencies, juvenile justice systems, or local jail systems in ensuring successful reentry of offenders into their communities;

''(C) provides extensive evidence of collaboration with State and local government agencies overseeing health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, and employment services, and with local law enforcement agencies;

''(D) provides a plan for analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of offenders into the community;

''(E) includes the use of a State, local, territorial, or tribal task force, described in subsection (i), to carry out the activities funded under the grant;

''(F) provides a plan for continued collaboration with a local evaluator as necessary to meeting the requirements under subsection (h); and

''(G) demonstrates that the applicant participated in the planning grant process or engaged in comparable planning for the reentry project.

''(3) PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—The Attorney General shall give priority to grant applications under this subsection that best—

''(A) focus initiative on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

''(B) include—

''(i) input from nonprofit organizations, in any case where relevant input is available and appropriate to the grant application;

''(ii) consultation with crime victims and offenders who are released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

''(iii) coordination with families of offenders; and

''(iv) input, where appropriate from the juvenile justice coordinating council of the region;

''(C) demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities in order to provide comprehensive and continuous reentry, including—

''(i) planning while offenders are in prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, prerelease transition housing, and community release;

''(ii) establishing prerelease planning procedures to ensure that the eligibility of an offender for Federal or State benefits upon release is established prior to release, subject to any limitations in law, and to ensure that offenders obtain all necessary referrals for reentry services, including assistance identifying and securing suitable housing; and

''(iii) delivery of continuous and appropriate drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, or any other service or support needed for reentry;

''(D) review the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, taking into account public safety and the use of graduated, community-based sanctions for minor and technical violations of parole, probation, or supervision (specifically those violations that are not otherwise, and independently, a violation of law);

''(E) provide for an independent evaluation of reentry programs that include, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs;

''(F) target high-risk offenders for reentry programs through validated assessment tools; and

''(G) target offenders with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness, including a prerelease assessment of the housing status of the offender and behavioral health needs of the offender with clear coordination with mental health, substance abuse, or homelessness services systems to achieve stable and permanent housing outcomes with appropriate support service.

''(4) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made under this subsection may not be more than $925,000.

''(5) PERIOD OF GRANT.—A grant made under this subsection shall be effective for a 2-year period—

''(A) beginning on the date on which the planning grant awarded under subsection (e) concludes; or

''(B) in the case of an implementation grant awarded to an eligible entity that did not receive a planning grant, beginning on the date on which the implementation grant is awarded.'';

(3) in subsection (g)(1)(B)(ii), by striking ''50 percent'' and inserting ''75 percent'';

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving financial assistance under subsection (f), each application shall develop a comprehensive reentry strategic plan that—

''(A) contains a plan to assess inmate reentry needs and measurable annual and 3-year performance outcomes;

''(B) uses, to the maximum extent possible, randomly assigned and controlled studies, or rigorous quasi-experimental studies with matched comparison groups, to determine the effectiveness of the program funded with a grant under subsection (f); and

''(C) includes as a goal of the plan to reduce the rate of recidivism for offenders released from prison, jail or a juvenile facility with funds made available under subsection (f).

''(2) LOCAL EVALUATOR.—A partnership with a local evaluator described in subsection (e)(2) shall require the local evaluator to use the baseline data and target population characteristics developed under a subsection (e) planning grant to derive a feasible and meaningful target goal for recidivism reduction during the 3-year period beginning on the date of implementation of the program.'';

(5) in subsection (i)(1), by striking ''under this section'' and inserting ''under subsection (f)'';

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''for an implementation grant under subsection (f)'' after ''applicant'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting '', where appropriate'' after ''support''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), and inserting the following:

''(F) a cost-benefit analysis to determine the cost effectiveness of the reentry program;

''(G) increased number of staff trained to administer reentry services;

''(H) increased proportion of individuals served by the program among those eligible to receive services;

''(I) increased number of individuals receiving risk screening needs assessment, and case planning services;

''(J) increased enrollment in, and completion of treatment services, including substance abuse and mental health services among those assessed as needing such services;

''(K) increased enrollment in and degrees earned from educational programs, including GED, vocational training, and college education;

''(L) increased number of individuals obtaining and retaining employment;

''(M) increased number of individuals obtaining housing;

''(N) reduction in drug and alcohol use; and

''(O) reduction in recidivism rates for individuals receiving reentry services after release, as compared to either baseline recidivism rates in the jurisdiction of the grantee or recidivism rates of the control or comparison group.'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subsection (f)''; and

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(7) in subsection (k)(1), by striking ''this section'' each place the term appears and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(8) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''beginning on the date on which the most recent implementation grant is made to the grantee under subsection (f)'' after ''2-year period''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''over a 2-year period'' and inserting ''during the 2-year period described in paragraph (2)'';

(9) in subsection (o)(1), by striking ''appropriated'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''appropriated—''

''(A) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

''(B) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

''(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(D) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(E) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''; and

(10) by adding at the end the following:

''(p) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'exoneree' means an individual who—

''(A) has been convicted of a Federal or State offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

''(B) has served a term of imprisonment for not less than 6 months in a Federal or State prison or correctional facility as a result of the conviction described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) has been determined to be factually innocent of the offense described in subparagraph (A); and

''(2) the term 'offender' includes an exoneree.''.

(b) COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended by striking part CC (42 U.S.C. 3797q et seq.) and inserting the following:

''PART CC—COST EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION PROGRAM

''SEC. 2901. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) ELIGIBLE OFFENDER.—The term 'eligible offender' means an individual who—

''(A) has been charged, sentenced, or convicted of a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment of more than 1 year is authorized; and

''(B) does not have 1 or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm.

''(2) PROBATION WITH ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.—The term 'probation with enforcement program' means a program that—

''(A) reduces drug use, crime, and recidivism by requiring swift, predictable, and graduated sanctions for noncompliance with the conditions of probation, as determined by the Attorney General;

''(B) identifies for enrollment in the program eligible offenders who are serving a term of probation and who are at high risk of failing to observe the conditions of supervision and of being returned to incarceration as a result of the failure;

''(C) notifies eligible offenders of the rules of the probation demonstration program, and consequences for violating such rules;

''(D) monitors eligible offenders for illicit drug use with regular and rapid-result drug screening;

''(E) monitors eligible offenders for violations of other rules and probation terms, including failure to pay court-ordered financial obligations, such as child support or victim restitution;

''(F) responds to violations of the other rules and probation terms with immediate arrest of the violating eligible offender, and swift and certain modification of the conditions of probation, including imposition of short jail stays (which may gradually become longer with each additional violation and modification);

''(G) immediately responds to eligible offenders who have absconded from supervision with service of bench warrants and immediate sanctions;

''(H) provides rewards to eligible offenders who comply with such rules;

''(I) ensures funding for, and referral to, substance abuse treatment for eligible offenders who repeatedly fail to refrain from illicit drug use; and

''(J) establishes procedures to terminate program participation by, and initiate revocation to a term of incarceration for, eligible offenders who habitually fail to abide by program rules and pose a threat to public safety.

''(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT OR PROSECUTION DRUG TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON PROGRAM.—The term 'law enforcement or prosecution drug treatment alternative to prison program' means a program that—

''(A) is administered by a prosecutor or law enforcement officer of a State, Indian tribe, or local government;

''(B) requires an eligible offender who is sentenced to participate in the program (instead of incarceration) to participate in a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program that is approved by the State or Indian tribe and licensed, if necessary, to provide medical and other health services;

''(C) requires an eligible offender to receive the consent of the prosecutor or law enforcement officer involved to participate in the program;

''(D) in the case of an eligible offender who is sentenced to participate in the program, requires the offender to serve a sentence of imprisonment with respect to the crime involved if the prosecutor or law enforcement officer, in conjunction with the treatment provider, determines that the eligible offender has not successfully completed the relevant substance abuse treatment program described in subparagraph (B);

''(E) provides for the dismissal of the criminal charges that lead to the participation of an eligible offender in the program if the eligible offender is determined to have successfully completed the program;

''(F) requires each substance abuse provider treating an eligible offender under the program to—

''(i) make periodic reports of the progress of the treatment of the eligible offender to the law enforcement officer involved and to the appropriate court in which the eligible offender was convicted; and

''(ii) notify the prosecutor or law enforcement officer involved and the appropriate court if the eligible offender absconds from the facility of the treatment provider or otherwise violates the terms and conditions of the program, consistent with Federal and State confidentiality requirements; and

''(G) has an enforcement unit comprised of law enforcement officers involved, the duties of which shall include—

''(i) verifying the address of an eligible offender and other contacts;

''(ii) if necessary, locating, apprehending, and arresting an eligible offender who has absconded from the facility of a substance abuse treatment provider or otherwise violated the terms and conditions of the program and returning the eligible offender to the appropriate court for sentencing for the crime involved.

''(4) REENTRY COURT.—The term 'reentry court' means a program that—

''(A) monitors juvenile and adult eligible offenders reentering the community;

''(B) provides juvenile and adult eligible offenders reentering the community with coordinated and comprehensive reentry services and programs, such as—

''(i) drug and alcohol testing and assessment for treatment;

''(ii) assessment for substance abuse from a substance abuse professional who is approved by the State or Indian tribe and licensed by the appropriate entity to provide alcohol and drug addiction treatment, as appropriate;

''(iii) substance abuse treatment from a provider that is approved by the State or Indian tribe, and licensed, if necessary, to provide medical and other health services;

''(iv) health (including mental health) services and assessment;

''(v) aftercare and case management services that—

''(I) facilitate access to clinical care and related health services; and

''(II) coordinate with such clinical care and related health services; and

''(vi) any other services needed for reentry;

''(C) convenes community impact panels, victim impact panels, or victim impact educational classes;

''(D) provides and coordinates the delivery of community services to juvenile and adult eligible offenders, including—

''(i) housing assistance;

''(ii) education;

''(iii) job training;

''(iv) conflict resolution skills training;

''(v) batterer intervention programs; and

''(vi) other appropriate social services; and

''(E) establishes and implements graduated sanctions and incentives.

''SEC. 2902. GRANT AUTHORITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to States, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, nonprofit agencies, or any combination thereof, to develop, implement, or expand programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, in accordance with this part.

''(b) ALLOWABLE USES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this part may be used for the expenses of a law enforcement or prosecution drug treatment alternatives to prison program, a problem-solving court, including a reentry court, or a probation with enforcement program including for—

''(A) salaries, personnel costs, equipment costs, and other costs directly related to the operation or evaluation of the program;

''(B) payments for providers that are approved by the State or Indian tribe and licensed, if necessary, to provide needed treatment or education to eligible offenders participating in the program, including aftercare supervision, mental health services, substance abuse services, vocational training, education, and job placement; and

''(C) payments to public and nonprofit private entities that are approved by the State or Indian tribe and licensed, if necessary, to provide mental health, alcohol and drug addiction treatment to offenders participating in the program.

''(2) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.—Grants made under this part shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for programs described in this part.

''(c) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State, local government, territory, Indian tribe, or nonprofit agency desiring a grant under this part shall submit an application to the Attorney General in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

''(2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) describe the program to be assisted under this part and the need for the program to serve eligible offenders;

''(B) describe a long-term strategy and detailed implementation plan for the program, including how the applicant plans to pay for the program after the Federal funding is discontinued;

''(C) identify the governmental and community agencies the activities of which shall be coordinated under the project;

''(D) certify that—

''(i) all agencies affected by the program, including community corrections and parole entities, have been appropriately consulted in the development of the program; and

''(ii) there will be appropriate coordination with all such agencies in the implementation of the program; and

''(E) describe the methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program.

''SEC. 2903. FEDERAL SHARE.

''(a) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out using a grant under this part shall be not more than 50 percent.

''(b) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the recipient of a grant under this part may meet the matching requirement under subsection (a) by making in-kind contributions of goods or services that are directly related to the purpose for which the grant was awarded.

''(2) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Not more than 75 percent of the amount provided by a

recipient of a grant under this part to meet the matching requirement under subsection (a) may be provided through in-kind contributions under paragraph (1).

''SEC. 2904. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

''The Attorney General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, the distribution of grants under this part is equitable and includes States, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, or nonprofit agencies—

''(1) in each State; and

''(2) in rural, suburban, tribal, and urban jurisdictions.

''SEC. 2905. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.

''Each entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Attorney General, for each fiscal year in which funds received under the grant are expended, a report, at such time and in such manner as the Attorney General may reasonably require, that contains—

''(1) a summary of the activities carried out under the program assisted by the grant;

''(2) an assessment of whether the activities are meeting the need for the program identified in the application submitted under section 2902(c); and

''(3) such other information as the Attorney General may require.

''SEC. 2906. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

''The Attorney General may, using amounts made available to carry out this part, establish training and technical assistance for grantees, including—

''(1) providing education, training, and technical assistance for States, Indian tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, and nonprofit organizations relating to problem-solving courts, law enforcement drug treatment alternative to prison programs, and probation with enforcement programs;

''(2) collecting data and best practices from grantees and other agencies and organizations;

''(3) developing and disseminating evaluation tools, mechanisms, and measures to better assess and document performance measures and outcomes;

''(4) disseminating information to States and other relevant entities about best practices, policy standards, and research findings; and

''(5) interdisciplinary and profession-specific training for relevant professionals on information and skills necessary to plan, implement, or expand problem-solving courts, law enforcement drug treatment alternative to prisons programs, and probation with enforcement programs.

''SEC. 2907. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part—

''(1) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

''(2) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

''(3) $14000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(4) $16,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(5) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year—

''(1) not more than 2 percent may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and administrative expenses; and

''(2) not more than 5 percent nor less than 2 percent may be used for technical assistance and training.

''SEC. 2908. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

''Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent a grantee that operates a drug court under part EE when the grant under this part is awarded from using funds from the grant under this part to supplement the drug court in accordance with section 2902(b)(1).''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 is amended—

(A) in section 1001(a) (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)), by striking paragraph (26); and

(B) by striking section 2978 (42 U.S.C. 3797w–2).

(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—A grant made under section 2978 or part CC of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w–2 and 3797q et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act shall remain in full force and effect under the terms, and for the duration, of the grant.

(c) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Part DD of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797s et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2921 (42 U.S.C. 3797s), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''nonprofit organizations,'' before ''and Indian''; and

(2) by striking section 2926(a) (42 U.S.C. 3797s–5(a)), and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part—

''(1) $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

''(2) $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.''.

(d) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating part KK (42 U.S.C. 3793ee et seq.) as part LL;

(2) by redesignating the second part designated as part JJ, as added by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 677), relating to grants to evaluate and improve educational methods, as part KK;

(3) by redesignating the second section designated as section 3001 and section 3002 (42 U.S.C. 3797dd and 3797dd–1), as added by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 677), relating to grants to evaluate and improve educational methods, as sections 3005 and 3006, respectively;

(4) in section 3005, as so redesignated—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) implement methods to improve academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities consistent with the best practices identified in subsection (c).'';

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(C) by inserting after subsection (b), the following:

''(c) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011, the Attorney General shall identify and publish best practices relating to academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. The best practices shall consider the evaluations performed and recommendations made under grants made under subsection (a) before the date of enactment of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011''; and

(5) in section 3006, as so redesignated, by striking ''to carry'' and all that follows through ''2010'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 for grants for purposes described in section 3005(a)(4)''.

(e) TECHNOLOGY CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17511) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''and Indian'' and inserting ''nonprofit organizations, and Indian''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; and

''(2) $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.''.

(f) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17521(f)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.''.

(g) MENTORING GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 211 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17531) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g);

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'offender' includes an individual who—

''(1) has been convicted of a Federal or State offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

''(2) has served a term of imprisonment for not less than 6 months in a Federal or State prison or correctional facility as a result of the conviction described in paragraph (1); and

''(3) has been determined to be factually innocent of the offense described in paragraph (1).''; and

(3) in subsection (g), as redesignated, by striking ''this section'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''this section—''

''(1) $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

''(2) $16,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

''(3) $16,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(4) $19,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(5) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

SEC. 3. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GRANTEES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means an audit report finding or recommendation that a grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during a 1-year period beginning on the date of an initial notification of the finding or recommendation.

(b) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2012, and every 3 years thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct an audit of not less than 5 percent of all grantees that are awarded funding under—

(1) section 2976(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w(b));

(2) part CC of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797q et seq.), as amended by this Act;

(3) part DD of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797s et seq.);

(4) part JJ of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797dd et seq.); or

(5) section 115, 201, or 211 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17511, 17521, and 17531).

(c) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A grantee that is found to have an unresolved audit finding under an audit conducted under subsection (b) may not receive grant funds under the grant programs described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (b) in the fiscal year following the fiscal year to which the finding relates.

(d) PRIORITY OF GRANT AWARDS.—The Attorney General, in awarding grants under

the programs described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (b) shall give priority to eligible entities that during the 2-year period preceding the application for a grant have not been found to have an unresolved audit finding.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL REENTRY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) RESPONSIBLE REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS.—Section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532) is repealed.

(b) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''carried out during fiscal years 2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''carried out during fiscal years 2012 through 2016''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(A)(i), by striking ''65 years'' and inserting ''60 years'';

(2) by striking subsection (h);

(3) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h); and

(4) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by striking ''2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''2012 through 2016''.

(c) ENHANCING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.—Section 3624(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), in the second sentence, by inserting '', and number of prisoners not being place in community corrections facilities for each reason set forth'' before '', and any other information''; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking ''the Second Chance Act of 2007'' and inserting ''the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011''.

(d) TERMINATION OF STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF DEPOT NALTREXONE FOR HEROIN ADDICTION.—Section 244 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17554) is repealed.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH.—Section 245 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17555) is amended—

(1) by striking ''243, and 244'' and inserting ''and 243''; and

(2) by striking ''2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016''.

(f) FEDERAL PRISONER RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMMING ENHANCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3621 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) INCENTIVE FOR PRISONERS' PARTICIPATION IN REENTRY PROGRAMS PROVEN TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'demonstrated to reduce recidivism' means that the Director of Bureau of Prisons has determined that appropriate research has been conducted and has validated the effectiveness of the program on recidivism; and

''(B) the term 'successfully participates' means that a prisoner has been enrolled for a period of not less than 180 days during the 12 months preceding the award of credit in 1 or more programs—

''(i) for which the prisoner is eligible; and

''(ii) that meet the treatment and program needs of the prisoner.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY TO EARN ADDITIONAL CREDIT.—Any prisoner who, in the judgment of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, successfully participates in a program that has been demonstrated to reduce recidivism, is eligible to earn additional credit toward satisfaction of the sentence being served by the prisoner.

''(3) CREDIT TOWARD SERVICE OF SENTENCE.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), a prisoner may receive credit toward service of the sentence of the prisoner of up to 60 days per year for each year in which the prisoner is in custody of the Bureau of Prisons and successfully participates in a program described in paragraph (2). Any credits awarded under this subsection shall vest on the date the prisoner is released from custody.

''(4) LIMITATION ON AWARDS OF CREDIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A prisoner may accrue credit toward service of the sentence of the prisoner under this subsection if—

''(i) the credit accrued under this subsection is combined with reductions in the period of time the prisoner remains in custody resulting from participation in a residential substance abuse program; and

''(ii) credit received under section 3624(b) does not exceed 33 percent of the sentence imposed on the prisoner.

''(B) PRIOR TIME CREDIT.—No credits shall be awarded for any time spent in—

''(i) programs during the 180-day period preceding the enactment of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011; or

''(ii) official detention prior to the date the sentence commences under section 3585(a).

''(5) RECEIPT OF CREDIT AT END OF YEAR.—A prisoner may receive credit at the end of each year of the sentence being served by the prisoner, beginning at the end of the first year of the sentence, subject to a determination by the Director by the Bureau of Prisons that during the year the prisoner display exemplary compliance with institutional disciplinary regulations. For purposes of this section, the first year shall commence on the date the sentence commences under section 3585(a).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1234. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce a bill on an issue that is very important to me and many of my colleagues here in the Senate. I have long been a passionate supporter of some of the most vulnerable members of our society, especially the thousands of our Nation's foster youth. Currently, there are over 420,000 children living in foster care. Each one of these foster youth deserves a safe, loving and permanent home. But, each year, these children face a declining number of foster homes, and must also deal with the widespread negative misperceptions attached to the foster care system. Many of them have to cope with parents that struggle with substance abuse problems. Parental substance abuse is one of the leading, if not the primary, reasons forcing children into the foster care system.

According to the Congressional Research Service, in a nationally representative study, caseworkers investigating allegations of abuse or neglect noted active drug abuse by the 37 percent of the primary caregivers from whom children were removed to out-of-home care. The same report also noted active alcohol abuse among 29 percent of the primary caregivers from whom children were removed. The percentage of children who remain in care due to issues related to substance abuse is believed to be even larger because, among other reasons, accessing and successfully completing treatment services is often time consuming and children may not be able to safely return to their homes until treatment is successfully completed. An additional troubling statistic comes from a 2005 report by the RAND Corporation, which revealed that more than 300,000 children entered the foster-care system due to methamphetamine abuse.

I would like to take a moment to share a story about one foster youth who is currently serving as an intern in my Washington, DC office thanks to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Her name is Taatianna and her story is a reminder of the challenges that many foster youth face.

When Taatianna turned three, she opened the front door of her home to a caseworker who removed her and her two siblings from their home. Taatianna was placed in the foster care system at very young age because of her parent's substance abuse. She has lived many years with shame and guilt, believing she was responsible for splitting apart her family. However, she now knows that drug and alcohol were the reasons she was neglected and forced into foster care. Fortunately, Taatianna and her siblings were able to live together and be raised by their biological grandmother, Ruby, in Relative Kinship Care. Ruby played the role of mom, dad, and grandma to these three children. While growing up, Taatianna and her siblings faced emotional and mental anxieties, trying hard not to succumb to the curse of substance abuse addiction that ran in their family. But more importantly, the kids longed to be with their mom and dad again, hoping they could get clean, hold a job, and be a family. Taatianna's mother struggled, and continues to struggle with, addiction.

Drugs and alcohol have torn this family apart, and have destroyed any sense of normalcy or permanency they so desperately yearned for. Taatianna witnessed first-hand the traumatic effects of substance abuse in both her parents and many other family members. Taatianna, and many other foster youth in this country, could be helped if parents were treated or had better access to treatment for their substance abuse problems.

Foster care shouldn't be a destination. It should be a temporary detour for children while their parents are treated and are ready to be parents.

So, today, on behalf of many youth in foster care, I introduce the Partners for Stable Families and Foster Youth Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse Act. This bill will reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants that were created in 2006 as part of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act. The passage of this legislation was a tremendous step forward

in our efforts to help the youth in the foster care system. The funds from these grants address a variety of challenges that are barriers to optimal family outcomes. The mission of the Regional Partnership Grants is to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are in an out-of-home placement or are at-risk of such placement because of a parent or caretaker's abuse of methamphetamine or another substance.

In September 2007, following the authorization of the Regional Partnership Grants, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded multiyear grants to 53 regional partnerships representing 29 states and 6 tribes. The first round of grants supported the creation or expansion of family treatment drug courts, improvement of system-wide collaboration, expanded access to comprehensive family centered treatment, use of evidence-based practice approaches such as motivational enhancement therapy, parent advocates, and recovery management approaches to drug treatment monitoring. The groups receiving these grants were split almost evenly between the public and private sectors, and they represent a great example of how both can assist the many youth and families that are a part of the foster care system.

Allow me an opportunity to tell you about the grantees in my home state of Iowa.

One grantee, Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc., is undertaking the Parent Partner Program in 9 counties in rural Northwest Iowa. This program primarily assists individuals addicted to meth, and is unique because parents are matched to Parent Partners who serve as mentors, assisting clients to navigate the child welfare and substance abuse systems. The goal of these Parent Partners is to support and mentor parents who have trouble keeping their families together and are at risk of incarceration or permanently losing custody of their children. This program is more personal than stand alone drug treatment programs because Parent Partners have been through the same situations. One outcome is that clients are developing a trusting relationship with professionals in the child welfare and substance abuse systems; thereby increasing their chances for success and becoming more engaged in substance abuse treatment and recovery. The Parent Partner understands the client's situation, allowing them to bond and build trust with the goal of regaining custody of their children more quickly. The Parent Partners serve as the critical link between the Department of Human Services, the parent, and other experts.

Another grantee, the Parents and Children Together, PACT, is a family drug court initiative implementing a community based approach to substance abuse treatment. The program supports the family to remain the primary permanency option for their children. PACT is a partnership of the courts, the state child welfare agency, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and five community pilot sites with the State Court taking the lead. Through this program, family treatment courts were implemented in each pilot site. The program is focused on increasing the safety, permanency and well-being of children by addressing the substance abuse treatment programming and service gaps through a community collaborative planning approach. The partnership has worked hard over the years to establish family drug courts in their pilot sites that support families as they navigate the foster care system and substance abuse treatment. With the knowledge they are gaining on what works and what doesn't, they have provided two family treatment court forums for other interested community court led teams. They presently serve 6 sites and have 6 other court led teams that are interested in learning more.

According to a forthcoming report from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, over 8,000 adults and 12,000 children have been served by the Regional Partnership Grants. Bryan Samuels, the Commissioner of the Administration, has said that children are discharged from foster care at a faster rate because of the grants and that families are more likely to be reunited within 12 months and are more likely to stay that way after 12 months.

The efforts to help at-risk youth must continue. We know that substance abuse issues will continue to push kids into foster care. In Iowa alone, from 2005–2009, the Iowa Department of Human Services classified 5,330 children victims of abuse due to the presence of an illegal drug in their body. Meth continues to be a huge concern. In fact, meth lab incidents in Iowa have dropped dramatically since their peak in 2004, but have risen in each of the past three years. The resurgence in meth lab incidents coincides with a rise in drug-related prison admissions, meth treatment admissions, and child abuse cases.

In my original version of the Regional Partnership Grants in 2006, I envisioned $40 million per year to be available for grants to improve the outcomes of those affected by meth or other substance abuse. Unfortunately this amount was reduced during conference committee negotiations. In the bill I am introducing today, I am again calling for the amount to be set at $40 million per year. This will allow new grantees to start programs while giving short two-year extensions to existing grantees. The goal is to encourage new collaborations throughout the country, while giving time to existing collaborations to institute best practices and educate other entities about what works and what does not.

The reauthorization of the Regional Partnership Grants will also include several measures aimed at improving the original legislation. The bill will allow more dollars to be available for activities and collaborative efforts by instituting a 5 percent administrative fee cap on the amount that can be retained by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families for technical assistance or contract services. Finally, the bill will require more evaluation of regional partnerships, and require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the new grantees and issue a report on the best practices implemented by their programs no later than December 1, 2012, with a follow-up report due in 2017. These reports will prove useful in efforts to improve our foster-care system.

The improvement of the lives of families and youth that are involved in the foster care system is one of the most important issue I have undertaken in the U.S. Senate. The Regional Partnership Grants have not only helped youth in search of permanent, loving families, but have brought back together families that were torn apart by substance abuse. As a founder and co-chair of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, I have been a witness to the many successes that have occurred thanks to our support of these children and young adults; however, I am also still painfully aware of the amount of work that remains. We can take another significant step forward in this area by passing the Partners for Stable Families and Foster Youth Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse Act and reauthorizing the Regional Partnership Grants.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1236. A bill to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2011 with my colleagues and friends, Senator JON KYL, Senator MARY LANDRIEU and Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL. This bill will provide law enforcement and prosecutors with important tools to locate border tunnels, identify criminals and punish those involved.

As the U.S., Mexico border has become more secure, criminals have sought out new ways to transfer drugs and people across the border. For years, smugglers have tried to go around our border checkpoints. Now, they are trying to go under them to evade border enforcement. There is an increasing number and sophistication of tunnels along the Southwest border.

Tunnels range from anything from a shallow dirt crawl way to sophisticated concrete structures with shoring, ventilation and electricity. One tunnel found in San Diego even had a makeshift elevator.

Underground tunnels present a serious national security threat. The first tunnel was discovered in May of 1990. However, beginning in 2001, tunnels began to increase dramatically. Between September 2001 and today, an astonishing 125 completed tunnels have been discovered making a total of 137 completed tunnels since 1990.

Border tunnels are most often used to transport narcotics from Mexico to the United States, but assumingly are also used to smuggle weapons and people. Just as tunnels can be used to transport drugs across the border, they could be used to smuggle a terrorist into the United States.

In recent years, there has been a striking increase in the sophistication of these tunnels. To date, authorities have discovered 61 sophisticated tunnels, 37 of which were constructed in California.

In San Diego in February of 2006, I had the occasion to visit a very sophisticated tunnel discovered by the multiagency San Diego Tunnel Task Force, led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Department of Homeland Security has established these tunnel task forces in San Diego, El Paso, Nogales, Yuma and Imperial Valley.

The tunnel was 2,400 feet long, close to half of a mile, stretching from an abandoned warehouse near the southern border of California through to Tijuana, Mexico. It remains the longest cross-border tunnel discovered in U.S. history, more than nine stories below ground at its deepest point, and had ample ventilation and groundwater drainage systems, cement flooring, lighting, and a pulley system.

Authorities seized over 4,200 pounds of marijuana in the tunnel, and have attributed the operation to the Arellano Felix Organization.

The exit of the tunnel in the United States was concealed in a small office inside a massive empty warehouse, covered only by four square tiles.

After seeing this tunnel, I introduced the Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2006. The bill became law in 2007 and criminalized the construction, financing or use of an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage across an international border into the United States. It also imposes a punishment for anyone who negligently permits others to construct or use an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage on their land.

The first prosecution under this law was in connection to a December 2009 partially-built tunnel found in Calexico, California. An investigation resulted in the arrest of Daniel Alvarez, a United States citizen. Alvarez eventually pled guilty to criminal violations put into place by the Border Tunnel Prevention Act and was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison.

Today, I am introducing a bill to enhance the 2007 law. Specifically, it will make the use, construction or financing of a border tunnel a conspiracy offense. This would punish the intent to engage in tunnel activity, even in cases where a tunnel was not fully constructed.

The bill will include illegal tunneling as an offense eligible for Title III wiretaps even when there are not drugs or other contraband to facilitate a wiretap; specify border tunnel activity as unlawful under the existing forfeiture and money laundering provisions to allow authorities to seize assets in these cases.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1236

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) As the international border between the United States and Mexico becomes more secure, trafficking and smuggling organizations intensify their efforts to enter the United States by increasing the number of tunnels and other subterranean passages between Mexico and the United States.

(2) Border tunnels are most often used to transport narcotics from Mexico to the United States, but can also be used to transport people and other contraband.

(3) Between May 1990 and May 2011, law enforcement authorities discovered 137 tunnels, 125 of which have been discovered since September 2001. While law enforcement authorities discovered only 2 tunnels in California between 1990 and 2001, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of border tunnels discovered in California since 2001.

(4) Section 551 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295) added a new section to title 18, United States Code (18 U.S.C. 555), which—

(A) criminalizes the construction or financing of an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage across an international border into the United States; and

(B) prohibits any person from recklessly permitting others to construct or use an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage on the person's land.

(5) Any person convicted of using a tunnel or subterranean passage to smuggle aliens, weapons, drugs, terrorists, or illegal goods is subject to an enhanced sentence for the underlying offense. Additional sentence enhancements would further deter tunnel activities and increase prosecutorial options.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL SECURITY ZONE.—The term ''national security zone'' means any Southwest Border land designated by the Secretary as being at a high risk for border tunnel activity, as authorized under section 8(b).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(3) SOUTHWEST BORDER LAND.—The term ''Southwest Border land'' means all parcels of real property in the United States that—

(A) are located within 1 mile of the international border between the United States and Mexico; and

(B) are not owned by a Federal, State, tribal, or local government entity.

SEC. 4. ATTEMPT OR CONSPIRACY TO USE, CONSTRUCT, OR FINANCE A BORDER TUNNEL.

Section 555 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) Any person who attempts or conspires to commit any offense under this section shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense, the commission of which was the object of the attempt or conspiracy.''.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERCEPTION OF WIRE, ORAL, OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS.

Section 2516(1)(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', section 555 (relating to construction or use of international border tunnels)'' before the semicolon at the end.

SEC. 6. FORFEITURE.

(a) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE.—Section 982(a)(2)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''555,'' after ''545,''.

(b) CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE.—Any merchandise introduced into the United States through a tunnel or passage described in section 555(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture in accordance with section 596(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1595a(c)).

SEC. 7. MONEY LAUNDERING DESIGNATION.

Section 1956(c)(7)(D) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''section 555 (relating to border tunnels),'' after ''section 554 (relating to smuggling goods from the United States),''.

SEC. 8. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) NOTIFICATION TO LAND OWNERS.—The Secretary is encouraged to annually provide each known nongovernmental owner and tenant of land located in a national security zone with a written notification that describes—

(1) Federal laws related to the construction of illegal border tunnels; and

(2) the procedures for reporting violations of such laws to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(b) DESIGNATION OF BORDER TUNNEL HIGH RISK AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may designate any Southwest Border land that the Secretary has a substantial reason to believe is at a high risk for border tunnel activity as a national security zone.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) publish any designations made under paragraph (1) in the Federal Register; and

(B) allow appropriate notice and comment in accordance with the chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Administrative Procedures Act'').

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the congressional committees set forth in subsection (b) that includes a description of—

(1) the cross border tunnels in Southwest Border land discovered during the reporting period; and

(2) the needs of the Department of Homeland Security to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute border tunnel construction on Southwest Border land.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The congressional committees set forth in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 486. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 487. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 488. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 489. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 490. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 491. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary.

SA 492. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, supra.

SA 493. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 486. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, between the matter after line 2 and line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 13. VERIFICATION OF SELF-REPORTED DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 12(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 220. VERIFICATION OF SELF-REPORTED DATA.

''For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

''(1) audit and verify data reported to the Secretary by at least 10 percent of the individuals and entities that receive assistance in the form of grants under this Act during the fiscal year or the immediately preceding fiscal year;

''(2) in conducting the audit and data verification, evaluate the sufficiency of the documentation and methodology of grantees for determining private investment and job creation resulting from the economic development project for which funds are provided under this Act; and

''(3) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and publish in the Federal Register, a report describing the results of the audits and verifications.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 219 (as added by section 12(b)) the following:

''Sec. 220. Verification of self-reported data.''.

SA 487. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 22. ANGEL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 30E. ANGEL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to 25 percent of the qualified equity investments made by a qualified investor during the taxable year.

''(b) QUALIFIED EQUITY INVESTMENT.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified equity investment' means any equity investment in a qualified small business entity if—

''(A) such investment is acquired by the taxpayer at its original issue (directly or through an underwriter) solely in exchange for cash, and

''(B) such investment is designated for purposes of this section by the qualified small business entity.

''(2) EQUITY INVESTMENT.—The term 'equity investment' means—

''(A) any form of equity, including a general or limited partnership interest, common stock, preferred stock (other than nonqualified preferred stock as defined in section 351(g)(2)), with or without voting rights, without regard to seniority position and whether or not convertible into common stock or any form of subordinate or convertible debt, or both, with warrants or other means of equity conversion, and

''(B) any capital interest in an entity which is a partnership.

''(3) REDEMPTIONS.—A rule similar to the rule of section 1202(c)(3) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

''(c) QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS ENTITY.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified small business entity' means any domestic corporation or partnership if such corporation or partnership—

''(A) is a small business (as defined in section 41(b)(3)(D)(iii)),

''(B) has its headquarters in the United States,

''(C) is engaged in a high technology trade or business related to—

''(i) advanced materials, nanotechnology, or precision manufacturing,

''(ii) aerospace, aeronautics, or defense,

''(iii) biotechnology or pharmaceuticals,

''(iv) electronics, semiconductors, software, or computer technology,

''(v) energy, environment, or clean technologies,

''(vi) forest products or agriculture,

''(vii) information technology, communication technology, digital media, or photonics,

''(viii) life sciences or medical sciences,

''(ix) marine technology or aquaculture,

''(x) transportation, or

''(xi) any other high technology trade or business as determined by the Secretary,

''(D) has been in existence for less than 5 years as of the date of the qualified equity investment,

''(E) employs less than 100 full-time equivalent employees as of the date of such investment,

''(F) has more than 50 percent of the employees performing substantially all of their services in the United States as of the date of such investment, and

''(G) has equity investments designated for purposes of this paragraph.

''(2) DESIGNATION OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(G), an equity investment shall not be treated as designated if such designation would result in the aggregate amount which may be taken into account under this section with respect to equity investments in such corporation or partnership exceeds—

''(A) $10,000,000, taking into account the total amount of all qualified equity investments made by all taxpayers for the taxable year and all preceding taxable years,

''(B) $2,000,000, taking into account the total amount of all qualified equity investments made by all taxpayers for such taxable year, and

''(C) $1,000,000, taking into account the total amount of all qualified equity investments made by the taxpayer for such taxable year.

''(d) QUALIFIED INVESTOR.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified investor' means an accredited investor, as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission, investor network, or investor fund who review new or proposed businesses for potential investment.

''(2) INVESTOR NETWORK.—The term 'investor network' means a group of accredited investors organized for the sole purpose of making qualified equity investments.

''(3) INVESTOR FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'investor fund' means a corporation that for the applicable taxable year is treated as an S corporation or a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, trust, or limited liability company and which for the applicable taxable year is not taxed as a corporation.

''(B) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be allocated to the shareholders or partners of the investor fund in proportion to their ownership interest or as specified in the fund's organizational documents, except that tax-exempt investors shall be allowed to transfer their interest to investors within the fund in exchange for future financial consideration.

''(ii) SINGLE MEMBER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.—If the investor fund is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, the credit allowed under subsection (a) may be claimed by such limited liability company's owner, if such owner is a person subject to the tax under this title.

''(4) EXCLUSION.—The term 'qualified investor' does not include—

''(A) a person controlling at least 50 percent of the qualified small business entity,

''(B) an employee of such entity, or

''(C) any bank, bank and trust company, insurance company, trust company, national bank, savings association or building and loan association for activities that are a part of its normal course of business.

''(e) NATIONAL LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS DESIGNATED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is an angel investment tax credit limitation of $500,000,000 for each of calendar years 2011 through 2015.

''(2) ALLOCATION OF LIMITATION.—The limitation under paragraph (1) shall be allocated by the Secretary among qualified small business entities selected by the Secretary.

''(3) CARRYOVER OF UNUSED LIMITATION.—If the angel investment tax credit limitation for any calendar year exceeds the aggregate amount allocated under paragraph (2) for such year, such limitation for the succeeding calendar year shall be increased by the amount of such excess. No amount may be carried under the preceding sentence to any calendar year after 2020.

''(f) APPLICATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—

''(1) BUSINESS CREDIT TREATED AS PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the credit which would be allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year (determined without regard to this subsection) shall be treated as a credit listed in section 38(b) for such taxable year (and not allowed under subsection (a)).

''(2) PERSONAL CREDIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who elects the application of this paragraph, for purposes of this title, the credit allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year (determined after application of paragraph (1)) shall be treated as a credit allowable under subpart A for such taxable year.

''(B) LIMITATION BASED ON AMOUNT OF TAX.—In the case of a taxable year to which section 26(a)(2) does not apply, the credit allowed under subpart A for any taxable year (determined after application of paragraph (1)) by reason of subparagraph (A) shall not exceed the excess of—

''(i) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over

''(ii) the sum of the credits allowable under subpart A (other than this section) and section 27 for the taxable year.

''(C) CARRYFORWARD OF UNUSED CREDIT.—If the credit allowable under subsection (a) by reason of subparagraph (A) exceeds the limitation imposed by section 26(a)(1) or subparagraph (B), whichever is applicable, for such taxable year, reduced by the sum of the credits allowable under subpart A (other than this section) for such taxable year, such excess shall be carried to each of the succeeding 20 taxable years to the extent that such unused credit may not be taken into account under subsection (a) by reason of subparagraph (A) for a prior taxable year because of such limitation.

''(g) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) RELATED PARTIES.—For purposes of this section—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—All related persons shall be treated as 1 person.

''(B) RELATED PERSONS.—A person shall be treated as related to another person if the relationship between such persons would result in the disallowance of losses under section 267 or 707(b).

''(2) BASIS.—For purposes of this subtitle, the basis of any investment with respect to which a credit is allowable under this section shall be reduced by the amount of such credit so allowed. This subsection shall not apply for purposes of sections 1202, 1397B, and 1400B.

''(3) RECAPTURE.—The Secretary shall, by regulations, provide for recapturing the benefit of any credit allowable under subsection (a) with respect to any qualified equity investment which is held by the taxpayer less than 3 years, except that no benefit shall be recaptured in the case of—

''(A) transfer of such investment by reason of the death of the taxpayer,

''(B) transfer between spouses,

''(C) transfer incident to the divorce (as defined in section 1041) of such taxpayer, or

''(D) a transaction to which section 381(a) applies (relating to certain acquisitions of the assets of one corporation by another corporation).

''(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be appropriate to carry out this section, including regulations—

''(1) which prevent the abuse of the purposes of this section,

''(2) which impose appropriate reporting requirements, and

''(3) which apply the provisions of this section to newly formed entities.''.

(b) CREDIT MADE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (35), by striking ''plus'';

(2) in paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', plus''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(37) the portion of the angel investment tax credit to which section 30E(f)(1) applies.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1016(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting after paragraph (37) the following new paragraph:

''(38) to the extent provided in section 30E(g)(2).''.

(2) Section 24(b)(3)(B) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(3) Section 25(e)(1)(C)(ii) of such Code is amended by inserting ''30E,'' after ''30D,''.

(4) Section 25A(i)(5)(B) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting '', 30D, and 30E''.

(5) Section 25A(i)(5) of such Code is amended by inserting ''30E,'' after ''30D,''.

(6) Section 25B(g)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(7) Section 26(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(8) Section 30(c)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting '', 30D, and 30E''.

(9) Section 30B(g)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(10) Section 30D(d)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 25D'' and inserting '', 25D, and 30E''.

(11) Section 904(i) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(12) Section 1400C(d)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''and 30D'' and inserting ''30D, and 30E''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 30E. Angel investment tax credit.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to investments made after December 31, 2010, in taxable years ending after such date.

(f) REGULATIONS ON ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL LIMITATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate shall prescribe regulations which specify—

(1) how small business entities shall apply for an allocation under section 30E(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this section,

(2) the competitive procedure through which such allocations are made,

(3) the criteria for determining an allocation to a small business entity, including—

(A) whether the small business entity is located in a State that is historically underserved by angel investors and venture capital investors,

(B) whether the small business entity has received an angel investment tax credit, or its equivalent, from the State in which the small business entity is located and registered,

(C) whether small business entities in low-, medium-, and high-population density States are receiving allocations, and

(D) whether the small business entity has been awarded a Small Business Innovative Research or Small Business Technology Transfer grant from a Federal agency,

(4) the actions that such Secretary or delegate shall take to ensure that such allocations are properly made to qualified small business entities, and

(5) the actions that such Secretary or delegate shall take to ensure that angel investment tax credits are allocated and issued to the taxpayer.

(g) AUDIT AND REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to Congress on the number of taxpayers claiming the credit under section 30E of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the amount claimed by each taxpayer, and the characteristics of the taxpayers claiming such credit.

(h) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the data needed for the report under subsection (g) is collected and retained for the use of the Comptroller General.

SEC. 23. 100 PERCENT CONTINUOUS LEVY ON PAYMENTS TO MEDICARE PROVIDERS AND SUPPLIERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 6331(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting '', or to a Medicare provider or supplier under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to levies issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 24. 100 PERCENT CONTINUOUS LEVY ON PAYMENTS RELATING TO PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 6331(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 2, is amended by striking ''goods or services'' and inserting ''property, goods, or services''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to levies issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 488. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. _____. POSTAL SERVICE POLICY.

Section 101(b) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''a maximum degree of''; and

(2) by striking ''where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being'' and inserting ''. It is''.

SA 489. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, after line 20, insert the following:

TITLE II—TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

SEC. 200. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Trade Extenders Act of 2011''.

Subtitle A—Extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1893 of the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 422) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 236(a)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(2)(A)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''shall not exceed—'' and all that follows and inserting ''shall not exceed $575,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $143,750,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016.''.

(2) Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(3) Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318(b)(1)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(4) Section 255(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2345(a)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''for fiscal year 2010'' and all that follows and inserting ''for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $12,500,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.''.

(5) Section 275(f) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2371d(f)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''December 15 in each of the calendar years 2009 through'' and inserting ''December 15, 2009,''.

(6) Section 276(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2371e(c)(2)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''not more than—'' and all that follows and inserting ''not more than $25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $6,250,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016.''.

(7) Section 277(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2371f(c)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''this subchapter—'' and all that follows and inserting ''this subchapter $150,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $37,500,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016.''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subchapter shall remain available until expended.''.

(8) Section 278(e) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2372(e)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''December 15 in each of the calendar years 2009 through'' and inserting ''December 15, 2009,''.

(9) Section 279A(h)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2373(h)(2)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''December 15 in each of the calendar years 2009 through'' and inserting ''December 15, 2009,''.

(10) Section 279B(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2373a(a)(1)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''section 279A—'' and all that follows and inserting ''section 279A $40,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $10,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016.''.

(11) Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 285. TERMINATION.

''(a) ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), trade adjustment assistance, vouchers, allowances, and other payments or benefits may not be provided under chapter 2 after December 31, 2016.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a worker shall continue to receive trade adjustment assistance benefits and other benefits under chapter 2 for any week for which the worker meets the eligibility requirements of that chapter if the worker is—

''(A) certified as eligible for trade adjustment assistance benefits under chapter 2 pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 on or before December 31, 2016; and

''(B) otherwise eligible to receive trade adjustment assistance benefits under chapter 2.

''(b) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), technical assistance and grants may not be provided under chapter 3 after December 31, 2016.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any technical assistance or grant approved under chapter 3 pursuant to a petition filed under section 251 on or before December 31, 2016, may be provided—

''(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

''(ii) to the extent the recipient of the technical assistance or grant is otherwise eligible to receive such technical assistance or grant, as the case may be.

''(2) FARMERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), technical assistance and financial assistance may not be provided under chapter 6 after December 31, 2016.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any technical or financial assistance approved under chapter 6 pursuant to a petition filed under section 292 on or before December 31, 2016, may be provided—

''(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

''(ii) to the extent the recipient of the technical or financial assistance is otherwise eligible to receive such technical or financial assistance, as the case may be.

''(3) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), technical assistance and grants may not be provided under chapter 4 after December 31, 2016.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any technical assistance or grant approved under chapter 4 pursuant to a petition filed under section 273, or a grant proposal submitted under section 278 or 279A, on or before December 31, 2016, may be provided—

''(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

''(ii) to the extent the recipient of the technical assistance or grant is otherwise eligible to receive such technical assistance or grant, as the case may be.''.

(12) Section 298(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2401g(a)) (as in effect on February 12, 2011) is amended by striking ''$10,400,000 for the 6-week period beginning January 1, 2011, and ending February 12, 2011,'' and inserting ''$90,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016, and $22,500,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016''.

SEC. 202. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 201—

(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall apply to—

(A) petitions for certification filed under chapter 2, 3, or 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after such date of enactment; and

(B) petitions for assistance and proposals for grants filed under chapter 4 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after such date of enactment.

Subtitle B—Health Coverage Improvement

SEC. 211. IMPROVEMENT OF THE AFFORDABILITY OF THE CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7527(b) of such Code is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 212. PAYMENT FOR THE MONTHLY PREMIUMS PAID PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7527(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 213. TAA RECIPIENTS NOT ENROLLED IN TRAINING PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 214. TAA PRE-CERTIFICATION PERIOD RULE FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER THERE IS A 63-DAY LAPSE IN CREDITABLE COVERAGE.

(a) IRC AMENDMENT.—Section 9801(c)(2)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) ERISA AMENDMENT.—Section 701(c)(2)(C) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1181(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(c) PHSA AMENDMENT.—Section 2701(c)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (as in effect for plan years beginning before January 1, 2014 (42 U.S.C. 300gg note)) is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 215. CONTINUED QUALIFICATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS AFTER CERTAIN EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(g)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 1899E(a) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 (relating to continued qualification of family members after certain events), is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 173(f)(8) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(f)(8)) is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 216. EXTENSION OF COBRA BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND PBGC RECIPIENTS.

(a) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 602(2)(A)(v) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(v)) is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 602(2)(A)(vi) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(vi)) is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(b) IRC AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(V) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(VI) of such Code is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(c) PHSA AMENDMENTS.—Section 2202(2)(A)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb–2(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking ''February 12, 2011'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods of coverage which would (without regard to the amendments made by this section) end on or after February 13, 2011.

SEC. 217. ADDITION OF COVERAGE THROUGH VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES' BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(e)(1)(K) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2012'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 218. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7527(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''February 13, 2011'' and inserting ''January 1, 2017''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to certificates issued after February 12, 2011.

SA 490. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, after line 20, insert the following:

SEC. 22. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) FUNDING LIMITATION.—No Federal funds may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation or any other Federal officer for any study, project, or other effort to carry out the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program until at least 6 months after the Congress receives the reports required under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains—

(1) cost projections for carrying out President Obama's goal of building a high-speed rail system that gives 80 percent of Americans access to high-speed rail by 2036;

(2) the amount of government subsidies that would be needed to operate and maintain each high-speed rail line receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost-benefit analysis methods used to evaluate grant requests for high-speed rail projects, including the impact of such analyses on the grant award process;

(4) a review of the accuracy and methodology of the cost estimates of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and the California Legislative Analyst's Office;

(5) a review of the accuracy and methodology of ridership estimates for each grant recipient;

(6) an analysis of the reasons for cost increases of 15 percent or greater since the time the application was received for any grant-recipient project;

(7) the principle reasons behind the decisions by the States of Florida, Wisconsin, and Ohio to return Federal funding for high-speed rail projects in those States; and

(8) a review of—

(A) all high-speed rail projects costing more than $1,000,000,000 that have been constructed, or proposed for construction, in countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(B) available data concerning government subsidies for the projects referred to in subparagraph (A), including cost overruns and profitability.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress regarding Federal grants awarded for high-speed rail projects that includes—

(1) a description of the process by which the Department of Transportation incorporated the volatility of the development, planning, and construction cost estimates into its decision making process when awarding grants and choosing routes and segments;

(2) a description of how the Department of Transportation valued the expected level or potential need for government subsidies to operate and maintain high-speed rail lines receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost benefit analysis used by the Department of Transportation when deciding to award the grants and how that analysis influenced the award of Federal funds; and

(4) a review of the impact of the Department of Transportation's decision making process and cost benefit analyses on the high-speed rail grant awards.

SA 491. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike ''volunteers,'' and all that follows through line 13 and insert ''volunteers and staff of the GOD'S CHILD project.''.

SA 492. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

In the preamble, on page 2, in the first clause, strike '', the hometown of Patrick Atkinson''.

In the preamble, on page 3, in the clause immediately preceding the resolved clause, strike ''and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service'' and insert ''has received numerous accolades recognizing its service''.

SA 493. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 2(w).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC–6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224–6352.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESS ON PRINTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on Printing will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC–6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224–6352.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 782

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 21, when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 782, the Economic Development Revitalization Act, there be up to 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 782.

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

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE GOD'S CHILD PROJECT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 141 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be considered, the Conrad amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the resolution be considered, the Conrad amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 492) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the preamble)

In the preamble, on page 2, in the first clause, strike '', the hometown of Patrick Atkinson''.

In the preamble, on page 3, in the clause immediately preceding the resolved clause, strike ''and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service'' and insert ''has received numerous accolades recognizing its service''.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 491) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the resolved clause)

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike ''volunteers,'' and all that follows through line 13 and insert ''volunteers and staff of the GOD'S CHILD project.''.

The resolution (S. Res. 141), as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 141

Whereas international educator, human rights leader, and native of the State of North Dakota Patrick Atkinson, deeply concerned about the plight of poor and exploited children around the globe, established the nonprofit GOD'S CHILD Project in 1991 with the mission of breaking the bitter chains of poverty through education and information;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project has a global presence, serving the most vulnerable women and children on 3 continents, with operations in El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Malawi, and the United States;

Whereas the international GOD'S CHILD Project, true to its roots, maintains its global headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota;

Whereas more than 5,000 orphaned, abandoned, and impoverished children and nearly 8,700 widowed, abandoned, and single mothers and their dependents receive care from, and are educated by, the GOD'S CHILD Project;

Whereas since the GOD'S CHILD Project was founded, more than 18,000 parentless children and thousands more women have been given hope by the GOD'S CHILD Project;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project, taking a comprehensive view of helping the destitute and exploited break free from poverty and oppression, operates schools, a family clinic, social work department, psychology clinic, domestic violence program, legal aid department, and a center for malnourished children;

Whereas in response to the transnational problem of human trafficking, the GOD'S CHILD Project established the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing Persons in 2001 to address the issues of human trafficking and exploitation, which are particularly severe in Central America;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project is often 1 of the first organizations to respond to devastating natural disasters, including Tropical Storm Agatha, which ravaged Central America in 2010, taking nearly 180 lives and destroying the homes of thousands;

Whereas each year, approximately 2,500 volunteers and 45 homebuilding groups from around the world join with the GOD'S CHILD Project staff to compassionately serve their brothers and sisters in need; and

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project has received numerous accolades recognizing its service to the poor from United States and foreign organizations, including the Guatemalan Congressional Medal of Honor, Guatemala's Goodwill Ambassador For Peace, and the 2010 Humanitarian Award from the Bismarck City Human Rights Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary;

(2) commends the GOD'S CHILD Project for its charitable service to the poor and its efforts to help thousands break the bonds of poverty and exploitation; and

(3) recognizes those individuals who have served impoverished children and women throughout the world under the auspices of the GOD'S CHILD Project, including the volunteers and staff of the GOD'S CHILD Project.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 211 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 211

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2½ years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19th, commonly known as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'', as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, for more than 145 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(B) supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(C) encourages the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States; and

(B) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments to S. 782, the Economic Development Revitalization Act, be 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the first rollcall vote of the week will begin at approximately noon tomorrow on confirmation of the Simon nomination. Senators should expect up to three additional rollcall votes at 4:15 p.m. on confirmation of the Panetta nomination, cloture on the Economic Development Revitalization Act, and cloture on the motion to proceed to the

Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:04 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DENNIS PUFFER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Puffer, a beer connoisseur who has served in the beer industry for 36 years, and a man who has spent his entire life striving for quality.

Before Mr. Puffer began his remarkable career, he graduated from Iowa State University where he was active in the university's ROTC program. After college, he went on to serve in the United States Air Force, earning the rank of Captain and working in the supply division.

In 1975, Mr. Puffer began working for Miller Brewing Company. He served at several Miller breweries around the U.S. before he served as Plant manager for Miller's Irwindale and Trenton breweries. During his time as Plant manager, Mr. Puffer established a working environment that placed safety and the workers first, which made Trenton Miller's highest production facility.

Mr. Puffer relocated to Coors' Golden, Colorado brewery in 1997 where he served as Plant Manager. Only four short years after Mr. Puffer moved to the Coors facility, he became the Group Vice President of Brewery Operations, which allowed him to focus on customer service, cost reduction and overall effectiveness. His efforts as Group Vice President led him to become the Chief Brewery Operations Officer of Molson Coors Brewing Company in 2005. Currently, Mr. Puffer serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief integrated Supply Chain Officer for Miller Coors, a position he has held since 2008.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dennis Puffer, for his commitment to the people who work for him and the company he works for is an encouragement.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to the 47 million people worldwide who are displaced from their homes due to conflict or persecution. June 20, 2011 is World Refugee Day. This is a day to not only observe the courage and strength of the world's displaced population, but to honor their perseverance and lasting contributions to our communities.

These are people who are optimistic that one day they will return to their homes—free from violence, political conflict, or war. However, due to ongoing instability in their home countries, the number of refugees who have been able to safely return to their homes has declined in recent years. We have the responsibility to support these men, women and children in their search for a safe and stable place to call home.

World Refugee Day is also a time to recognize those who work to assist refugees across the globe. I am fortunate enough to have in my Congressional District of Seattle, Washington several dedicated organizations who have shown tremendous commitment to assisting the hundreds of newly arrived refugees in Washington State. Organizations such as the Refugee Women's Alliance, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, International Rescue Committee, Refugee Federation Service Center, and Southwest Youth and Family Services, just to name a few, have worked tirelessly to provide consistent advocacy and to improve the lives of many in Washington's Seventh District.

Mr. Speaker, as the theme for this year's observance, ''Home'' is ultimately what fuels refugees' drive and optimism to search for a safe living environment. This is a time for Americans to reflect on a population whose quiet courage and resilience are an inspiration to us all. We all carry the responsibility to aid those whose spirits are so resilient and who hope for a brighter future, whether they are Burmese refugees escaping ethnic conflict or Iraqi refugees fleeing from violence. Let us recognize World Refugee Day and honor the millions of refugees worldwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on June 16, 2011, I was not present for rollcall votes 437 through 459 due to an unavoidable family matter. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: ''aye'' on rollcall vote 437; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 438; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 439; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 440; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 441; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 442; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 443; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 444; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 445; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 446; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 447; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 448; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 449; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 450; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 451; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 452; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 453; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 454; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 455; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 456; ''nay'' on rollcall vote 457; ''aye'' on rollcall vote 458; and ''nay'' on rollcall vote 459.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, June 14th at 2:33 p.m., and missed rollcall vote No. 419. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 300.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during two rollcall votes on June 16, 2011 and was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 445, and ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 447.

WELCOMING MR. ARUN JAITLEY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND LEADER OF OPPOSITION, RAJYA SABHA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. A prominent Member of Parliament, Mr. Arun Jaitley represents the Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP, the largest Opposition party in India.

Mr. Jaitley has been a member of the BJP National Executive since 1991 and held the posts of its General Secretary and Spokesperson.

During his political career, Mr. Jaitley has previously served as the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting; Disinvestment; Law, Justice & Company Affairs; and Shipping, Commerce and Industry.

He is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and was appointed Additional Solicitor General in 1989.

As a Minister, he pioneered the disinvestment program in India and helped usher in new telecom policy. The Fast Track Courts together with the reforms in the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code are the highlights of his tenure as Law Minister.

He also piloted comprehensive Company Law reforms and the law on Competition to bring the corporate legal framework in tune with liberalization and globalization.

Mr. Jaitley also steered the Indian Negotiations at the WTO during the challenging days in the run-up to the crucial ministerial meetings at Cancun in 2003. Under his leadership, a significant breakthrough was achieved by the Indian negotiators by forging the new alliance of G–20 which brought the developing world to the center stage.

I look forward to working with Mr. Jaitley as he continues to create employment and opportunity—not only in India—but in the United States.

I also thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, CEO of the Alliance for U.S.–India Business, for uniting India's key leaders and U.S. lawmakers. I especially applaud him for highlighting Mr. Jaitley's work.

HONORING ALFRED E. ZAMPELLA FOR HIS LIFELONG DEDICATION TO JERSEY CITY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and constituent, Alfred E. Zampella, for his unwavering commitment to education and activism in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Al Zampella was born in Jersey City on February 8, 1923 and has lived there ever since. As the youngest of five boys in an iconic Jersey City family, Al and the Zampella brothers each grew to make significant contributions to their community in their respective fields. Al's lifelong service to his community and his country began during World War II; Al served as a Lieutenant and saw sea combat in the Asian Pacific Theater of Operations. The State of New Jersey recognized Al for his heroism and bravery by awarding him the Distinguished Service Medal. He earned his bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, and a master's in Education Administration and Supervision from New York University—right across the Hudson River from his hometown of Jersey City.

Al went on to serve as principal of Jersey City Public School No. 27, shaping the lives of students and teachers as he worked to keep kids in school and engaged in their own education. He was a great support to his fellow educators, motivating them and working together to make P.S. 27 a solid foundation for the future success of its students. After many years of devoted service, Al retired in 1990. Only several years later—on November 7, 1996—P.S. 27 honored its beloved former principal by unveiling its new name: Alfred E. Zampella Public School No. 27. The school continues to be a highly regarded educational institution, having received many prestigious honors and awards in recognition of its success. This year's graduating eighth grade class held a ceremony to present Al with a gift: the unveiling of a beautiful new sign for the Alfred E. Zampella Public School, recognizing his dedicated community involvement.

Although he retired from P.S. 27 over 20 years ago, Al remains an active contributor to his community, serving as a member on many boards and organizations in North Jersey. In 2009, Al received the Jersey City Heights Legend Award, recognizing his tireless community involvement, which continues today. As my Hudson County Community Outreach Director for the past 12 years, Al serves the people of Jersey City diligently and with enthusiasm. I am very fortunate to have such an experienced and well-regarded individual on my staff; Al is a great role model for young people with a passion for serving others. And, despite his remarkable career in public service and the numerous accolades he has received for it, Al's proudest accomplishment is his beautiful family. Together with his wife Jaclyn, the Zampellas have three talented and successful sons: Edward, Walter, and Gary. They have been blessed with six grandchildren: Bailey, Evan, Lauren, Matthew, Francesca, and Juliana, each of whom is an endless source of joy for their proud grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of recognizing my good friend Alfred Zampella for his exceptional devotion to Jersey City, Hudson County, and Northern New Jersey at large. Al has shaped Jersey City indelibly, working for decades to improve his community and making a memorable impression on everyone he meets. My most sincere appreciation and very best wishes go to Al Zampella and his loving family, and I thank him for a lifetime of serving his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote Nos. 420–459, on June 15–16, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted: on rollcall vote No. 420 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 421 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 422 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 423 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 424 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 425 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 426 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 427 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 428 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 429 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 430 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 431 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 432 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 433 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 434 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 435 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 436 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 437 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 438 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 439 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 440 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 441 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 442 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 443 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 444 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 445 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 446 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 447 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 448 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 449 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 450 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 451 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 452 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 453 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 454 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 455 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 456 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 457 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 458 I would have voted "yes"; and on rollcall vote No. 459 I would have voted "no."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 22

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine preventing overpayments and eliminating fraud in the unemployment insurance system.
SD–215
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the next steps for securing rail and transit.
SD–342
Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine intellectual property law enforcement efforts.
SD–226

10:15 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine manufacturing in the United States, focusing on why we need a national manufacturing strategy.
SH–216

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine outside witness statements.
SD–192

11:30 a.m.
Library
Organizational business meeting to consider committee's rules of procedure and budget for the 112th Congress.
SC–6, Capitol
Printing
Organizational business meeting to consider committee's rules of procedure and budget for the 112th Congress.
SC–6, Capitol

1:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine transforming lives through diabetes research.
SD–G50

2 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine addressing ethnic tension in Kyrgyzstan, focusing

on the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into the events in Southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010.
2118, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher Droney, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Robert David Mariani, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Cathy Bissoon, and Mark Raymond Hornak, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Robert N. Scola, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.
SD–226

JUNE 23

9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine farm bill accountability, focusing on the importance of measuring performance, while eliminating duplication and waste.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, part II.
SD–538

Finance
To hold hearings to examine health care entitlements, focusing on the road forward.
SD–215

Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of William J. Burns, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and Ryan C. Crocker, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine evaluating goals and progress in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
SD–106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine middle class families.
SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Federal regulation, focusing on a review of legislative proposals.
SD–342

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1145, to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, an original bill entitled, ''Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2011'', and the nominations of Steve Six, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Stephen A. Higginson, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Jane Margaret Triche-Milazzo, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Alison J. Nathan, and Katherine B. Forrest, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Susan Owens Hickey, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Major General Marilyn A. Quagliotti, USAF (Ret.), of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, and Alfred Cooper Lomax, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri, and David L. McNulty, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of New York, both of the Department of Justice.
SD–226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Coast Guard budget and oversight.
SR–253

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Cynthia Chavez Lamar, of New Mexico, and Barbara Jeanne Ells, of Colorado, both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the ''Indian Reorganization Act'' 75 years later, focusing on restoring tribal homelands and promote self-determination.
SD–628

Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee
International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine rebuilding Haiti in the Martelly era.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 500, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, S. 715, to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects, S. 802, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the storage and conveyance of nonproject water at the Norman project in Oklahoma, S. 997, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District, S. 1033, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the City of Hermiston, Oregon, water recycling and reuse project, and S. 1047, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to take actions to improve environmental conditions in the vicinity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in Lake County, Colorado, an original bill entitled, ''Bureau of Reclamation Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2011'', and an original bill entitled, ''Fort Sumner Project Title Conveyance Act''.
SD–366

Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David H. Petraeus, of New Hampshire, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
SH–216

JUNE 29

2:30 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR–418

JUNE 30

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the state of democracy in the Americas.
SD–419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3905–S3938

Measures Introduced: Six bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1231–1236. **Page S3924**

Measures Reported:

S. 978, to amend the criminal penalty provision for criminal infringement of a copyright. **Page S3924**

Measures Passed:

GOD'S CHILD Project: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3936–37**

Menendez (for Conrad) Amendment No. 491, to improve the resolved clause. **Page S3937**

Menendez (for Conrad) Amendment No. 492, to improve the preamble. **Page S3937**

Juneteenth Independence Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 211, observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S3937**

Economic Development Revitalization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, when Senate resumes consideration of S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, there be up to ten minutes of debate only, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill; provided further, that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be 11 a.m. **Page S3936**

Message From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation, as received during recess of the Senate on June 17, 2011; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–11) **Pages S3919–20**

Executive Communications: **Page S3920**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S3920–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3924–25**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3925–33**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3914–19**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3933–36**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3936**

Recess: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and recessed at 5:04 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S3937–38.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Thursday, June 16, 2011, Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

An original bill entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012";

An original bill entitled "Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012";

An original bill entitled "Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012"; and

An original bill entitled "Department of Energy National Security Act for Fiscal Year 2012".

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 1 public bills, H.R. 2242 was introduced. **Page H4332**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4332–33**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Lewis (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4331**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2011—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 112–36). **Pages H4331–32**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held today.

Joint Meetings

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine 2050, focusing on implications of demographic trends in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region, after receiving testimony from Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute, and Richard Jackson, Center for Strategic and International Studies, both of Washington, D.C.; Jack A. Goldstone, George Mason University Center for Global Policy, Arlington, Virginia; and Steven W. Mosher, Population Research Institute, Front Royal, Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine cybersecurity and data protection in the financial sector, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Bryson, to be Secretary, and Terry D. Garcia, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Michael H. Corbin, of California, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Kenneth J. Fairfax, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Susan Laila Ziadeh, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, to hold hearings to examine senior hunger and the "Older Americans Act", 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine inspiring students to Federal service, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on evaluating the Administration's proposals, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Dual-Eligibles: Understanding This Vulnerable Population and How to Improve Their Care." 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and Economy, reconvene markup of H.R. 1391, the Recycling Coal Combustion Residuals Accessibility Act of 2011; and markup of legislation regarding the "Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act." 4 p.m., in 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Hatch Act: The Challenges of Separating Politics from Policy." 3 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on the following: H.R. 1249, the "America Invents Act"; and H.R. 2021, the "Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011." 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: To hold hearings to examine spending less, owing less, growing the economy, 2 p.m., 1100, Longworth Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Michael H. Simon, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 noon. At 2:15 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Leon E. Panetta, of California, to be Secretary of Defense, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 4:15 p.m. Following which, Senate will resume consideration of S. 782, Economic Development Revitalization Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill. If cloture is not invoked, Senate will immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 679, Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act.

(Senate will recess following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Michael H. Simon, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Tuesday, June 21

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 1632—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office''; (2) S. 349—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the ''Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office''; (3) S. 655—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the ''Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office''; (4) H.R. 771—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the ''Schertz Veterans Post Office''; and (5) H.R. 672—Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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